

Submitter: Sandra Hungate
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3390

Good evening!

My name is Sandra Hungate and I am in support of HB3390 and ask you to please ban the sale, and trade of fur products in Oregon.

I am sure many residents already addressed the suffering of animals and the awful impact on the environment, related to fur. So I wanted to talk about another victim: humans, the people working on fur farms.

I used to live near an animal factory farm, in Smithfield, VA. Animal farms are often remote, located in small country towns where there aren't many jobs to compete with.

Jobs at factory farms have one of the largest turnover rates in America, exceeding 95 to 100 percent annually, despite employing more than 500,000 workers. Statistically, these workers come from low-income families with approximately 72 percent born outside the United States and 68 percent born in Mexico, according to the National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc.

During an average workday, employees inhale anything from ammonia to hydrogen sulfide, and a number of other airborne bacteria. It stinks and the air quality is so bad in these farms that 70 percent of farmworkers experience some sort of respiratory issue.

Not to mention the dangerous side of their work: The CDC says, "Every day, about 167 agricultural workers suffer a lost-work-time injury. Five percent of these injuries result in permanent impairment." Because slaughterhouse workers are all at-will employees and many are illegal workers, very few workplace hazards are reported to supervisors for fear of losing their jobs.

Not to mention the slaughterhouse workers who are more prone to PTSD from all the cruel things they have to do all day or child labor. You might have seen in the news last month that The Labor Department found 102 children as young as 13 working hazardous overnight jobs cleaning slaughterhouses in eight states in what it called a "corporate-wide failure" by one of the largest food sanitation companies in the country, Packers Sanitation Services Inc.

Out of sight, out of mind. We imagine a better version of the process, we even

sometimes believe that fur is collected in nature from the back of naturally deceased animals. It's all lies to make ourselves feel better.

By banning the sale of fur, you will help reduce the horror happening at the source and make a difference in Oregon and beyond.

I hope you will listen to your constituents and to their hearts, and take action.

Thank you for your support!

Kindly,
Sandra