

Ariana Costa

From: J D <hjd@dittrichfurs.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 10:16 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee; Rep. Craven, Robert E.; 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 5447 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 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 Harold Dittrich of E.C. Dittrich & Co., Inc. 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 because it is an attack on personal freedom and consumer choice. Those who oppose the use of fur argue for their cause based on falsehoods, misrepresentations and fabricated evidence.

Fur is sourced responsibly, and is a more sustainable option than petroleum-based synthetic fur. “Faux” “Vegan” “Pleather” “Synthetic” and “fake” means “plastic”. Plastic is not biodegradable, and destined for decades in landfill. Fake fur IS microplastic pollution. Therefore fake fur does not provide a viable alternative to real fur. Real fur is natural and organic. Real fur is an environmental win!

The fur industry represents craftsmanship that is 100’s of years old and directly supports a great many employees/livelihoods all around the United States of America, as well as many other supporting industries such as marketing, transportation, IT and many more. The animals used for fur production are NOT treated cruelly. They are treated with similar respect that other farmed animals are, and there is nothing wrong with that. Americans have the inalienable right to harvest and farm animals for human use.

H 5447 also demonstrates it’s own hypocrisy, as well as that of its supporters, by exempting “animal skin to be converted into leather”.

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,
Harold Dittrich
7373 Third Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
313-873-8302

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/>