

Submitter: Mike Cole  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3390

Dear Representatives of the State of Oregon,

My name is Michael Cole and I reside in Juneau Alaska. I am writing you today to as that you oppose HB 3390 for multiple reasons. As written, the bill will prohibit the sale of fur and feathers, which I think are being associated with trapping. What is not realized is this bill will also prohibit the sale of feathers from chickens, turkeys, domestic game, and cattle, all of which are used in industrial farming an ranching. These product are highly used in my trade, fly fishing as well as in other crafts such as art. Think of dyed marabou used in Boas or around face masked used in parties and Mardi Gras. You see, I manage a fly shop here in Alaska. Two of my materials suppliers are based in Oregon, the larger of the two is Hareline Dubbing LLC; out of the Eugene area. My company alone, and we're small, sends at tens of thousands of dollars to Oregon every year for products produced from feather and fur. If this bill goes through, I will have to send my business elsewhere, not because I want to, but because I will have to. I do not know how many fly fishing shops or fly fishing guides there are in Oregon, but there is a lot and this bill will effectively kill those businesses. It will aslo have negative impacts on the tourism sector as many anglers travel to Oregon to chase salmon, trout and steelhead.

Another aspect I would like to raise awareness to is the actual aspect of fly fishing itself. Oregon is known for having good fisheries and is also know for trying to enhance those fisheries. If fly fishers are prohibited from buying fly patterns which are made of "fur" and feathers, they will be forced to go to fully synthetic fly patterns. The reason this is worrky is that a lot of tackly/flies are lost in the process of fly fishing. If fly fishers are forced to move away from organic materies such as marabou feather and rabbit fur, which naturally break down when lost in the water, they will be losing more materials such as plastic, silicone and other toxic materials. Effectively, fly fishers will be unintentionally poluting the streams, lakes and rivers. Fly fishers are typically seen as stuarts of the land and water, it'd be a shame to tranish that.

With this in mind, I ask that you oppose HB 3390 as it will negatively affect both the environment and the local economies.

Thank you for your time,

Michael Cole  
Website Manager

Alaska Fly Fishing Goods

Juneau, Alaska