



Animal Welfare.
Worldwide.

March 23, 2023

Re: Testimony in support of Oregon Fur Sales Ban HB 3390

To the Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of FOUR PAWS USA and our supporters in Oregon, I respectfully urge all committee members to vote yes on HB 3390, which would end the sale of fur products in Oregon. FOUR PAWS is a global animal welfare organization that focuses on improving the lives of animals around the world.

Consumers today have become more aware of how animals are inhumanely treated and cruelly killed for their fur, along with the environmental degradation caused by the fur industry, and they are seeking to buy clothing, shoes, and accessories that are as ethically produced as they are functional and stylish. This momentum is prompting cities, states, and countries around the world to ban the sale and production of fur, and is leading fashion brands, retailers, and designers to end the use of fur in fashion once and for all.

It is well established that animal cruelty is inherent in the fur industry and over 100 million animals are killed annually for their fur. On fur factory farms, wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are then killed in inhumane ways - such as crude gassing, anal/genital electrocution and neck breaking - to preserve the quality of their pelts.

In the wild, animals are often caught in crippling leg-hold traps for days without food or water. These animals often die slowly by drowning, predation, shock, injury or blood loss. If they are found alive, they are frequently clubbed or suffocated to death in order to preserve their pelt's value. These archaic traps are indiscriminate, often maiming and killing non-target animals, like endangered species and even pets.

The fur industry poses serious environmental threats and risks to public safety as well. On fur factory farms, waste runoff from animals pollutes the soil and waterways. The tanning and dying process uses toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, like chromium and formaldehyde, to prevent the skin from decaying. Furthermore, it is vitally important to consider the zoonotic risk factors and public health concerns posed by fur farms. Like humans, minks are incredibly sensitive to respiratory illnesses, and mink farms have proved to be a perfect breeding ground for the spread of COVID-19. Millions of minks on fur farms around the world, including at least 18 farms in the U.S., were infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes COVID-19. Mutated strains of the virus in minks then infected dozens of people, resulting in warnings from disease prevention experts that the evolution of the virus in mink could undermine the effectiveness of future vaccines in humans.




By passing HB 3390, Oregon will be reducing demand for these cruel fur products and fostering a more humane world, while also protecting the environment and public health.

Sincerely,

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