

Submitter: Brad Mombert
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3390

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Oregon United Sporting Dog Association. Our organization represents the interests of sporting and hunting dog owners and handlers across the state of Oregon.

We are writing to express our strong opposition to HB3390, which proposes a ban on fur sales in Oregon. This proposed ban is yet another attempt by animal extremists to undermine the rich hunting, fishing, and trapping heritage that has been a part of Oregon's history dating back to Native Americans. It would also eliminate a valuable natural resource, harm the economy, and set a dangerous precedent for Oregon's laws.

Fur is an excellent example of a sustainable natural resource. Furbearing animals are abundant and renewable through science-based management and conservation, which has been taking place in Oregon for centuries. In addition to wild fur, there are also farm-raised furs that have helped to reduce the burden on wild resources. Furs are also an environmentally responsible choice, as they are typically organic or naturally occurring compounds. While the fur industry has become a smaller and smaller part of Oregon's and the nation's economy over the years, this ban would take away the economic and environmental benefits of fur for rural Oregonians who responsibly harvest furbearing animals for a wide range of uses. Moreover, it would have many unintended consequences for small businesses throughout the state. In today's society, we are encouraged and compelled to be more inclusive and accepting of people's unique ways of life and choices. Yet liberal extremists who preach inclusiveness want to create a double standard to prohibit the ways of life they do not approve of. Do we really need a law for this? Nobody is forcing anyone to wear or purchase fur, and everyone has the choice to not support the industry by simply refraining from buying fur.

We believe that the narrow-mindedness of those pushing for this bill should be questioned. Is banning fur sales really one of the most pressing issues facing our lawmakers at this critical time? With record homelessness, drug use, drought conditions, and a looming recession, we would hope that our lawmakers could prioritize more important bills that would affect many more Oregonians in a more meaningful way than trying to ban the sale of a few furs each year.

Are you really prepared to set the precedent that it is illegal to sell fur in Oregon, yet it is permissible to use harmful, life-altering drugs on our streets?

We strongly urge you to reject this bill and move on to more important business for Oregon.