

Preventing the Next Pandemic: A single live animal market in China, where an infectious coronavirus appears to have passed from a bat to animals at the market before being passed to humans, set off a pandemic that has sickened millions, killed hundreds of thousands, and wreaked economic havoc not seen since the Great Depression. But it's not the first time animal agriculture has led to a pandemic, and it is unlikely to be the last. "More than 6 out of every 10 known infectious diseases in people can be spread from animals, and 3 out of every 4 new or emerging infectious diseases in people come from animals," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention...

Minks, a ferret-like mammal, have shown a particular susceptibility to the coronavirus. There have been outbreaks of coronavirus at 416 mink farms in 11 countries. Sixteen of those occurred at U.S. farms, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including 12 in Utah and now in Oregon at a farm that has approximately 12,000 animals. The Dutch government reported multiple cases of transmission from mink to farm staff, and several staffers on the Utah farms who came in contact with the mink have confirmed COVID-19. Researchers are now trying to determine whether these workers gave the virus to the mink, or vice versa...

Mink farming is a non-essential industry that exists solely to supply luxury goods to the fashion industry. The State of Oregon has a responsibility to protect "all" of its citizens. It also has a responsibility to mink farmers, their families and their workers who should be assisted and compensated as their businesses are closed. And what about the Minks? Is it not time to end a barbaric non-essential trade that confines tens of thousands of creatures to a tortured existence inside factory farm cages where diseases like the coronavirus and the threat of Coronavirus have already condemned millions to death all over the world? It is long past time to address the intersection of intensive confined animal feeding operations like Mink farming and the growing public health risk associated with their non-essential for profit existence. The State must pass SB832 now!

Thank you,

David Ewing
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