

Roberta DiMezza

From: sam chiodo <sam@chiodomarketing.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:35 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Cc: 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 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'm Sam Chiodo, President of Chiodo Marketing Group, and I'm writing on behalf of a long-time client and one of Michigan's oldest retailers. Dittrich Furs, their 20+ employees, as well as all retail fur stores and related businesses throughout the United States **will be irreparably harmed** should House bill 7454 succeed.

H 7454 – Is an attack on freedom, individual choice, capitalism, the environment and indigenous people. The passage of this bill would decimate the sale of legal fur products by enforcing civil penalties and is a blatant attempt to ban the sale of natural fur fashions, a still very relevant product in today's society.

I oppose H 7454 because...

- Consumer choice is a key tenet of capitalism and unnecessary industry regulation has no place .
- There is no justification to single-out fur. If you ban fur, you must ban all animal products, including leather.
- Rhode Island's furriers need protection from proposed legislation like H 7454. They need the Rhode Island legislature to develop proposals that both protect and promote natural, biodegradable and sustainable materials such as fur.

- Organizations like PETA and HSUS are deceitful and claims made by both organizations, against the fur industry, are fabricated propaganda that have repeatedly been proven false.
- This attack on the retail sale of fur is part of a broader HSUS agenda... The banning of natural fur products as a catalyst to the broader banning of ALL animal products.
- The Rhode Island legislature must protect purchase rights and free-choice of ALL consumers.
- Natural fur is a sustainable, renewable and biodegradable... **Fake fur is neither.** Petroleum-based fake fur products are NOT a positive substitute and do more environmental harm than good.
- The amount of energy and fossil fuel required for natural fur fabrication is very low when compared to fabrication of synthetic fur.
- Natural fur is ethically and responsibly produced throughout the entire production process.
- The fur trade supports land-based cultures and local indigenous populations contributing to environmental conservation.
- Natural fur is held to ethical global standards like "Furmark" which ensures the highest animal welfare and sustainability standards.

I implore you to **voting 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 attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Sam Chiodo



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