

House Judiciary Committee  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

March 3rd, 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 Dino Mirkopoulos of Elan Furs 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 on the grounds that fur apparel, crafted from natural materials, possesses inherent recyclability and biodegradability. Presently, a significant portion of clothing comprises petroleum-based synthetics, which lack the capacity to biodegrade and instead release myriad plastic micro-particles into our water systems with each laundering cycle. This phenomenon has led to the pervasive presence of plastic within marine ecosystems. As society endeavors to diminish its reliance on plastic, it seems counterintuitive to prohibit the use of a natural material that not only offers recyclable properties but also biodegrades organically.

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,  
Dino Mirkopoulos  
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Chicago, IL 60657  
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773.456.4123

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