

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 Jasmina Kostic of Barth Wind 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 our wildlife populations often must be culled in order to protect property, human and animal health. When beavers are overpopulated they cause flooding to our homes and roads which is a very costly expense to fix. Recently coyotes have been on the news a lot due to attacking small pets and even our beloved innocent children when encountered. They are the main predators of chickens, calves, lambs, etc. This can affect the meat production greatly. Raccoons and foxes are known to spread rabies and these animals can be very feisty when paths are crossed. These predators have to be managed in order to protect other endangered species and humans as well. Since we have to cull some of these animals to have a balance between the wildlife and human life then it's clearly more ethical to use their fur then rather dispose of it.

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,

Jasmina Kostic
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