

Submitter: Joseph Beare  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3390

While I would fully support a bill outlawing the use of fur in clothing, jewelry and fashion accessories, I cannot support the bill as it is currently written because I believe it will have unintended harmful consequences for wild animals and the Oregon ecology at large.

The Oregon angling community is a significant one, and animal fur is a commonly used material in the fashioning of flies and lures. Many of Oregon's streams allow flies and lures exclusively, as a means of protecting wild fish from high fatality rates associated with bait. As such, flies and lures are widely used throughout the state's waterways. Many are lost in those waterways. Flies and lures that are made with organic materials, such as animal fur, natural metals and naturally occurring fibers, decompose quickly and do not have an adverse or long-term impact on the streams in which they are lost. But synthetic materials never decompose, or take decades to do so, and clutter our local waterways with trash that is both unsightly and objectively bad for the environment.

I would like to recommend that an allowance for sporting goods that may end up lost in nature, like flies and lures, should be added to the bill to clearly define the category as an exception to this rule. A blanket ban on the use of fur that does not include this exception will lead to the production and use of more synthetic materials that are bad for the environment and may inadvertently harm Oregon's wild animals and ecosystems.

Thank you for your consideration.