

ANAMODA, Inc.

247 West 30th Street, Suite 4R
New York, NY 10001 U.S.A.
Anamoda.fur@gmail.com
212-695-6936

March 3, 2025

Dear House Judiciary Committee Members - -

This is my written testimony opposing H5447, a proposed act prohibiting to the trade and sale of legally farmed animal fur products.

As a lifelong furrier, it is difficult to understand how government can step in and play ballot box biology in considering H5447 which is determined to obliterate fur garments and related fashion items off the shelves in the State of Rhode Island.

My name is Kim Salvo and I manage one of the country's premier wholesale fur companies, Anamoda - in New York City's fur district. This is a 33-year profession I love. I love the product we sell and the decades long relationships we have with our clients across the country. And so, I must explain to you how a fur ban bill like this is so misconstrued and biased and why it needs to be opposed.

Fur fashions do not break any laws. They do not harm people. They are not a hazard. Like any solid business, the fur industry boasts a long-time mark in fashion, employing a host of uniquely talented fur workers and related skills. The artisan craft of making a fur garment is irreplaceable by any chemical contaminating impostor material. The fur trade acts responsibly in breeding, harvesting, and trapping our natural resource which is 100% renewable, responsible for wildlife conservation and "green" before anyone started using that trendy catch phrase.

For any government entity to make our product illegal and unlawful to ranch and harvest, produce, sell, purchase or possibly even wear is unconstitutional and against any consumer's freedom of choice. People have donned fur fashions since the beginning of civilization.

Year after year we have witnessed some contorted form of a fur ban in your state; all debunked by professionals in the fur industry, wildlife biologists and conservationists. If a few of your legislatures are against fur farming, then where will hunting and trapping in your state stand?

As I defend the fur industry and my profession, H5447 is no different from other fur ban bills that keep popping up. There is no true justification of prohibiting fur sourced from regulated fur farms. And as always, it includes carveouts that prove how no one really cares for animals. Why are only ranched furs being signaled out? Ranched animals used in any industry is the one sure way to keep the species thriving and growing.

Contrary to what this legislative body may have been coerced into believing from extreme animal rights non profit groups, I would like to present 4 areas that will clarify how horrible this divisive decision on a free market and free enterprise which does no harm to the general population is.

First, you need to understand the difference between animal abuse and neglect which no one ever wants to see and animal husbandry which all animal usage industries are responsible for. You need to understand how the pelts used in making fur items are sourced from 2 areas. They are supplied from legally operating fur ranches which are open 365 days a year under 3rd party control regulations, with constant veterinary care without ever skinning animals alive. The fur used in fur garments is also harvested from nature through trapping and conservation – keeping in mind that conservation does not

mean saving, but is the best use practices of the natural resources available to you. There is not justifications for one of these sources to be signaled as illegal and the other as legal.

Next, you may have heard of in recent years how fashion designers, design houses, clothing brands and retail department stores who publicly announced their decision to go fur-free and stop using or selling selective fur products. Please understand that they did not do so over ethical concerns. They made this detrimental decision because it is impossible to operate a business that is constantly under attack by the terroristic tactics of extreme animal activists who harass, harm, threaten, destroy and intrude on their businesses, employees, customers, property and owners - - Sadly, we have limited protection from this illegal and obscene activity thus forcing fur products off the shelves. Mink farms also experience these extreme measures when the animals are “liberated” and released from their cages – horrific and criminal actions by the animal rights “champions” that result in the true suffering of animals as they are put in harm’s way and are wastefully killed upon release.

Thirdly, as mentioned earlier, the exclusions in this act allow for picking and choosing the source of fur products. The carve outs show that fur products made from natural fur are allowed, but those from fur farms are not. Who determined that they care less about fox, beaver, muskrat and nutria to name just a few. And so I ask: What makes a mink more loved than a bobcat?...because bobcat products would be allowed. What makes a fox more favorable than a beaver?...because beaver products would be permitted. What makes a sheep more coveted than a fisher, because a fur jacket made from fisher would be allowed. I think you get my point. The carve-outs prove there is no justification in passing this act.

And lastly, I will leave you with a very profound statement. If you are looking to kill animals, then you should pass this act. Every time restrictions or outright stoppage of products or services from animal industries come to pass, the one thing they do for certain is kill animals. Let me explain: When circuses were threatened to stop using animals in their shows, what happened to all the circus animals? They died. When the dog races were forced to shut down because of the protests, what happened to all of the greyhound dogs? They died. When protesters demanded that foie gras no longer be sold in restaurants and specialty markets, what happened to all of the geese? They died. And so if you are looking to kill animals - - go ahead and pass this act and force the shutdown of legal American businesses; you will be directly responsible for the wasteful death of the animals on fur farms, because that is the only outcome of fur bans.

I hope this brings a rational perspective and knowledgeable vision to the impact of fur bans and the terror placed on animal usage industries. And please do not fall for the false pretense that synthetic micro-plastic based fabrications are the perfect substitute for natural fur.

I implore this committee for a vote of NO and to OPPOSE this mockery of our right to breed, harvest, make, sell, purchase or wear legal fur fashions and related items in The Ocean State.

Thank you for your attention and opposition to H5447.

Sincerely,



Kim Salvo
Fur Fashion Director
ANAMODA
anamoda.nyc
#furisfashion

