



IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

Date: Monday, April 5, 2021

To: Chairman Jeff Golden and Members of the Oregon Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife Recovery

Submitted by: Julie Massa, Fur Campaigner, In Defense of Animals, julie@idausa.org

Re: Testimony in strong SUPPORT of SB 832

Dear Chairman Golden and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to respectfully urge your **support for SB 832** to prohibit the breeding of captive mink due to the ongoing transmission of COVID-19 on fur farms.

Mink are highly susceptible to COVID-19. Mink on fur farms around the world have tested positive for the deadly virus, including farms in Oregon, Utah, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Mink raised and killed for their fur are forced to live with thousands upon thousands of other mink, making the spread of the novel coronavirus inevitable. A recent report released by the World Health Organization stated "*the current evidence available cannot rule out the possibility for minks as the primary source of SARS-CoV-2.*"

Making this issue even more urgent, the Danish government discovered COVID-19 variants were being passed from mink to fur farm workers and back again. These mutated strains of the novel coronavirus may threaten the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, therefore causing the pandemic to continue and more lives to be lost.

Immediate action must be taken. By supporting **SB 832**, you can stop the transmission of the deadly COVID-19 virus and the development of variant strains to protect the lives of your constituents. For the foregoing reasons, we kindly request your support of **SB 832**.

Sincerely,

Julie Massa

Wild Animals Campaigner