

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 Mona Rizkallah of Elan Furs speaking on behalf of my employer's 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 the fur trade respects the animal welfare. Endangered species are not used in the fur trade. The furs which we use today are raised on farms or culled from abundant wildlife populations due to state, national and international regulations. These regulations ensure that the fur is being produced humanely. Fur farms are inspected and certified to make sure they are in compliance with codes of practice developed by animal scientists. In North America trapping is regulated by state authorities, in accordance with ISO standards and the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards. There is no evidence that fur animals are treated less respectfully than other animals we use for food or clothing.

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,

Mona Rizkallah
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