

Roberta DiMezza

From: Albe Furs <albefurs@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:05 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee; 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
Subject: OPPOSE HB 7454 and allow legal furs to continue to be sold in RI

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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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 Felix Skolnik of Albe Furs @ Outerwear in Westport, Connecticut 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.

Firstly, it is crucial to acknowledge that the fur industry plays a significant role in our economy, providing livelihoods for many individuals involved in various stages of production, including farmers, trappers, processors, and retailers. A fur ban would not only result in job losses but also impact the overall economic stability of the industry and the communities that rely on it.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that the fur industry has made significant progress in adopting ethical and sustainable practices. US fur farms adhere to strict regulations and guidelines, ensuring the welfare of the animals and minimizing environmental impact. By implementing bans, we risk undermining these efforts and pushing the demand towards unregulated and unethical alternatives.

Additionally, the fur trade has a long history in our society, deeply rooted in cultural and traditional practices. Many indigenous communities rely on fur for their traditional clothing and ceremonies, which hold immense cultural significance. A ban on fur would infringe upon their cultural rights, potentially leading to the loss of important cultural heritage.

Instead of a complete ban, I propose that we focus on promoting responsible and sustainable practices within the fur industry. By working together with industry stakeholders, we can establish and enforce strict regulations that safeguard animal welfare, ensure ethical sourcing, and minimize environmental impact. This approach would allow us to support both the industry and the values of compassion and sustainability.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge you to avoid the animal extremist rhetoric and reconsider the proposed ban on the retail sale of natural fur.

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,

Felix Skolnik
Albe Furs & Outerwear
286 Post Rd E
Westport, CT 06880