

Submitter: Sara Wedel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3390

Upon reviewing HB3390, I oppose this bill and it should not be supported. This bill attacks the fur industry, trappers, and hunters alike with no factual evidence to how and why fur is a cruel product, a risk to public health, decreases animal welfare, is inhumane and decreases the reputation of the state of Oregon.

A majority of the people affected by this bill spend 365 days of the year outside and don't reside in urban environments. Our work takes place in the outdoors, with nature and alongside wildlife. We are deeply connected to the land and animals that inhabit the outdoors. To ensure a thriving habitat and environment for animals it involves human management and stewardship. This includes the harvest of animals.

Trapping is a great resource for the benefit of humans and animals alike. It is a service to the public. Many that do not understand trapping view it as a brutal, inhumane and outdated method. This is far from reality and truth. People that have this opinion do not understand animals, their behavior and instincts along with the cruel reality of Mother Nature. They misinterpret animals through anthropomorphism or personification.

There is a balance to wildlife and the land they inhabit. Overpopulation of furbearers leads to disease, over predation of prey animals, destruction of wildlife habitat, human property and can pose a health risk to humans.

Footholds used by trappers are viewed as barbaric tools that cause destruction to the animal. This is not true. They are no different than handcuffs. They hold and restrain an animal without breaking bones, damaging fur or causing any sort of harm to the animal. If this was not so, wildlife biologist would not use these tools to safely capture an animal for study and to safely release them unharmed.

Trapping is heavily regulated. There are seasons and limits for different species in place to ensure a thriving population of furbearers set in place by our Oregon Wildlife Department. Trappers must take an education course and pass an exam to purchase a license from the state. There are trapping regulations that trappers must abide by that help ensure animal and human welfare alike. There is also a code of ethics that are standards trappers must live up to.

The harvest and sale of fur provides many with a means to support their family as well as a service to those that purchase fur for use. Fur is natural, organic, and a sustainable resource with many great uses. It is environmental friendly unlike many synthetics used in winter coats that are derived from petroleum product. It is warmer, tougher, and more resilient than synthetic products.

To pass HB330 is to greatly misunderstand fur, it's benefits to society and to severely misunderstand wildlife.