

Roberta DiMezza

From: NICHOLAS SEKAS <nsekas@sekasinternational.com>
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 11:13 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: OPPOSE HB 5447 – Support the Continued Sale of Legal Furs in Rhode Island

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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House Judiciary Committee

82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

March 3, 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,

My name is Nicholas Sekas, and I represent **Sekas International Ltd.**, a longstanding fur business, speaking on behalf of my company and the many retail fur stores across America.

I strongly oppose **House Bill 5447**, which seeks to eliminate the sale of legal fur products through civil penalties, effectively banning an industry that has operated lawfully and ethically for generations. This bill is yet another misguided attempt to restrict consumer choice and undermine a sustainable, natural fashion trade.

I urge you to vote against H 5447 for the following reasons:

- **Fur is a Sustainable and Biodegradable Material**
- Unlike synthetic alternatives made from petroleum-based plastics, real fur is natural, biodegradable, and environmentally responsible. Banning fur will only push consumers toward fast fashion and synthetic products that contribute to pollution and microplastic waste.
- **A Longstanding, Regulated Industry**
- The fur trade is one of the most highly regulated industries in the world, ensuring ethical sourcing and responsible environmental practices. The sale of fur supports thousands of skilled artisans, small businesses, and retailers who rely on this trade for their livelihoods.
- **Consumer Freedom of Choice**
- Rhode Island residents and visitors should have the right to choose what materials they wear. Legislating against fur unfairly targets a legitimate industry while ignoring the environmental harm caused by synthetic alternatives.
- **Growing Demand for Fur in Fashion**
- Contrary to the claims of anti-fur activists, fur remains a sought-after material in fashion, with increasing demand for vintage and sustainably sourced furs. **Recent reports highlight its resurgence in high fashion and consumer markets:**

- [New York Times: Vintage Fur Trend](#)
- [New York Post: Real Fur's Return to the Runway](#)

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you **oppose House Bill 5447** and allow the continued sale of legally sourced fur products in Rhode Island. This bill is not just an attack on an industry but on consumer rights, economic freedom, and environmental sustainability.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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