

House Judiciary Committee  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

March 4, 2025

Re: Testimony in **Opposition** to House bill No. 5447– TRADE IN ANIMAL  
FUR PRODUCTS ACT

Dear Chair Craven and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am Austin Douglas of Samuel Bauer Unlimited speaking on behalf of my  
business and all retail fur stores in America.

I vehemently oppose H 5447 – 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 5447 due to the following reasons:

- Banning of fur sales would result in the loss of jobs and revenue for the  
state
- Would negatively affect businesses who depend upon the sales of fur  
related garments
- Would negatively affect businesses in other states who supply fur-  
related businesses in Rhode Island with needed items such as notions  
and stock

As of March 2025, the fur and leather industry is valued at 18.47 Billion in the  
United States alone, and 490.53 Billion Globally.

I urge you to vote against H 5447 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 5447. I am  
happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,  
Austin Douglas  
106 Campus Avenue  
Raeford, NC 28376  
212-868-4190

Recent News Stories About the Popularity of Fur!

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/16/style/vintage-fur-trend.html>

<https://nypost.com/2025/02/19/lifestyle/real-fur-is-making-a-comeback-after-years-of-exile-youll-see-it-on-the-runway-again/>