

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 Helen 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 because what is banning the fur trade going to fix? The world will be more overpopulated with animals that will create more dangers and issues. Killing an animal for fur is no different than killing an animal for food. There are protocols and regulations that have to be followed which fur farms already do. The fur trade does not allow sales of endangered species so it's not like the animals that are used for furs will go extinct. More and more coyotes are coming into urban areas because big corporations are destroying their habitats. We keep taking more and more land from animals but where will they go in search of food when they are hungry? I'll tell you into people's properties which can cause problems.

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,
Helen Mirkopoulos
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