

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery,

I am a third generation farmer and my sons are fourth generation farmers. SB 832 is a bill that legislates personal preference for an ag commodity; this is not what the legislature was elected to do. We would not tell you what foods you should eat or what fibers should be used to produce the clothing you wear and you should not be legislating this for the people of Oregon. I urge you to oppose SB 832.

SB 832 may seem harmless on the surface but it has precedent setting ramifications for all of agriculture. I cannot believe that legislators would ever consider a bill that directs the government to take private property without compensation. Farm families will lose their livelihoods under SB 832.

There is no scientific reason to shut down local mink farms. Zoonotic disease transmission is not uncommon, which is why Oregon's farmers and ranchers take biosecurity so seriously. The mink farm with positive COVID-19 cases in November 2020, went into quarantine immediately and worked with the State Veterinarian and federal and state agencies to contain the virus. The farm is now clear of the virus, and we should consider this a success as opposed to misrepresenting the incident as a statewide threat.

It is upsetting to see special interest groups attempt to shut down family farms, particularly after such a devastating year, and to play on people's fear about COVID-19. I worry that this is the beginning of a new approach to close down other sectors of animal agriculture.

I urge you today to oppose this unfair legislation, which ultimately eliminates the livelihoods of Oregon farmers without compensation for the families or farmworkers who will be out of work. Please vote NO on SB 832. Thank you for considering my comments.