



AB 44 – Fur Products Prohibition Act

Summary:

AB 44 would make it unlawful to sell, give, or manufacture a new fur product in the state. If passed, California will be the first state in the country to ban the cruel and unnecessary fur trade within its borders.

Background:

The fur industry has long been associated with inhumane practices and recent evidence shows that fur also has a negative environmental impact. Every year more than 100 million animals are killed for their fur. Fur is not a byproduct of the meat industry. It comes from animals who are factory-farmed or trapped purely for fashion. 85% of the world's fur comes from factory farms. On these farms, wild animals are bred and raised in cramped cages, unable to engage in natural behaviors. Methods of slaughter are meant to preserve the integrity of the pelt above all else.

Animals who are trapped in the wild for their fur are also subject to great suffering. They are commonly caught in body-gripping traps such as snares and leghold traps. These animals often die slowly by drowning, predation, shock, injury or blood loss. If they are found alive, they are frequently clubbed or suffocated to death in order to preserve the pelt's value. Traps not only pose a threat to targeted animals, but also to non-target animals like pets and protected or threatened species.

Fur farming and the fur trade are largely self-regulated. In the US, there are no federal laws providing protection for animals held on these farms, and fur bearing animals are not subject to humane slaughter laws.

Fur is not only problematic from an animal welfare perspective, but from an environmental standpoint. On factory farms, waste runoff from animals pollutes the soil and waterways. Fur must then be preserved in toxic chemicals that are harmful to the environment as well as workers. Fur processing often involves the use of chemicals such as chromium and formaldehyde, which are listed as carcinogens and are toxic to humans.

Today there are a variety of humane alternatives, both in terms of faux fur that is virtually indistinguishable from real fur, and alternative textiles that are just as warm or

fashionable. There is no need for fur in the 21st century and no place for it in a sustainable future. Companies around the world are fueling innovation in new and sustainable fabrics. With many modern alternatives available, whether in the form of faux fur or other fabrics, fur is unnecessary. In fact, increasing numbers of designers, brands and companies are going fur-free. Retailers such as Gucci, Michael Kors, Jimmy Choo, Armani, Burberry, and Chanel have made the decision to go fur-free.

Given the non-essential nature of fur products, the public's concern for animal welfare, and increasing consumer demand for humane faux fur alternatives, California should end its participation in the fur trade.

AB 44 (as amended on Feb 25, 2019):

Would make it unlawful to manufacture, sell, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, give or otherwise distribute a fur product in the state with exemptions for used fur and fur used for religious purposes.

Support:

Animal Hope in Legislation (sponsor)

The Humane Society of the United States (sponsor)

Berkeley Animal Rights Center, City of West Hollywood Des Kohan, Farm Sanctuary, H&M, Hugo Boss, Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, Inditex, James Cromwell; actor, Kate Harrison; current Berkeley City Councilmember, Katy Tang; former member of the SF Board of Supervisors, Lush, Inc., Matt Haney; current member of SF Board of Supervisors, Moby; musician and producer, Patagonia, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, San Diego County Democratic Central Committee, San Luis Obispo Animal Rights Activists, Stella McCartney, UC Berkeley ASUC

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