

House Judiciary Committee  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

March 20, 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 Kelly Stahl of DOUGLAS MONTALDOS 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...

- Most importantly, fur is a sustainable, natural resource
- Man is at the top of the food chain and has been given the responsibility to regulate the populations of animals and use them for their needs (Adam & Eve wore the first fur coats as they were now forced to fend for themselves and live off and work the land).
- Fur is a long lasting, all natural material which is recyclable and biodegradable as opposed to synthetic fibers that are not and are very harmful to our environment. There is no substitute for fur.
- The fur trade maintains a range of skills and knowledge as part of a heritage for a lot of communities and would therefore take away the livelihoods of people working in the many facets of the fur industry, myself included.

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,

Kelly Stahl

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