

I oppose SB 832.

As a fourth generation Oregon fur farmer and a graduate with a bachelor's degree in Animal Sciences, I can tell you that the proponents of this bill are not only misinformed, but obviously are only interested in destroying a well self-regulated animal industry. Animal health on a mink farm is top priority. It is not only the means in which we can achieve a beautiful product, but a daily part of our routine. Every animal is observed twice daily at a minimum. When there is a concern, veterinarians are quick to respond and engaged in the well being of each animal. If a farm didn't heed the counsel of animal experts, then why is this country leading the world in fur quality and animal care practices? I urge you to investigate further the benefits of using such a renewable resource as fur and how a healthy mink is the ultimate goal of the Oregon mink farmer.

With the vaccine that will soon be available, why would we want to destroy yet another business impacted by Covid-19? Families will lose everything, businesses tied to this successful industry will be hurt and animal byproducts that otherwise would be used as a balanced feed for these carnivores would be dumped in landfills. The millions of dollars each farm has invested in buildings and equipment to make their business successful is so specialized, it cannot be used for any other purpose. Forcing a business to close and lose everything should not even be considered an option, especially for a virus that is already being treated successfully with a vaccine. I strongly urge you to prevent this bill from moving any further.