

Ariana Costa

From: info furs <info@sakowitzfurs.net>
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 5:32 PM
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 speaking on behalf of my business Sakowitz Furs and all retail fur stores in America. I vehemently oppose HB 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 HB 5447 because:

- **Impact on Small Businesses:** The fur industry supports thousands of small businesses across the country, including in Rhode Island. Banning legal fur products would cause significant harm to these businesses and their employees who rely on the sale of fur products for their livelihood.
- **Sustainable and Ethical Practices:** The fur industry is highly regulated, with strict animal welfare standards in place. Fur is a natural, renewable, and biodegradable material that has been used for thousands of years. Banning fur products would deprive consumers of a sustainable fashion choice and would have little to no positive impact on animal welfare.
- **Economic Loss:** Banning legal fur sales would negatively impact the state's economy. The fur trade generates millions of dollars in economic activity, and this bill would not only harm businesses but also reduce tax revenue for the state of Rhode Island.
- **Consumer Choice:** Banning fur restricts consumer choice and infringes on personal freedom. Consumers should have the right to choose products based on their values, needs, and preferences, including legal, responsibly sourced fur products.

I urge you to vote against HB 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 HB 5447. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Sakowitz Furs
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