

Submitter: William Conable  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3390

My name is Will Conable. I am a professional fly fishing guide, fly tier, and fly fishing industry professional. In addition, I am a member of the McKenzie River Guides Association as well as a veteran. I am writing to express my opposition to HB 3390. This bill, if passed, will have a direct, lasting, and detrimental impact on the fly fishing industry as well as major tourism and recreational industries essential to Oregon.

Fly fishing, as both a sport and industry, uses various animal furs in the create of its flies. This includes, but is not limited to: deer, rabbit, squirrel, fox, possum, raccoon, moose hair, elk hair, and Angora goat. Prohibiting the "sale, offer for sale or trade of fur product in the State of Oregon" would not only decimate our industry, it would decrease Oregon's share tourism from the fishing industry. Fly Shops would have to reduce total inventory of tying materials by more than half. 80% of all flies for fly fishing would become illegal in Oregon. The loss in dollars and tax revenue make this a horrible piece of legislation wherein the desire to accomplish a good only causes greater harm.

Further, prohibiting the sale, offer for sale or trade of fur would drive the fly tying and fishing industry towards an increase in the use of synthetic materials. This, in turn, would lead to an increase in micro plastics, plastics, tinsels, and fake "craft fur" in our water systems. In other words, moving to eliminate fur trade for the fly fishing industry would directly increase non-biodegradable plastics, micro plastics, and forever chemicals in our rivers. This bill would increase pollution, ruin a long-standing tourist industry, and decimate small businesses like my own in terms of available materials for delivering my services.

I encourage the committee to author-in an exception for HB 3390 wherein the fly fishing, fly tying, and fishing guide industry are exempt from the ban. Fur, feather, and other natural materials are essential to our industry. They are safer for the environment.

William Conable, PhD  
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