

Roberta DiMezza

From: David Brunetti <davidabrunetti1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:44 PM
To: Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Roberts, Sherry
Cc: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: House Bill No. 7454 - Fur Sales Prohibition

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Craven, First Vice Chair McEntee, Second Vice Chair Knight, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I have written at this time to provide you with my comments regarding House Bill 7454, which prohibits the sale/offer of sale/trade/distribution of fur products, and which makes three violations of the respective chapter civil infractions punishable by civil penalty and the 4th violation a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$500 or imprisonment for 30 days or both.

I support this long overdue legislation and urge you to vote in favor of it. **This current version includes some modifications relative to the bill from last year from follow-up consultation with RI DEM to permit the sale and trade of fur in RI from legally trapped animals.**

My reasons for supporting this bill are as follows:

Passage of this bill would help to bring to an end the perpetuation of the barbaric, inhumane fur farming industry, which is unnecessary and for which there is essentially no regulation and where, at least in China, foxes and raccoon dogs are crammed into filthy cages, clubbed on the head or stunned with an electric prod, and sometimes skinned alive!

No animal should be caused to or allowed to suffer for this purpose.

Notably, there are no federal regulations in the U.S. governing how animals on fur farms are to be housed or killed. I confirmed this with former Representative Langevin's office a couple of years ago when a staff member and I worked together to look at drafting legislation to regulate fur farming in the U.S.

There are only suggested guidelines by Fur Commission USA, and these are only for mink farms. They are not regulations and there is no oversight nor requirement for adherence to these suggested guidelines.

Animals raised for fur are not covered under the federal Animal Welfare Act.

The slaughter of fur bearing animals is also not covered by the federal Humane Slaughter Act.

Most states where fur farms exist don't require farms to be licensed and state agriculture departments may not even be aware of the location, status, or existence of fur farms.

There are certainly no regulations in RI pertaining to fur farms.

Which states have banned the sale of fur products?

On January 1, 2023, California's ban on the sale and manufacturing of new animal fur products officially went into effect.

Which cities have banned the sale of fur products?

Cities in California, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Florida have also banned the sale of fur products.

Hundreds of companies and fashion brands have banned fur.

<https://www.peta.org/features/fur-free-companies-brands-that-banned-fur/>

Many well-known fashion brands and designers have stopped using real fur completely. Some of them are Versace, Furla, Armani, Calvin Klein, Gucci, Michael Kors, Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, Shrimps, and Vivienne Westwood.

Some of the high-end brands that first made the decision were Ralph Lauren in 2006 followed by Armani 2016, Gucci in 2017, Burberry in 2018, Chanel in 2018, Versace, and Prada. Additionally, Macy's in 2019 and Neiman Marcus in 2021.

Which countries have banned fur sales and fur farming?

In 2021, Israel became the first country to prohibit the sale of fur.

Additionally, Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Luxembourg, Serbia, Italy, France, North Macedonia, the Netherlands, the UK, and more recently, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, and Ireland have legally prohibited fur farming and the breeding practice has already been terminated.

Once again, I urge you to vote in favor of this legislation.

Let's make RI the next state to ban fur sales and get us another step closer to bringing an end to this unnecessary and barbaric industry.

Sincerely,

David A. Brunetti
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Modern Warrior: Damien Mander video - the inspirational evolution of an unlikely animal welfare activist (11 min. that might change your life):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FCsyK4aRXQ>