

Submitter: Leslie Burpo  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3390

To the Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Oregon for over 21 years, I strongly support House Bill 3390, prohibiting the sale of new fur products in our state.

Most Americans no longer wear fur, and most fashion designers worldwide have replaced fur with faux fur.

Fur farming has become an unnecessary profession. Plus, it has a reputation of being a breeding ground for transmissible diseases.

But the most important reason to discourage fur farming is that mammals that are farmed and killed are intelligent, and experience pain on a level very similar to humans. To force them to spend their entire lives in small cages, only to be summarily killed by such methods as frying their intestines through electrocution in the anus, is frankly and despicably horrific and cruel.

Whether any particular farm uses this method, or electrocution of any part of the body, leaving the animal conscious, though paralyzed, and in pain, or by gassing, or by any method other than euthanasia, the cruelty is unacceptable.

And even while these animals are alive, the conditions on most of these farms are so inhumane as to lead the animals to self-mutilation.

It is shameful that we still allow this cruel profession, while many, many civilized countries have banned fur farming. Not only do we allow it in Oregon and the other states, but we have no federal laws requiring regular inspections of fur factory farms.

As for the economic repercussions of this bill, HB 3390's ban on new fur products will not harm retailers as few stores still sell fur in the state.

And for those few individuals that are employed by the fur industry in Oregon, if this law's economic impact is a hardship, I would not object to providing those few individuals with financial assistance, while they establish new, and less problematic means of earning an income.

The people who participate in this type of killing must become inured to the pain they are inflicting, which is psychologically damaging to those individuals, another reason

to discourage this type of industry.

Our country can do better.

Again, I fully support House Bill 3390.

Respectfully,

Leslie Burpo