

House Judiciary Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

March 19, 2024

Re: Testimony in **Opposition** to House bill No. 7454 – TRADE IN ANIMAL FUR PRODUCTS ACT

Dear Chair Craven and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am Anna Mirkopoulos of Elan Furs speaking on behalf of my business and all retail fur stores in America.

I vehemently oppose H 7454 – An act obliterating the sale of legal fur products with civil penalties for violations of such transactions; namely another attempt to ban the sale of natural, everlasting fur fashions.

I oppose H 7454 because fur apparel is made from natural materials that is recyclable and completely biodegradable. Most clothing today is made from petroleum-based synthetics that do not biodegrade. So these synthetics leach thousands of plastic micro-particles into our waterways every time they are washed. There is plastic being found in the marine life. Aren't we trying to reduce our use of plastic? Why ban a natural material that is recyclable and biodegradable in the first place?

I urge you to vote against H 7454 and continue to allow legal fur fashions and products to be sold in the state of Rhode Island.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak against 7454. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Anna Mirkopoulos

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