

Submitter: Brad Christensen  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3390

To the honorable legislatures of the great state of Oregon,  
Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 3390. Though I understand the sentiment of this bill, I feel it is truly misguided. Through the prohibition on fur products in Oregon, you will harm one of the greatest recreational opportunities the state has to offer, sport fishing. While classic spin fishing with plastic lures will be minimally impacted, this bill will severely limit fly fisherman. Hair and fur are used on almost every fly that inhabits millions of Oregonians and visitors fly boxes. This bill will essentially force fly fisherman to resort to oil dependent synthetics to remain in compliance or to give up the sport all together. Further this bill proposes that we, as humans, should become more dependent on oil to keep ourselves warm. Wild fur in the United States and Canada is a heavily and sustainably managed renewable resource that is more ecologically friendly than synthetics produced from crude oil. Further, it appears that the author and sponsors of this bill have no qualms with the use of animal parts for clothing and other everyday items, so long as those parts come from large commercial operations. In a day and age where we bemoan the loss of the middle class and the disappearance of the small business owner, it would appear backwards to institute legislation that will work to that end. Most furriers are small, independent operations that tend to source their raw materials locally, it is just flat out wrong to target these businesses based on the perceived morally superior beliefs of a few and to cause yet another break down in rural local economies. Make no mistake, this bill will have the largest economic impact in the rural communities of the east and will further grow the divide between rural and urban citizens. Again I would like to thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony and I urge all of you to deliberate long and hard on all the consequences, both intentional and not, of the passage of this bill.