

DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

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In favor of H-7454

March 16, 2024

**House Judiciary Members
RI State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903**

Dear House Judiciary Member:

On behalf of our members, supporters, and board members, I am respectfully requesting that you vote in favor of House Bill No. ~~7454~~ by Serpa, Solomon, and Baginski. The bill would prohibit the sale of new fur products and provide graduated civil penalties for violations of the act.

In 2019, California became the first state to ban the sale of fur.

In 2024, several states have taken steps to prohibit the sale of fur products. Here are the states where such bans have been introduced:

“Oregon: Oregon is considering legislation to ban fur sales.

Connecticut: Connecticut has also introduced a bill to prohibit fur sales.

Hawaii: Hawaii could become the second state in the country to ban the fur trade within its borders. A bill supporting this ban has cleared the Senate and is now under consideration in the House. Although there are currently no fur farms in Hawaii, the warm weather and tropical climate make animal fur apparel relatively low in demand.

New York: New York City has decided to ban the sale of new fur products starting in 2024.

These efforts reflect growing concerns about animal welfare and environmental impact, prompting states to take bold steps toward a fur-free future.

In the U.S., Los Angeles, San Francisco, Berkeley, and West Hollywood banned new fur sales. Cities in Massachusetts, Michigan and Florida have since passed similar legislation.

It is known that horrific animal cruelty is involved in making fur products.

On fur factory farms, wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors.

The stress from living in a tiny cage causes serious welfare problems, such as self-mutilation and infected wounds.

There are unregulated animal killing methods in the fur industry, which I am not going to describe.

The industry is full of inhumane practices while there are so many different options for warm and fashionable fabrics.

The excruciating process these animals go through for their fur must be ended.

Rhode Island should not continue to be part of this cruelty.

As a RI House member, I ask that you continue to protect animals and vote in favor of H-7454.

Very sincerely yours,

Dennis Tabella

**Dennis Tabella
Director**