

**Testimony of Christine Kim, Senior Community Liaison for the
Mayor's Community Affairs Unit before the
New York City Council Committee on Consumer Affairs**

Hearing on Intro. 1476-A – Proposed Ban on the Sale of Fur Apparel

May 15, 2019

Good afternoon, Speaker Johnson, Chairman Espinal, the Committee on Consumer Affairs, and Council Members. My name is Christine Kim and I am a Senior Community Liaison at the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, and I work primarily on animal welfare issues. I am joined on the panel today by two other colleagues from the Administration: Lindsay Greene, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Mayor for Housing & Economic Development, and Casey Adams, Director of City Legislative Affairs at the Department of Consumer Affairs. We are pleased to represent Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration here today. Ms. Greene and I will be testifying today and Mr. Adams will be joining us for Q&A.

I am pleased to be here today to discuss animal welfare, which is a priority of this Administration. Like the Council, we are committed to advancing animal protection causes, and I want to specifically thank you, Speaker Johnson, for your personal commitment to animal welfare issues over the last several years.

The Mayor has long supported progressive animal welfare legislation, signed many bills into law to protect animals, and implemented bold and positive policies for animals ranging from companion animals to wildlife.

Mayor de Blasio is also the first and only Mayor to have an animal welfare liaison to be the direct link between City Hall and the animal welfare community. He has been listening and responding to the concerns of animal advocates since day one.

For example, in collaboration with the City Council, the Mayor has invested an unprecedented amount of funding into Animal Care Centers of NYC, which is our open-admission, municipal animal shelter system. Just last year, the Mayor and

Speaker announced an additional \$3M for Animal Care Centers', bringing their FY19 budget to a record \$17.6M. As a result, Animal Care Centers is at a historic 94% placement rate, making it a national leader in the placement of dogs, cats, and rabbits.

In 2016, the Mayor announced a plan to bring full-service animal care centers to each of our five boroughs for the first time—as well as a stand-alone adoption center next to our Manhattan Shelter— further increasing our ability to adopt out animals, prevent the surrender of animals, and provide critical animal services to our communities. With the support of the City Council, we are now well underway, having locked in sites for care centers in the Bronx and Queens. This commitment to shelter animals has been cemented in the past year when we signed a 34-year contract to ensure the stability Animal Care Centers needs in order to continue to deliver positive outcomes for our shelter animals for decades to come.

We have also worked with City Council to enact a number of pet shop laws which ultimately reduce the number of surrendered and homeless animals in our shelters. These laws include a mandate to spay and neuter dogs and cats sold in pet shops, the banning of the sales of dogs and cats sourced from puppy and kitten mills, and the banning of the sales of rabbits in pet shops. And, thanks to the Council's leadership, all new pet shops and 24 hours veterinary clinics are now required to have fire sprinkler systems.

Recently, the Mayor announced that all New York City public schools will participate in Meatless Mondays, which will affect 1.1 million students. Not only will our schools, as well as all 11 of our public hospitals, be serving vegetarian meals on Mondays, but all city agencies will be required to phase out processed meats and reduce their beef purchases by 50%, as directed by the Mayor's Green New Deal to combat climate change.

In addition to his many accomplishments for animals used for food and companion animals, the Mayor has shown extraordinary commitment to wildlife.

The brand new, state of the art animal shelter in the Bronx, to be completed by 2024, will not only be for companion animals, but will also feature a clinic and education center for NYC's only federally licensed wildlife rehabilitation center.

The Mayor is also demonstrating the feasibility and success of large-scale, non-lethal wildlife management with the implementation of the City's deer impact management plan, which has already led to a deer population reduction of approximately 15%. This is a dramatic example of a humane and scientifically cutting edge alternative to hunting and conventional, lethal methods of wildlife management. And through the city's WildlifeNYC campaign, we are promoting the safe co-existence of wildlife and people, and managing other impacts of deer in our urban environment.

In 2017, the Mayor was pleased to support a bill that Speaker Johnson was a lead co-sponsor of: to ban wild and exotic animals from circuses in the city. Wild animals do not exist for our entertainment, nor do they exist to be made into luxury apparel to be worn when there are modern and synthetic alternatives. Fur's time has come and gone in terms of the fashion industry. A lot of the leading figures in fashion agree and they have stopped using fur. It is inhumane.

While we believe there are possible changes that would improve the bill's implementation and effectiveness, the prohibition on the sale of fur aligns with the Mayor's perspective on animal welfare. As we understand it, there is no such thing as humane production of fur. The Mayor supports Intro 1476 to make New York City the first city on the East Coast and the largest city in the country to ban the sale of fur. We look forward to discussing and working with the Council on the details of this bill. Now I turn to my colleague, Lindsay Greene, who will discuss the Administration's feedback on the proposed bill. Thank you.

**Testimony of Lindsay Greene, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Mayor for Housing &
Economic Development before the
New York City Council Committee on Consumer Affairs**

Hearing on Intro. 1476-A Proposed Ban on the Sale of Fur Apparel

May 15, 2019

Introduction

Good morning, Speaker Johnson, Chairman Espinal, the Committee on Consumer Affairs, and Council Members. I am Lindsay Greene, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Mayor for Housing & Economic Development. I focus on policy that involves economic development and business regulation, among other topics. Thank you for inviting me and my colleagues to testify on proposed legislation to ban the sale of fur apparel in New York City.

As you know, Mayor de Blasio has always been a strong animal welfare advocate. As you have already heard from Ms. Kim, under Mayor de Blasio's leadership, the Administration has deepened its commitment to support animal welfare in NYC. Having highlighted those accomplishments and our ongoing partnerships with the Council, I wanted to provide some specific feedback on the bill at hand.

Intro. 1476-A seeks to prohibit the sale of all fur apparel in NYC, with proposed exemptions for used fur items or for items worn for religious custom.

The Administration supports the Speaker's bill, as it is consistent with our history of supporting animal welfare values. We want to specifically thank you, Speaker Johnson, for your leadership on this issue and for your work addressing animal welfare issues over the last several years.

With regards to this specific legislation, I want to quickly touch on anticipated enforcement practices.

The Administration wants to ensure that the fur prohibition is clear, easy to understand, and enforceable. This will increase the likelihood of compliance, which is a benefit to all parties, including businesses and their customers, and the best outcome for the broad animal welfare goals of the proposed legislation.

We recognize the need for the carefully crafted exemptions for used fur apparel and the need for religious sensitivity for fur apparel worn as part of a religious custom. In most cases, only the owner of a piece of apparel will be in a position to know whether that piece is used, is constructed from other used pieces, or is worn as a matter of religious custom.

As currently drafted, the proposed legislation includes these exemption and we believe this language could be clearer.

Therefore, we believe that this bill should place the burden of proving that a piece of fur apparel qualifies for an exemption upon the person most likely to have the information needed to make that determination: the person who chooses to sell it.

This approach will make the bill more enforceable and ensure that only fur apparel that genuinely qualifies for an exemption will remain on the market.

We also recognize that this bill, while achieving progress from an animal welfare issues perspective, would impact businesses and workers in this sector. One option we've heard proposed is to allow for a phase-in and adjustment period that will maximize businesses' ability to adapt to this significant new business environment. On the merits, it would be a way to allow businesses the opportunity to transition to fur apparel that is used or vintage or higher-end faux fur, as have many fashion houses. This proposal, as well as others that we expect will come from such businesses that engage in the legislative process regarding this proposal, all warrant consideration.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Mayor de Blasio is a strong supporter of animal welfare issues. I want to again thank Speaker Johnson, for his leadership on this issue and commitment to animal welfare during his tenure. The Mayor and his Administration support Speaker Johnson's bill and recognize that there are many details to be refined in order to most effectively implement it. We look forward to working with Council to do just that during the legislative process.

Thank you for your time. We are happy to take any questions you may have.

Hello. Thank you Council member Espinal and the committee for allowing me to speak. My name is Kathy Nizzari. I'm a board member of Voters for Animal Rights and the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board.

The barbarity of practices like skinning an animal alive while fully conscious should be reason enough to ban the sale of fur. What impact does it have on the environment and human health?

I included 2 pages of references for you so I won't go into great detail. The World Bank calls fur one of the top five worst industries for toxic metal pollution. A fur coat takes twenty times more energy to produce than a faux fur coat. Don't be misled. European countries have actually banned "fur is green" advertising because it is false. Fur is heavily dependent on fossil fuels and electricity, is intensely polluting to air and water, kills marine life. Fur traps capture endangered species and family pets. Fur processors have been fined by the EPA and use at least 14 chemicals classified by the EPA, OSHA and other agencies as human carcinogens, causing cancer, leukemia, hormonal imbalances and respiratory problems as they are absorbed through the skin and nose and remain in the body for 20 years. Forbidden levels have even be found in children's apparel and the American Journal of Industrial Medicine associated fur processing with an increase in women's breast cancer. Fur puts human health at risk, both for the worker and the consumer. It has no place in our future or in New York City's Green New Deal.

The GND is about to change everything. Its primary goal is to achieve net zero emissions by eliminating fossil fuels and toxic pollution from our environment, manufacturing, agriculture, and other industries, which will guarantee clean air and water. And it aims to protect endangered species.

By eliminating fossil fuels, no one is saying coal miners and oil workers should lose their jobs. Green New Deal calls for training to transition these workers to green energy jobs. In the same way we would like to see the people who work with fur transition to other textiles. How?

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer created the Garment Center Steering Committee followed by Speaker Corey Johnson and the City Council recently approving a plan that will help garment workers move into the future. The city and the Council of Fashion Designers of America are launching a \$14 million-dollar expansion of the Fashion Manufacturing Initiative, providing grants to support existing employees with training to work with emerging technologies, and upgrade local manufacturing. What better use than to transition fur workers to new textiles.

As well, I've spoken with the leadership at Parsons School of Fashion who are interested in discussing a relationship where students can teach furriers about cutting edge textiles.

And, I've spoken with leaders in the faux fur industry whose designs sell at prices equivalent to fur. They would also be willing to help furriers. Some of these designers have actually closed the loop by creating a circular economy. They clean the plastic pollution out of the ocean, utilize it in manufacturing, which can then be upcycled to other products. It's brilliant, it's clean, and it's the future.

Four California cities have already banned fur and the state introduced a bill. New Yorkers no longer have extended winters due to climate change. Fur's days are numbered. The industry has an opportunity to transition to a compassionate business model and forge ahead into the future, or go the way of Blockbuster and switchboard operators.

I URGE THE COMMITTEE TO VOTE YES TO INTRO 1476 AND I THANK YOU
VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Environmental Impact and Health Risks of Fur

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<https://www.fauxfurinstitute.com/facts>

New York's Pollution Levels and National and Global Ranking

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<https://www.apartmenttherapy.com/dirtiest-city-in-america-new-york-study-2018-256221>

<https://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/city-rankings/msas/new-york-newark-nj-nj-ct-pa.html#ozone>

Garment Industry Reports and Support Initiatives

<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/610-18/de-blasio-administration-city-council-garment-center-steering-committee-passage-of>

<https://www.nycedc.com/program/fashion-manufacturing-initiative-fmi>

<https://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/land-use/garment-center-report/>

Other Potential Partnerships and Assistance

<https://www.newschool.edu/parsons/external-partnerships/>

www.pelush.com

<https://www.fauxfurinstitute.com/>

<https://www.ecopel.com/>

Garment Center Steering Committee
Garment District Alliance
Garment Center Supplier Association
Council of Fashion Designers of America
Made in NY
NY Designs

NYC Economic Development Corp
NYC Small Business Services
NYC Business Solutions Center and
Industrial Business Service Provider
City Source New York
Fashion Industry Task Force

garment unions including Workers United & IATSE

tapestry

COACH | kate spade | STUART WEITZMAN

CAPRI

HOLDINGS LIMITED

VERSACE | JIMMY CHOO | MICHAEL KORS

**Testimony of Tapestry, Inc. and Capri Holdings Limited
New York City Council
Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing**

**Proposed Initiative 1476-A, a Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of
New York, in relation to prohibiting the sale of fur apparel**

May 15, 2019

Thank you Chair Espinal and members of the committee for the opportunity to submit our position on the proposed legislation that would ban the sale of fur apparel in New York City. Tapestry and Capri Holdings are global houses of luxury and lifestyle brands, including Coach, kate spade new york, Stuart Weitzman, Michael Kors, Jimmy Choo, and Versace. Each of our brands has developed a meaningful presence in New York and many were originally founded here. Tapestry established its global corporate headquarters in New York, and each of the Capri Holdings' brands has a meaningful corporate presence in New York City. Collectively, we employ thousands of full and part time workers across the city. We are proud of our New York presence and are energized by the opportunity to continue to grow here.

The legislation as proposed, without an exception for the use of shearling and hair-on cowhide, is overly broad and would have a far-reaching negative impact on the city's economy and the fashion industry based here.

The legislation as currently drafted defines "fur" in such a way that captures shearling, or the skin of a sheep with the fleece or wool still attached, and hair-on cowhide. The capture of these two materials in the proposed ban will result in excess environmental waste and makes the ban inconsistent with similar legislation that has been enacted or is proposed in other jurisdictions in the U.S., including in New York state.

Both **shearling and hair-on cowhide** are by-products of the meat industry, meaning that the animals being used are not harvested solely for their hides. These animals are not raised for the primary purpose of being worn and it is estimated that approximately 95% of the value of a sheep to a farmer is in its meat, not its hide. If brands such as ours are banned from selling products that use shearling or hair-on cowhide, those hides would be wasted, resulting in that usable material being sent to landfills, burned or otherwise destroyed. In fact, Speaker Johnson himself noted that leather is excepted from the proposed ban as those hides are primarily harvested for food – the same is the case for shearling and hair-on cowhide and, as such, **shearling and hair-on cowhide should be excepted from any ban on fur.**

Many of our brands have already adopted "no-fur" policies that reflect this more broadly-accepted definition of fur in response to consumer demand and to advance sustainable business practices.

In its recently announced policy, Coach defined fur as “all types of real fur, including mink, coyote, karakul (otherwise known as Swakara, Persian lamb or astrakhan), raccoon dog, fox, rabbit, *and all other species specially bred or caught for fur.*” This definition – and the definition of “fur” used in similar “fur free” policies adopted by other brands such as Michael Kors, Jimmy Choo and Versace - specifically excludes shearling, hair-on cowhide and other animals not specifically killed for their hide. In fact, Ralph Lauren adopted a similar policy and instead uses shearling as a substitute for “fur” in its fur-like products, consistent with its longstanding “no-fur” policy.

Many brands that use animal-based materials in their products, including the brands of Tapestry and Capri Holdings, have committed to upholding animal welfare standards throughout their supply chain. Other fashion companies, such as PVH and Kering, have also adopted guiding principles for animal-based materials, and many brands require raw material suppliers, manufacturers and licensing partners to achieve high quality animal welfare standards that are audited, set forth expectations for the ethical treatment of animals and/or source from countries with robust animal welfare legislation regimes.

Like the Council, a number of state and local governments around the country have enacted or are evaluating fur sale bans in their jurisdictions. Each of these pieces of legislation specifically include exceptions, including those for shearling and hair-on cowhide, including those enacted in San Francisco, Berkeley and Los Angeles, California, as well as, those proposed in California, Hawaii and New York state. The only enacted ban in the U.S. that does not include such an exception is in effect in a small locality and was the first piece of legislation of its kind; the thinking on this position has uniformly evolved since its enactment in 2013. In fact, anti-“fur” groups that support fur ban legislation have distinguished shearling and hair-on cowhide from “fur” in the past.

Lastly, a ban on fur without reasonable exclusions in New York City would have a negative effect on the creativity of the brands and fashion industry that are based here. Brands are driven by design teams responsible for conceptualizing and directing the design of their products. Eliminating their ability to do so freely by selecting the materials that they use will negatively impact creativity, product development and, ultimately, consumer choice and business success. The selection of component materials is an informed decision made by brand teams based on analysis of market trends and customer expectations and is integral to the day-to-day operation of business and should not be legislated.

The promotion of sustainable efforts and responsible business practices are values similarly held by both the Council and each of Tapestry and Capri Holdings. It is our collective belief that the legislation as proposed does not effectively further either of these values and, therefore, reasonable exclusions should be made for shearling and hair-on cowhide.

Thank you.



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS®

Michelle Villagomez
NYC Legislative Senior Director

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

*Hearing before the New York City Council's Committee on Consumer Affairs
Intro. 1476 Animal Care Centers: Prohibiting the Sale of Fur Apparel*

May 15, 2019

Good afternoon. I am Michelle Villagomez, New York City Legislative Senior Director for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). I would like to thank the Consumer Affairs Committee and Chairman Espinal for the opportunity to share the ASPCA's position on fur.

While the ASPCA is known widely for our long history of work with companion animals, we believe that all animals should live free from abuse and suffering. Our official policy and position statement - states that the ASPCA is opposed to the farming, ranching, trapping, shooting or otherwise killing of fur-bearing animals for clothing and accessories. For this reason we support the efforts of the bill sponsors, Speaker Johnson and Councilmember Levine and are grateful for their leadership in rejecting the for-profit suffering of vulnerable animals for fashion.

Consumers need to be empowered to make ethical and sustainable choices. Many designers have been moving away from using fur in the last several years including: Burberry, Coach, Michael Kors, and others. Bans on the sale of fur have been instituted in Austria, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands as well as Los Angeles and San Francisco here in the U.S.

We have an opportunity to prevent animals like raccoons, foxes, mink, and chinchillas from suffering from cruel and inhumane treatment at fur farms here and abroad. We applaud your close examination of this important policy question.

Thank you.

NY City Council Committee of Consumer Affairs

May 15th, 2019 Hearing

Testimony of Jill Carnegie in support of Int 1476

Resident of Hell's Kitchen, NYC

Co-Founder, NUMU Vegan Group, LLC

My name is Jill Carnegie, and I am testifying today as a resident of Hell's Kitchen and a local business owner. Thank you to my council member, Speaker Corey Johnson, for championing Int. 1476 to ban the sale and production of animal fur in NYC.

My company is NUMU Vegan, which is currently headquartered in Brooklyn. We have created and produce non-dairy mozzarella cheese. I'm excited to report that we are fully funded and have several incredible distribution partners lined up to take NUMU Vegan cheese nationwide this Summer. What we have discovered is that the largest and smartest dairy companies are incredibly eager to diversify into the vegan/dairy-free space. Why is this? Because dairy is on the decline, and rapidly so. Animal-based milks and cheeses and yogurts are not sustainable, environmentally or financially - which is why the US government issued a \$1 billion bailout to the dairy industry last year. We have found that the largest dairy producers and retailers see the writing on the wall, and they are downright desperate to work with companies like mine so that they may remain competitive and respond to changing consumer demand.

Why do I bring this up today? Because we can identify a similar trend happening in fashion.

With more and more top design houses committing to being fur-free, and with elite fashion photographers refusing to shoot animal fur, it is glaringly obvious that the trend is moving rapidly toward omitting animals from fur looks. Fortunately, more and more innovators are rising and creating sustainable and beautiful alternative materials that speak to our higher values.

Ten years ago, if you had told me that a long-time dairy in Queens would convert to producing 100% plant-based milks, I would be skeptical. But Elmhurst dairy did that, and saw their sales soar beyond their projections. Five years ago, if you had told me that the quintessential New York slice of pizza could be ethically reinvented without compromising taste and texture, I would have raised an eyebrow...and yet my company is doing just that today, and we are finding that the demand is nothing short of impressive.

Removing animals from an industry doesn't have to cost jobs. It inspires innovation. There's a reason that you don't see iron masons on every corner in 2019, yet the decline in that trade didn't result in net job loss; the jobs simply changed. The skilled workers dependant on the animal fur trade have an opportunity here to translate their experience into more relevant skill-sets that can stand up and remain competitive for the next 10, 20 years and beyond. The demand is there, and with passage of legislation such as Int 1476, that demand will only grow. Thank you all for keeping New York City moving forward rather than holding us back; vote yes on Int 1476.



VOTERS FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS

**Testimony of Allie Taylor, President of Voters for Animal Rights,
Member of Fur Free NYC Coalition**

In Support of Intro 1476

786 Jefferson Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11221 (CD 41)

May 15, 2019

Speaker Johnson, Chairman Espinal, and Member of the Committee on Consumer Affairs:

My name is Allie Feldman Taylor, Founder and President of Voters for Animal Rights in Brooklyn. I'm here as a resident of New York City, a voter, and in my official capacity to represent our thousands of supporters in NYC. We are an all-volunteer grassroots organization.

First and foremost, thank you to Speaker Johnson for sponsoring Intro 1476. This is an important piece of animal rights legislation that would help end the senseless suffering of millions of animals. We can't thank you enough for your leadership on this issue.

Today you will hear testimony from those who support and those who oppose. I ask that you consider the motives behind every person who testifies today.

The dozens of experts and hundreds of advocates who are in this room in support of banning the sale of fur are here for one simple reason: Animals do not have a voice and suffer greatly at the hands of the very people who are here to oppose this bill. Those who testify in opposition do it because they profit from the abuse this bill seeks to end.

In front of you, we've prepared an informational packet for your consideration. Inside you will find facts and evidence in support of this bill, including:

- Poll numbers showing 75% of NYC voters support this bill – the poll was conducted by Mason Dixon and shows overwhelming support for the bill across every borough, demographic and political party.
- A letter of support from over 50 not-for-profit groups that are part of our Fur Free NYC Coalition, representing hundreds of thousands of our supporters in NYC
- A letter of support from over thirty veterinarians
- A list of the major fashion icons that have done away with fur
- New developments on sustainable, cruelty free fashion
- And a list of fur industry lies refuted

And several other fact based documents showing one important thing: there is overwhelming support for this bill.

The fur industry cannot win a civil debate on the merits, so they've resort to using their money to bully and spread misinformation to the general public and the City Council—representing everything that is wrong in politics. They've hired expensive lobbyists and marketing firms to spin the truth, sent out thousands of mailers and robocalls with misinformation attacking some of you on this committee, and have bought ads that are riddled with lies to cause fear among New Yorkers. And recently, they've gone so far to create fake twitter accounts, controlled by the fur industry, pretending to be NYC residents and attacking Speaker Johnson personally which we've called on the fur industry to apologize for and they've refused. All these tactics, we find absurd and will go take the high road as they take the low road.

We are at a pivotal juncture in our society: we can either take back our democracy from unethical industries or allow those with money to undermine and destroy what makes New York a beacon of light for good. We ask, humbly, to reject their lies, abusive practices, and support a more compassionate world.

You just saw actual footage of animals being caged, killed, skinned alive, and trapped in steal traps. This bill is about those animals who do not have a voice.

Fur is a relic of the past and has no place in a civilized society.

Thank you.

Please Support Intro 1476 Fur, A Product of Extreme Cruelty



For more information, please visit furfreencyc.com



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FACTSHEET

Worldwide, over 100 million animals are abused and killed for their fur every year. Whether raised on fur farms in tiny wire cages or trapped from the wild with cruel steel traps, fur-bearing animals -- including foxes, coyotes, wolves, otters, dogs, cats, and raccoon dogs -- have unimaginable cruelty inflicted upon them.

What are the major animal protection issues with fur production?

The production of fur relies upon cruel methods of trapping of wild animals and inhuman living conditions for animals on fur farms, which drastically compromise the health and welfare of the animals used.

Roughly 85% of animals raised for fur are from fur farms primarily in China and Russia. On fur farms, fur-bearing animals are confined for their entire life in cramped wire cages, deprived of their abilities to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are typically killed via medically and ethically objectionable methods, such as gassing, neck-breaking, and anal/vaginal electrocution.

The remaining ten to fifteen million animals killed for fur are trapped in the wild for their pelts. Animals caught in crippling leghold or noose-style traps undergo immense physical pain and suffering, which can include asphyxiation, hemorrhage, ulcerative wounds, psychological distress and self-trauma. These animals are often forced to spend days lingering without food or water. They are then killed by strangulation, shooting, drowning, or bludgeoning. In addition, it remains a public health and environmental issue that these archaic traps may injure and kill unintended targets, including threatened and endangered species, pets or even children.

What is the public and consumer sentiment towards fur?

- 75% of New York voters support legislation to prohibit the sale of fur in NYC
- Over 30 NY-based veterinarian professionals support a sales ban on fur.
- 50+ leading not-for-profit charities support a prohibition on the sale of fur in NYC.
- Due to outrage over the cruelties involved, in the past 18 months alone, Chanel, Jean Paul Gaultier, Coach, Burberry, Gucci, Michael Kors, and more, have done away with fur.
- A 2016 study of over a thousand millennials conducted by Mic clearly shows that the majority of young people, 70%, would not buy a new clothing item with fur on it.

Have laws banning the sale and/or production of fur been passed?

Yes! Here in the US, the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco have recently banned the sale and manufacturing of fur, while cities and countries across Europe and Asia are doing the same.

What is the impact to NYC fashion industry?

A minuscule percentage (0.5%) of New York City fashion jobs are fur related and easily transferable to other textiles like faux fur and other synthetic materials.



For more information, please visit furfreeNYC.com

FACTSHEET: FUR: TOXIC & UNNATURAL

There's nothing natural about the fur production process, which is polluting, energy intensive and can wreak havoc on ecosystems. On factory fur farms, where more animals are crammed into a small area than surrounding ecosystems have evolved to handle, toxic runoff containing high concentrations of phosphorous and nitrogen (the most common form of water pollution in the United States) from animal waste pollutes the sensitive surrounding environment. Petrochemical dyes, finishes, preservatives and other volatile compounds are regularly used to beautify and prevent rot and infestation, harming the environment and consumers in the process, and preventing fur from decomposing as nature intended.

Fur is a top polluter. According to the World Bank, fur dressing (the use of chemicals to prevent rotting) is one of the world's five worst industries for toxic-metal pollution.

Reliant on fossil-fuels. The Pew Charitable Trusts and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health note in a 2008 report that intensive animal farming operations like fur farms are "almost entirely dependent on fossil fuels."

Air pollution. In addition to air pollution arising from gases released in the animals' manure, significant air pollutants are released when disposing of animal carcasses by incineration, a fairly common method of disposal. These air pollutants may include carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), hydrochloric acid (HCl), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), dioxins, particulates and heavy metals. Furthermore, the European Commission considers air pollution to be one of the chief environmental concerns of the tanning process, whereby toxic and odorous substances are typically emitted during normal tannery operations.

Eutrophication. Fur factory farming accounts for 10% of ammonia emissions (which causes eutrophication of aquatic environments due to runoff) in major fur producing countries such as Finland. This is an underestimated environmental threat according to scientific journal Nature (Dec 2018)

Water pollution. A 2003 Michigan State University study in the Fur Rancher Blue Book of Fur Farming states that "the U.S. mink industry adds almost 1,000 tons of phosphorus to the environment each year."

Greenhouse gasses. The carbon footprint of the production chain of a single piece of mink (28kg CO₂ - eqv / pelt) or fox (83Kg CO₂ - eqv / pelt) is at the same level as the carbon footprint resulting from one to three days average consumption of a consumer.

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). A LCA on mink fur and faux fur was conducted by Dutch research organization CE Delft. They examined manufacturing, cold storage, cleaning and life of the garments finding that faux fur is almost five times less harmful than mink. The overall conclusions of the LCA were: compared with other textiles, fur has a higher impact on the environment per kg in 17 of the 18 environmental categories, including climate change, eutrophication and toxic emissions.

Petrochemicals. Fur processing is a big business in Asia where regulations are lax. The process involves chemicals and dyes manufactured by the petrochemical industry. The ingredients used are volatile components.

FACTSHEET: FUR: TOXIC & UNNATURAL (cont'd)

Hazardous to health. Formaldehyde, chromium VI (hexavalent chrome), alkylphenol ethoxylates, azo dyes and chlorinated phenols all are widely used to preserve raw animal skins and turn them into preserved pelts for use by the fashion industry.

Scientific analysis of six fur fashion items purchased from high-street stores in China has revealed potentially dangerous concentrations of toxic chemicals, in one case 250 times above the levels permitted by law.

An investigation in Italy in December, 2014 found carcinogenic toxins like hexavalent chrome and formaldehyde present in fur clothing intended for babies and toddlers. The main processing chemicals used for preserving pelts are formaldehyde (linked to leukemia) and chromium (linked to cancer). In 1991, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) fined six fur processing plants \$2.2 million for the pollution they caused, citing them for hazardous waste violations and stating that "the solvents used in these operations may cause respiratory problems, and are listed as possible carcinogens."

Toxic tanning. Common methods for dressing fur skins involve formaldehyde and chromium — chemicals that are listed as carcinogens and are otherwise toxic to humans. Other chemicals that may be used or emitted in the dressing and dyeing processes and that appear on one or more US government lists of toxic chemicals include aluminum, ammonia, chlorine, chlorobenzene, copper, ethylene glycol, lead, methanol, naphthalene, sulfuric acid, toluene and zinc.

Invasive species. The fur industry has introduced invasive and non-native species (like nutria) that have destroyed coastal wetlands, and now they pat themselves on the back for killing feral nutria in the name of "guilt-free fur" and "saving the wetlands" that they destroyed in the first place.

History of extinctions. Historically, the fur industry is responsible for the extinction and near extinction of many animals including the sea mink, toolache wallaby, Eurasian beaver, American bison, koala bear, and northern fur seal. The capture of "non-target" animals including endangered species is still a problem in the trapping industry.

Underregulated. Currently, at the Port Authority in NYC, fashion items from major brands containing endangered and threatened species are still regularly confiscated, as the investigative journalists at NBC's news 4 I-Team discovered.



Leading not-for-profit animal protection organizations support a prohibition on the sale of fur in New York City



Poll shows majority of New York City voters support banning fur sales

NEW YORK CITY — An overwhelming majority of residents support banning the sale of fur apparel in the city, a new poll released Friday shows.

The citywide survey, conducted by Mason-Dixon, found that 74% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans and 79% of independents support the sales prohibition.

The poll, released by a coalition of over 50 public-interest organizations, found that 75 percent of New York City voters support a bill (Intro 1476) introduced by Speaker Corey Johnson prohibiting the sales of fur apparel.

Worldwide, over 100 million animals are abused and killed for their fur every year. Whether raised on fur-farms in tiny wire cages or trapped from the wild with cruel leg-hold traps, fur-bearing animals -- including foxes, coyotes, wolves, otters, dogs, cats, and raccoon dogs -- have unimaginable cruelty inflicted upon them. Designers, retailers, and cities around the world are joining together in banning the sale of fur and shutting down fur farms due to the cruelties involved. In the past 18 months, Chanel, Phillip Lim, Jean Paul Gaultier, Coach, Burberry, Gucci, Michael Kors, and more, have all banned fur. Here in the US, the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco have recently banned the sale and manufacturing of fur, while cities and countries across Europe and Asia are seeking to do the same.

These poll numbers confirm the public overwhelmingly supports laws that protect animals.

"These polling results demonstrate that New Yorkers of all political persuasions oppose animal cruelty and overwhelmingly support a prohibition on the sale of fur apparel which, comes from tortured animals on fur farms and the wild," said Allie Feldman Taylor, President of Voters for Animal Rights (VFAR). "It is common sense that ending the egregious practice of selling apparel made from abused animals is the right thing to do and 75% of NYC voters agree."

"The fur industry tortures and kills millions of fur-bearing animals each year. The tide is turning against this cruel industry: major fashion brands have committed to going fur-free; countries around the world have banned fur farms; and cities like San Francisco, West Hollywood, and Los Angeles have prohibited fur sales. Fur is a dying industry, and New York City is poised to become the largest city in the U.S. to ban the sale of fur! No doubt this will have a rippling effect across the entire country," said Chris DeRose, Founder and President of Last Chance for Animals.

"As a fashion capital the entire globe looks to when deciding what to add to their closets, New York City has a responsibility to make it clear that animal brutality is never in style," said Lady Freethinker President Nina Jackel. "This long-overdue ban on fur sales will show the world that NYC remains a forward-thinking leader that other cities should aspire to emulate."



For more information, please visit furfreeNYC.com

Veterinary Professional Support for New York City's Intro 1476 to Prohibit the Sale of Fur



On behalf of our 9000 members nationwide, the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, a national association of veterinary professionals focused on animal health and welfare, joins the following veterinarians in supporting passage of Intro 1476. This legislation would prohibit the sale of fur within New York City.

The production of fur relies upon inhumane methods of trapping and husbandry, which drastically compromise the health and welfare of the animals used. Millions of rabbits, mink, foxes and other wild animals are confined lifelong in cramped cages on factory fur farms, deprived of their abilities to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are typically killed via medically and ethically objectionable methods, such as gassing or electrocution.

Additionally, animals may be trapped in the wild for their pelts. Animals caught in crippling leghold or noose-style traps undergo immense physical compromise and suffering, which can include asphyxiation, hemorrhage, ulcerative wounds, psychological distress and self-trauma. These animals are often forced to spend days lingering without food or water. In addition, it remains a public health and environmental concern that these archaic traps may injure and kill unintended targets, including threatened species, pets or even children.

Consumer choices have for many years been trending away from fur products. We hope the New York City Council will take a firm lead on this issue. We strongly support Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur in New York.

Eileen Jefferson, DVM, New York State Representative, Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association

Joined by the following New York veterinary professionals:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dr. Jake Jaffe | Dr. Cindy Bressler | Jeanine Lunz, LVT |
| Dr. Rhonda Windham | Richard Fried, VMD | Katja Lang, DVM |
| Dr. Michelle Werner | Nuala McDermott, DVM | Kian Madden, DVM |
| Dr. Yvonne Szacki | Marc Siebert, VMD | Dr. Pratikshya Patil |
| Dr. Sara Witherell | Carolyn Quagliata, DVM | Dr. Andy Kaplan |
| Dr. Morika Ogawa | Allyson Berent, DVM, DACVIM | Dr. Justin Lamb |
| Dr. Jill Elliot, DVM | Jennifer Chu, DVM | Dr. Marcela Salas |
| Kathy Nizzari, PetTech | Dr. Robin Brennen | Dr. Laurel Frydenborg |
| Daniel Tufaro, DVM | Dr. Meredith Wilson | Vladlen Anurov, DVM, PC |
| Valentina Anurova, DVM, PC | Dr. Geraldine Kilkelly | Catriona Love, DVM |
| Patrice A. Whittington, DVM, MPH | Alexandra Jaramillo, LVT | Terry Li, MBA, |

What Fashion Insiders Say

"Fur? I'm out of that. I don't want to kill animals to make fashion. It doesn't feel right."

- *Donatella Versace*

"Do you think using furs today is still modern? I don't think it's still modern and that's the reason why we decided not to do that...It's a little bit outdated. Creativity can jump in many different directions instead of using furs."

- *Gucci chief executive and president Marco Bizzarri*

"We are extremely concerned by animal suffering and ... we've made the decision to stop the use of all fur in any future collections"

- *Nicolas Dreyfus, The Kooples Executive Director*

"Sustainability is a core component of our curriculum. We are teaching the future leaders of the fashion industry that they can have a positive impact on the environment by not using animal products, and still create beautiful designs."

- *Burak Cakmak, Dean of Fashion at Parsons*

"Going fur-free... aligns with our company ethos and is something we wholeheartedly believe in. Yes, we are alienating ourselves from a few brands who use fur exclusively, But in the same breath it goes against our company morals and ethics, and in championing this vision, sacrifices have to be made for the greater good."

- *Tara Davies and Esther Kinnear-Derungs, founders of Linden Staub Model Agency*

"At Chanel, we are continually reviewing our supply chains to ensure they meet our expectations of integrity and traceability. In this context, it is our experience that it is becoming increasingly difficult to source exotic skins which match our ethical standards... [It's] an opportunity to create a new generation of high-end products."

- *Chanel Spokeswoman.*

Gautier announced his decision on live on French television where he claimed that the way animals are killed for their fur was "absolutely deplorable".

"Technological progress made over the years allows us to have valid alternatives at our disposition that render the use of cruel practices unnecessary as regards animals."

- *Giorgio Armani*

"We understood from our employee population and from our consumers that it was important to them that we take a stand on this [fur] issue. We're doing it because we believe it's the right thing to do."

- *Coach chief executive Joshua Schulman.*

"Our fur free commitment announced today was inspired by a thorough and rigorous educational process... regarding the protection of animal rights.

With a range of initiatives, partnerships and innovations, our goal is to act as an industry-wide catalyst for change."

- *Matteo James Moroni, head of sustainability for Yoox Net-a-Porter*

"Burlington Stores will not knowingly procure or sell items containing real animal fur beginning in the Fall of 2017."

- *Burlington's official policy statement*

"The decision to progressively ban the use of animal fur from the collections is a project that confirms the brand's growing interest in the environment with special attention to animals, a sensitive theme for Furla. Moreover, this decision responds to an increasing demand of ethical products from a consumer, who is increasingly aware and attentive to these issues."

-*Alberto Camerlengo, CEO of the Furla Group*

"Due to technological advances in fabrications, we now have the ability to create a luxe aesthetic using non-animal fur."

- *Michael Kors*

Coalition Statement Of Support For Intro 1476, A Bill To Ban The Sale Of Fur Apparel In New York City

We, the undersigned group of not-for-profit charities, with significant membership in New York City, respectfully urge support for Intro 1476, introduced by Speaker Corey Johnson. This legislation would prohibit the sale of fur apparel in New York City.

Worldwide, over 100 million animals are abused and killed for their fur every year. Whether raised on fur-farms or trapped from the wild, fur-bearing animals including foxes, coyotes, wolves, bobcats, beavers, otters, dogs, cats, and raccoon dogs, have unimaginable cruelty inflicted upon them by the fur industry.

As consumers become more aware of how animals are violently abused and killed for their fur, they are seeking to buy clothing, shoes, and accessories that are as ethically produced as they are functional and stylish. That is why designers, fashion houses, and cities around the world are joining together in banning the sale of fur and shutting down fur farms. In the past 18 months, Chanel, Jean Paul Gaultier, Coach, Burberry, Gucci, Michael Kors, and more, have all banned fur. And the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco have recently banned the sale and/or manufacturing of fur.

Speaker Corey Johnson has introduced a common-sense bill that would end the unnecessary suffering of animals abused by the fur industry. We applaud the City's commitment in recent years to protecting sharks from the shark fin industry, puppies from puppy mills, and wild animals from circuses. We strongly support New York City joining the dozens of designers, fashion houses, and cities in prohibiting the sale of fur apparel.

Sincerely,

Voters For Animal Rights
The Humane Society of New York
The Humane Society of the United States
Black VegFest
Barn Sanctuary
Last Chance For Animals
Grassroots Artists Movement (G.A.ME)
Encompass
Animal Connection
Vegans of New York
NYU SALDF
Afro Vegan Society
Project Coyote
In Defense of Animals
Factory Farming Awareness Coalition
Animal Defenders of Westchester

Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association
Animal Legal Defense Fund
Four Paws International
World Animal Protection
Born Free USA
International Anti-Fur Coalition
Total Liberation New York
Lady Free Thinker
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
Anti Fur Society
United Federation of Teachers Humane Education
Committee
The Animals' Battalion
Animal Cruelty Exposure Fund
Reaching Out For Animal Rights
Citizens Committee For Animal Rights

For more information, please visit furfreeNYC.com

NYCLASS

Caring Activists Against Fur
Animal Cruelty Exposure Fund
Direct Action Everywhere
Chilis on Wheels
Fur Free Society
Responsible Eating and Living
Animal Hope In Legislation
Animal Welfare Institute
Animal Defenders International
Animal Haven
Animal Protection and Rescue League
Fur Free Minneapolis
Benevolent And Enlightened Beauty

The Land and Sea Institute
Save Haven Sanctuary
Tamelaine Sanctuary
Global Strays
All About Rabbits Rescue
Fashion Revolution
Jewish Veg
NYC Hip Hop Is Green
Friends of Animals
Their Turn
NYC Vegan Vegetarian Meetup
Mayor's Alliance For NYC's Animals
The Save Movement
Collectively Free
V For Veganism
Catskill Animal Sanctuary
Keep Me Warm Doghouses, Inc



For more information, please visit furfreeNYC.com

Fur Industry Lies Refuted

1. FUR IS SUSTAINABLE

FALSE ADVERTISING

The fur industry is guilty of false advertising and has been punished for it, yet they continue to greenwash with terms like “natural” and “sustainable” that paint a pretty picture of a very ugly industry.

- The French Board of Advertising Ethics (Jury de déontologie publicitaire, or JDP) has ruled that a current ad campaign by the International Fur Federation (IFF) is misleading and in violation of standards of advertising ethics. Read the full story here. This ad is still running in Magazines here in the USA.
- A fur ad claiming that it's "Eco-Friendly to wear fur" was ruled misleading by the Advertising Standards Authority in 2012. Read about it here.
- In 1992, Dutch group Bont voor Dieren lodged a complaint with the Dutch ASA against fur advertisements that described fur as ‘ecological’ (they also claimed that the welfare of animals on fur factory farms was ‘excellent’). The independent ASA said that fur could no longer be called ‘ecological’ describing the use of the word in this context as both ‘misleading’ and ‘improper’ (it also concluded that the claims over ‘excellent’ welfare were misleading). The judgement concluded that the Dutch Fur Institute’s attempt to take advantage of the public’s increasing concern for the environment was ‘intolerable’.

FUR: TOXIC & UNNATURAL

There’s nothing natural about the fur production process, which is polluting, energy intensive and can wreak havoc on ecosystems. On factory fur farms, where more animals are crammed into a small area than surrounding ecosystems have evolved to handle, toxic runoff containing high concentrations of phosphorous and nitrogen (the most common form of water pollution in the United States) from animal waste pollutes the sensitive surrounding environment. Petrochemical dyes, finishes, preservatives and other volatile compounds are regularly used to beautify and prevent rot and infestation, harming the environment and consumers in the process, and preventing fur from decomposing as nature intended.

2. THE FUR INDUSTRY IS HUMANE & WELL-REGULATED.

DISINFORMATION

The fur industry is literally an industrial killing machine reliant upon a public kept ignorant about how animals are trapped or bred, confined, killed and processed. Every piece of fur requires the capture or confinement and killing of an animal at a scale of over 100,000,000 per year, globally. Every piece of media they create is PR spin designed to make us think of anything else but animals struggling to survive while being gassed, electrocuted, crushed, choked, poisoned or bludgeoned. Ultimately animals disappear into garments that reveal almost nothing about the honest story of where they came from. The fur industry is so ashamed of their own production processes that they’d never use the images of animals in confinement, languishing in tiny cages or show animals struggling to survive the killing process in their marketing or advertising. New Yorkers know that the ugliness of the process is hidden behind the beautiful fantasies they peddle.

For more information, please visit furfreenyc.com

HUMANE FUR IS AN OXYMORON

False “humane” claims. Dutch Advertising Standards Authority forced the fur brand Airforce to remove false “animal-friendly” claims from their labels. The company was selling jackets with raccoon dog fur trims labelled as ‘ethical’ and ‘responsible’. These claims of “animal-friendly fur” were shut down by the ASA.

Gaslighting. In a desperate attempt to slow the international wave of major luxury brands banning fur and anti-fur legislation, the fur industry sent out a press release claiming that fur investigations are “staged snuff films,” and paid for by animal advocacy groups, especially a video from Swiss Animal Protection/EAST International that shows a fully-skinned raccoon dog on a dead-pile lifting up their head and blinking into the camera. .

Documentation on farms and in the wild. Countless investigations from organizations all over the world reveal that cruelty is just business-as-usual in fur production. Things most people would find abhorrent, like anal/genital electrocution or standing on a trapped animal to crush their neck or lungs, are considered “standard industry practices”. Please review some of the many investigations and decide for yourself if the way fur is made is “humane”.

Unnatural confinement. The term “natural” is inaccurate when used to describe the origins of the majority of the world’s fur. The International Fur Trade Federation states that “wild fur represents about 15% of the world’s trade in fur,” leaving the great majority—85% by its own estimate—of the world’s fur to come from fur-bearing animals raised unnaturally on “fur farms”. The confinement operations typically consist of rows of barren cages in which wild animals spend their entire lives deprived of their natural habitat. Their freedom of movement is severely restricted, preventing the expression of many natural behaviors such as digging, for foxes, or swimming, for mink. As a result of such stresses, animals caged for fur frequently exhibit “stereotypic behavior”—abnormal and often repetitive pacing, circling or other movements, which can be an indicator of poor welfare.

Unnatural sizes. A study conducted in 2012 found, that the average weight of the farmed blue foxes in Finland was 42.7 lbs. In the wild these animals weigh from 6.6 to 11 kg.

Illegal cruelty. In Canada in 2014 a Quebec fur farmer was charged with animal cruelty following an investigation by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (S.P.C.A.). Fox and mink at the fur farm were seized by animal welfare organizations and some were in such poor condition that they had to be euthanized. Similarly, the Norwegian Broadcasting (NRK) reported on a farmer in Rogaland County, who was fined NOK 30,000 after several of his caged minks were found with such large open sores that they had to be put to death at the scene. A Last Chance for Animals' undercover investigation into Millbank Fur Farm in Ontario, Canada has led to 14 counts of Animal Cruelty by the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA).

MISLABELED & MISLED

Lawsuit. In a lawsuit brought by HSUS in 2009, several major retailers including Saks, Macy’s, and Bloomingdales broke with others in the industry to endorse the Truth in Fur Labeling Act, which then passed in Congress in 2010.

For more information, please visit furfreeNYC.com

Violations. The HSUS later highlighted violations from December 2011 through December 2015 by retailers Amazon, A-List/Kitson, Barneys, Belk, Bluefly, Century 21 Department Stores, Eminent/Revolve, Gilt, Kohl's, La Garconne, Mia Belle Baby, Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, Ross, Ruelala, Searle and Stein Mart. These retailers were selling fur-trimmed jackets described as “faux,” “raccoon,” “coyote,” or not labeled at all, which turned out to be raccoon dog, domestic dog, or wolf. Of 38 jackets subjected to mass spectrometry tests, every single garment was either unlabeled, contained a label that misidentified the animal, or was falsely advertised—some as “faux.” Three of the jackets advertised as fake fur— two of which had no label — were found to contain fur from domestic dogs. Retailers and brands continue to be caught mislabeling, like the 2019 news story exposing Boohoo and Zacharia Jewellers for selling animal fur items labeled as faux.

Unregulated. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has also shown how more than half of the fur sold in the united states is imported from China - a country that has virtually no regulations to protect fur animals, and that those furs sometimes come from domestic dogs and cats, are intentionally or unintentionally mislabeled as faux or as other animal species.

3. PROTECTING ANIMALS LIMITS CONSUMER CHOICE.

FEAR MONGERING

At the turn of the 20th century, you could purchase fur garments made from domesticated dogs or cats. Clearly, there was a cultural evolution that was eventually enforced by The Dog and Cat Protection Act (2000). In other words, a limit was placed on “consumer choice”, but for good reason. By the fur industry’s own logic, a limit on any product at all, no matter the consequences or contexts would be a hinderance to “consumer choice”. But is a free-market free of laws? If it weren’t for existing legislation like the Lacey Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Fur Seal Act and the Endangered Species Act, the fur industry would still be using cats, dogs, endangered and threatened species, and intentionally mislabeling fur to fool concerned consumers, like the fur industry did to the 8 million Koalas it killed and shipped to New York, London and Canada between 1888 and 1927 (they never recovered, with only about 40,000 left in the wild). A fur ban is no different than any other animal protection law. That’s why framing it as a limit on “consumer choice” is a misnomer. On the other hand, what is actually a limit on consumer choice is the fur industry fighting against a wave of emerging innovations, transparency and progress. The fur industry actively works against innovation in order to maintain relevance. That’s why a Fur-Free NYC is not about giving something up — instead it’s about creating opportunities for better design while investing in the emerging systems we want to see flourish.

Mercenary. The fur industry will sink to any low to maintain profits & relevance. They have hired “Dr. Evil” Richard Berman, notorious for fighting health, welfare, workers’ rights and safety regulations, to lie and confuse the public about fur. Read the dossier on Berman to get a feel for his tactics, take a look at who else he’s worked for, and then ask yourself why the fur industry chose him to represent them.

Bait. The fur industry’s manipulative tactics don’t stop there. They bribe fashion students and designers to create an illusion of relevance, as the New York Times exposed in the article, Fashion Feel’s Fur’s Warm Embrace. That is why fashion universities like Parsons School of Design have severed decades-long relationships with them. Instead, young and emerging designers want to create fashion that uses the most cutting edge, sustainable and ethical materials available.

For more information, please visit furfreeNYC.com

4. YOU MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN FAUX FUR & ANIMAL FUR.

FALSE CHOICE

The alternative to fur is not necessarily faux fur. It's no fur. Because fur is not a necessity, being anti-fur is simply that — it doesn't require something to replace it. But even if faux were a mandatory alternative, the concern for plastic in faux fur is a feigned concern only because there is an attempt to replace a lucrative status-symbol like fur.

Faux concerns. We must question why there isn't equal outrage over the synthetics used to tan and finish hides and leathers (syntans, mineral oil, PVC, polyurethane, polystyrene), line coats and make brand labels (nylon, polyester), make athletic and yoga apparel (spandex), running shoes, toothbrush bristles, carpets, garbage bags, mattresses, furniture, etc...

The fur industry's claim that faux fur is "terrible for the environment" because of microplastics released during laundering does not actually apply to faux, because most people don't wash outerwear often and keep coats for many years. Their problem is with fast fashion that is washed frequently and disposed of quickly.

Even so, three recent studies have shown that the fur industry's major complaint about impacts of microfiber plastic pollution may be far lower than we think:

- University of Plymouth Study: found microfibrils from natural textiles (cotton & linen, regenerated viscose & lyocell) were found in greater abundance than synthetic microfibrils in the deep seas of southern Europe.
- Leeds University Study: found that the amount of textile microfibers released during home laundering could be up to 90% less than has been anticipated.
- A Nottingham Institution Study: suggests that natural textile fibers "dominate" freshwater & atmospheric fiber pollution, contrary to the popular narrative of polyester and other man-made fibers posing the greatest environmental threat.

Refined. Synthetics are always improving (whereas there are only so many ways to confine and kill animals by the millions). New technologies like BIOGREEN can actually transform synthetics into usable fuel.

- Scientists from the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA) found a way to repeatedly recycle polyester. (read more here)
- Companies like Primaloft can now design synthetics that are recycled, infinitely recyclable and can even biodegrade in aquatic and soil environments in about 1 year.
- The fields of Biodepolymerization & biocatalysis research is gaining momentum with much interest in how certain worms, bacteria and fungus metabolize plastics.

FUTURE FURS

We have only just scratched the surface of what is likely going to be the next industrial revolution. Biofabrication, cellular agriculture, biosynthetics and bioplastics are set to completely transform the way we make everything. These visionary innovations are enabling us to eventually have nearly infinite design possibilities. New York City can be a center for this innovation, allowing fast-track access to designers, students and media. Here are just some of the companies who are carving out this space:

For more information, please visit furfreeNYC.com

- FURROID is working on lab-grown fur, pelts, and wool.
- Bolt Threads already makes lab-grown Mycosilk.
- Modern Meadow is mastering the art of their lab-grown leather, Zoa.
- Provenance, Geltor, Amsilk, Spiber, and Vitro Labs are all working on similar lab-grown protein fiber technology.
- Primaloft Bio's hi-tech, sustainable synthetics and bioplastics can be used for faux fur.
- Ecopel faux-fur is made from recycled materials, and soon, bioplastics.
- Econyl turns recycled ocean plastic pollution from fishing nets into nylon, and they are testing faux fur with this circular-economy material.
- Nanollose makes sustainable rayon fibers from industrial organic waste.
- Lebenskleidung makes organic cotton faux fur and shearling.
- Orange Fiber is made from the waste of citrus peels in Italy.
- DevoHome - makes hemp Fur.
- Cillia is an MIT project mastering 3D-Printed fur.
- Algiknit is crafting fiber made algae.
- 10xBeta has created polyurethane fiber made from recycled CO2.
- Bloom makes performance polymers from algae biomass.

5. VIRTUOUS MILLENNIALS WANT FUR.

OUT OF TOUCH

The fur industry has spent a lot of money trying to win over (and bribe) younger people. With efforts like their "Fur Now" and "Fur Is Green" campaigns, they use edgier aesthetics, bright colors, and a false sense of purpose tied to wearing fur. But most young people see right through their PR and know that fur is a symbol that represents obsolete values. Today, the marketed mythology of fur can not withstand the reality of fur production. Fur now represents indifference to animals, ignorance about how things are made and a medieval perception of status. In other words, fur means you hate animals.

Searching. A recent study of 80 million shoppers over 12 month shows a 66% increase in searches for sustainable fashion with "Vegan fashion" specifically responsible for over 9.3 million social impressions on Lyst. It's clear why the fur industry is so desperate to confuse people about whether it is "green", they are trying to cash in on consumers' genuine concerns for animals and the environment.

Data. A 2016 study of over a thousand millennials conducted by Mic clearly shows that the majority of young people won't buy or wear fur. Only 19% said they were comfortable wearing fur. Meanwhile 70% of respondents said they would not buy a new clothing item with fur on it.

Broken record. Since the late 1990s, the fur industry has consistently sent out press releases almost every single year saying that "fur is back!". But if it was never gone, what is it coming back from? In the January 1998 issue of fur industry trade magazine Fur Age, Editor Lisa Marcinek penned a feature article and Q&A entitled Media War in which she outlines a strategy to indoctrinate journalists: "... [The Fur Information Council of America] found that, by going after editors and promoting the news that fur is back in fashion, they found a receptive audience and reaped about 700 television, newspaper, magazine or radio stories positive for the trade... FICA participated in preparing most of the material printed or aired, supplying statistics, quotes and fashion photography." What becomes disturbingly clear is that for the last two decades, a majority of the articles written about fur being "back" were

For more information, please visit furfreenyc.com

simply industry-pitched stories containing spoon-fed lingo and statistics, as opposed to any form of organic journalism.

Sheared. The sheer number of top brands and retailers from Net-A-Porter to Phillip Lim, moving away from fur in the last few years is evidence enough that young people, their most important customer-base, do not want animal fur.

6. IF WE HAVE A FUR-FREE NYC, THERE WILL BE JOB LOSS.

DISTORTION

Exaggerated problem. New York City, the fashion capital of the world, is home to 180,000 fashion industry workers, accounting for 6% of the city's workforce and generating \$10.9 billion in total wages. (source) Fur jobs represent just 0.5% of these jobs.

Skills are universal. Fur is simply a material input. Superior inputs can be used without a loss of design and manufacturing jobs. Therefore, the skills, from designing to patterning, cutting, and sewing that furriers have are still very valuable and can be applied across NYC's growing sustainable design and manufacturing sector. There are NYC funds, initiatives & accelerators designed to help the fashion industry thrive in NYC.

History. There are many industries and jobs that have historical significance that our society has moved away from for ethical, environmental or economic reasons. This is how societies evolve, and the writing is on the wall — the end of the fur industry is inevitable for much of Europe and the United States. It is a relic that does not align with cutting-edge, sustainable material innovation, or the current science on animals and the environment. Prolonging and falsely propping it up while feigning concerns for jobs or the environment is bad for everyone.

New jobs. A fur-free NYC creates space and opportunity for innovation and sustainable design to thrive. New York City could be a leader in riding the wave of material innovation, creating fashion jobs and businesses.

Bans are global. Reputable companies are banning fur at an all-time high, as is international legislation banning the farming manufacturing of fur. If the fur-manufacturing centers of Europe can withstand bans, so can NYC.

7. FUR IS A LEGACY TOO IMPORTANT TO LOSE.

CONTEXT

The pursuit of fur-free fashion is nothing new. Advertisements from London in the late 1800's and early 1900s make it clear that there was a market for alternatives to fur on environmental and ethical grounds - and even a "Humane Dress League". There is no reason that the legacy of ethical-fashion is any less valid than that of fur-farming.



For more information, please visit furfreeNYC.com



Fashion is thriving without fur: Let's protect animals by supporting New York City's proposed ban.

May 14, 2019 | By TIM GUNN

Throughout my career – as chair of fashion design at Parsons, creative director at Liz Claiborne, and host of “Project Runway” – I have advocated against fur.

The fashion business has a troubling history with animals, but it is quickly evolving. Believe it or not, furriers used to slice up chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, leopards, baby seals and tigers for their fur. Most of that was declared illegal by the federal government in the 1970s.

Now, it's time to safeguard all the other animals from such gratuitous violence by supporting New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson's bill to ban fur sales in New York City, as lawmakers have already done in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

There isn't much to be happy about in politics today, but this trend toward kindness should give everyone hope. At Parsons, the fur trade enjoyed years of unchallenged promotion in which it enticed budding designers to work with fur by offering them free fur, trips to Scandinavia and sponsorship deals. I introduced a program in which PETA was given equal time to screen videos showing what happens to animals on fur farms around the world before their pelts end up in New York showrooms. Foxes, rabbits, chinchillas and even dogs and cats are anally electrocuted, gassed, bludgeoned and often skinned alive.

Student interest in the fur program dried up as quickly as enthusiasm for sustainable design increased. Consumer demand for fur has plummeted. According to the treasurer of Greater Fur New York, just 14 fur factories remained in the garment district in 2018 – down from 450 in 1977. This year, there are even fewer.

Fashion has evolved. Designers are finding it increasingly easy to be creative without being destructive. Hundreds of fabrics have been developed that are more eco-friendly and animal-friendly. When my “Project Runway” cohort Michael Kors banished fur from his collections, he said, “We now have the ability to create a luxe aesthetic using non-animal fur.” Donatella Versace declared, “Fur? I am out of that. I don't want to kill animals to make fashion. It doesn't feel right.” Gucci CEO Marco Bizzarri announced, “Technology is now available that means you don't need to use fur. The alternatives are luxurious. There is just no need.” Ralph Lauren,

Tommy Hilfiger, Armani and Chanel have enacted fur-free policies, as have dozens of mass-market brands like H&M, Zara, Gap, Nine West and The North Face.

Style icons are speaking out, too. I hosted a PETA Fashion Week party at Stella McCartney's Manhattan boutique, during which Taraji P. Henson unveiled her "Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur" ad. "Could you imagine somebody ripping your hair out, while you're still awake, fully conscious?" she said. "I don't think a living being should suffer for the sake of fashion We're advanced as a human race, and there are other things we can do and other products we can use."

Furthermore, the proposed ban would fit in with the city's many green initiatives. Fur production requires dangerous chemicals that pollute the environment. To keep animal pelts from putrefying, furriers steep them in pools of noxious chemicals like chromium and formaldehyde. The EPA has fined fur-processing plants for improper disposal of these poisons. A ban on fur sales would boost the burgeoning market for new, greener materials that don't harm the environment.

Let's all embrace fabrics that don't bleed and support Speaker Johnson's bill to ban fur.

Tim Gunn is America's most prominent fashion consultant. He was chair of fashion design at Parsons, hosted "Project Runway" for 16 seasons, and is currently filming a new style series with Heidi Klum for Amazon.

Ban all fur sales in NYC: Stop sanctioning the torture of animals, writes Anjelica Huston

By ANJELICA HOUSTON
APR 20, 2019 | 5:00 AM

If you Google “Anjelica Huston fur,” you’ll find images of me in a variety of pelts. I used to think they were a symbol of glamour and affluence.

I had a full-length lynx coat and a jacket trimmed with muskrat. There are photos of me at awards shows in a white fox cape and a stole made from dozens of minks. This was decades before I learned that these animals are trapped, gassed, drowned and even skinned alive. Which is why you can find other images, more recent, of me at PETA’s office cutting up these old furs to be used as bedding for orphaned wildlife. But I still feel shame for having supported the fur trade for so many years.

When I heard that Council Speaker Corey Johnson had introduced a bill to ban the sale of fur in New York City, and that Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal earlier introduced a similar bill in the Legislature, following similar bans in Los Angeles and San Francisco, I wanted to be among the first to promote it. There is so much violence in the world beyond our control, so let’s eliminate whatever cruelty we can — especially when it’s for something as unnecessary these days as fur.

This bill, cosponsored by council members from across the city, aims to protect not just animals but also consumers. As fur has changed from a status symbol to a social liability, dozens of retailers have been caught selling dog and cat fur from China, labeled as faux fur. That means fashion companies are in some cases selling expensive clothing claiming to be one type of product, but that are actually coming from animals many of us purport to love.

A straightforward fur ban is the only way to get at the root cause of such unlawful and unethical behavior. Indeed, the Federal Trade Commission cited these businesses for that false labeling — but imposed no financial penalties. Consumer fraud has become so widespread that the British Parliament is now considering a ban on fur throughout the U.K.

Fashion houses like Michael Kors, Versace, Chanel, Gucci, Donna Karan, Burberry and many more have dropped fur in recent years after learning about the cruelties involved. But it’s clear that many consumers remain unaware of fur’s horrifying supply chain. That’s why it is so momentous that Johnson and several members of the Council have come together to make sure that this fashion capital plays a leading role in protecting both animals and consumers.

This is a bill the entire city should celebrate. If a society desires to be more compassionate and just, we need to put our vanity aside and stand up for the most vulnerable creatures among us.

Nowadays, most fur isn't on full-length coats, but coyote trim adorns hoods, collars and cuffs. Few people who buy these items seem to know that wild coyotes are caught in steel traps. Some suffer for days in excruciating pain before trappers return to bludgeon them to death. (Trapping is mostly a hobby.)

Because traps don't discriminate, other wild animals — and even domesticated dogs and cats — are sometimes caught by mistake. In some instances, mothers with cubs have even been known to chew off their own legs to escape. And this bloodbath isn't limited to the remote wilderness; it's happening as close as densely populated Connecticut and Westchester County.

Like trap lines, fur farms are self-policed. No government inspectors come to ensure that foxes or chinchillas are being treated with compassion or electrocuted "properly" so that they aren't still alive on the skinning table. Mink farmers have been caught injecting the animals with weed killer as well as breaking their necks and tossing them into a squirming pile. This is a sadistic shadow industry operating without oversight.

"There oughta be a law," you might say. Hopefully, in New York, there soon will be.

Huston, an Oscar- and Golden Globe-winning actor, is an honorary board member of PETA.

No Money or False Information Can Change the Fact that Banning Fur and Foie Gras is the Right Thing To Do

May 14, 2019 | by Matthew Dominguez & Allie Feldman Taylor

Industries that exploit and abuse animals have a lot of money and a lot to hide. Whether it be the fur industry, which abuses and kills animals for their skins, or the foie gras industry, which rams a foot-long pipe down the throats of innocent ducks for a luxury food item, resorting to Trump-like tactics of lies, fear-mongering, and bullying is a telltale sign that you're on the wrong side of history.

In New York City, we have two of the most abusive and morally bankrupt industries on earth -- fur and foie gras -- spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to spread misinformation and bully City Council members to get them to oppose two common-sense animal protection bills that seek to end the cruelties in their unregulated industries.

A perfect example is the fur industry's recent blanketing of Speaker Corey Johnson's district with ridiculous mailers filled with false information. Speaker Johnson should be applauded, not attacked, for working to protect animals.

Another bill, Intro. 1378, would prohibit the sale of force-fed foie gras in New York City. Foie Gras is a luxury food product sold in about 1.5% of New York City restaurants. It is produced by violently shoving a metal or plastic foot-long pipe down a bird's throat, then pumping him with so much feed that, after three times a day for several weeks, his liver becomes grossly diseased and enlarged to ten times its normal size.

The bill is supported by 81% of New Yorkers, according to a Mason Dixon poll, and over 50 New York-based veterinarians, 100 restaurants, and over 60 not-for-profit organizations have endorsed it. The only opposition to this bill is the industry that profits from the abuse. A new poll just release by Fur Free NYC shows a staggering 75% of New York City voters support a ban on the sale of fur.

On fur, Intro. 1476 would prohibit the sale of fur apparel in New York City. Worldwide, over 100 million animals are abused and killed for their fur every year. Whether raised on fur farms in tiny wire cages or trapped from the wild with cruel leg-hold traps, fur-bearing animals -- including foxes, coyotes, wolves, otters, dogs, cats, and raccoon dogs -- have unimaginable cruelty inflicted upon them.

Designers, retailers, and cities around the world are joining together in banning the sale of fur and shutting down fur farms due to the cruelties involved. In the past 18 months, Chanel, Phillip Lim, Jean Paul Gaultier, Coach, Burberry, Gucci, Michael Kors, and more have all banned fur. Here in the United States, the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco have recently banned the sale and manufacturing of fur, while cities and countries across Europe and Asia are seeking to do the same.

These industries cannot win a civil debate on the merits, so they resort to using their money to bully and spread misinformation to the general public and the City Council—representing everything that is wrong in politics. They’ve hired expensive lobbyists and marketing firms to spin the truth, sent out thousands of mailers and robocalls with misinformation, and bought ads that are riddled with lies to cause fear among New Yorkers. These tactics are from a Trump-like playbook and have no place in this great city.

On the other hand, non-profit groups that advocate for animal rights refuse to entertain these abusive industries’ morally dubious political theater. As Michelle Obama famously said, “when they go low, we go high.” That is exactly what we will do on behalf of animals.

Our coalition of more than 50 organizations will rely on facts, evidence, and science to support the policies we promote. We welcome transparency, debate, and fairness in the legislative process. We operate in the open and don’t try to influence in the shadows. At Voters for Animal Rights, we’re an all-volunteer organization that works to protect animals on an annual budget that is roughly the same as a lobbyist’s monthly retainer to represent the fur industry.

We fight for animals for one simple reason: it’s the right thing to do. They oppose animal protection laws because it threatens their bank accounts.

We are at a pivotal juncture in our society: we can either take back our democracy from powerful, unethical industries or allow those with money to undermine and destroy what makes New York a beacon of light for good. We humbly call on New Yorkers to denounce “alternative facts,” and tell the abusive fur and foie gras industries “No.”

We will not be bullied. We will not stop fighting for the rights of animals. We will not remain silent as they torture innocent animals for profit.

It’s clear that fur and foie gras are products of extreme cruelty and should be relegated to the waste bins of history. Together, we can make New York City a better city by rejecting the fur and foie gras industries’ Trumpian political tactics and pass Intros. 1378 and 1476 without delay.



MASON-DIXON POLLING & STRATEGY

WASHINGTON, DC - 202-548-2680
JACKSONVILLE, FL - 904-261-2444

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

This poll was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. of Jacksonville, Florida from May 7 through May 9, 2019. A total of 625 registered New York City voters were interviewed citywide by telephone.

Those interviewed were randomly selected from a phone-matched NYC voter registration list that included both land-line and cell phone numbers. Quotas were assigned to reflect voter registration by borough.

The margin for error, according to standards customarily used by statisticians, is no more than ± 4 percentage points. This means that there is a 95 percent probability that the "true" figure would fall within that range if all voters were surveyed. The margin for error is higher for any subgroup, such as a gender or age grouping.

QUESTION: Do you feel that that animals raised for clothing should or should not be well cared for?

	<u>SHOULD</u>	<u>SHOULD NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
CITY	89%	3%	8%

<u>BOROUGH</u>	<u>SHOULD</u>	<u>SHOULD NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
Bronx	86%	4%	10%
Brooklyn	87%	4%	9%
Manhattan	90%	3%	7%
Queens	91%	2%	7%
Staten Island	92%	4%	4%

<u>SEX</u>	<u>SHOULD</u>	<u>SHOULD NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
Men	83%	5%	12%
Women	96%	1%	3%

<u>AGE</u>	<u>SHOULD</u>	<u>SHOULD NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
<50	93%	3%	4%
50+	86%	3%	11%

<u>RACE</u>	<u>SHOULD</u>	<u>SHOULD NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
White	93%	2%	5%
Black	83%	4%	13%
Hispanic	84%	6%	10%

<u>PARTY REGISTRATION</u>	<u>SHOULD</u>	<u>SHOULD NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
Democrat	88%	3%	9%
Republican	90%	4%	6%
Independent	92%	3%	5%

QUESTION: Worldwide, over 100 million animals are killed for their fur every year. Roughly 85% of animals raised for fur are from fur farms primarily in China and Russia. On fur farms, dogs, cats, minks, foxes, and other fur-bearing animals are confined in wire cages, fed poor diets, and once grown, are killed by gassing, neck-breaking, and anal/vaginal electrocution. Would you support or oppose a prohibition in the City of New York on the sale of fur from fur-farms?

	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
CITY	86%	7%	7%

<u>BOROUGH</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Bronx	84%	7%	9%
Brooklyn	86%	6%	8%
Manhattan	87%	8%	5%
Queens	85%	9%	6%
Staten Island	88%	6%	6%

<u>SEX</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Men	80%	10%	10%
Women	91%	5%	4%

<u>AGE</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
<50	89%	7%	4%
50+	84%	7%	9%

<u>RACE</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
White	88%	6%	6%
Black	83%	8%	9%
Hispanic	85%	7%	8%

<u>PARTY REGISTRATION</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Democrat	85%	7%	8%
Republican	87%	9%	4%
Independent	89%	7%	4%

QUESTION: The remaining 15% of the 100 million animals killed for fur each year are trapped in the wild with metal leg-hold traps, or similar trap that results in the animals being trapped for days without any food, water or shelter before they're killed by strangulation, shooting, drowning, or bludgeoning. Would you support or oppose a New York City law prohibiting the sale of fur from trapped wild animals?

	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
CITY	81%	10%	9%

<u>BOROUGH</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Bronx	81%	8%	11%
Brooklyn	83%	9%	8%
Manhattan	82%	10%	8%
Queens	80%	11%	9%
Staten Island	76%	14%	10%

<u>SEX</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Men	72%	14%	14%
Women	90%	6%	4%

<u>AGE</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
<50	87%	7%	6%
50+	76%	13%	11%

<u>RACE</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
White	81%	12%	7%
Black	81%	7%	12%
Hispanic	79%	10%	11%

<u>PARTY REGISTRATION</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Democrat	80%	10%	10%
Republican	77%	13%	10%
Independent	85%	9%	6%

QUESTION: The New York City Council is considering a bill that seeks to prohibit the sale of fur apparel in New York City from fur-farms and trapped animals from being sold within New York City. Would you support or oppose a city-wide law to prohibit the sale of fur apparel?

	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
CITY	75%	14%	11%

<u>BOROUGH</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Bronx	73%	13%	14%
Brooklyn	77%	11%	12%
Manhattan	75%	17%	8%
Queens	76%	15%	9%
Staten Island	72%	14%	14%

<u>SEX</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Men	66%	19%	15%
Women	84%	9%	7%

<u>AGE</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
<50	81%	11%	8%
50+	71%	16%	13%

<u>RACE</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
White	73%	17%	10%
Black	77%	11%	12%
Hispanic	72%	13%	15%

<u>PARTY REGISTRATION</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Democrat	74%	14%	12%
Republican	71%	16%	13%
Independent	79%	13%	8%

DEMOGRAPHICS

PARTY REGISTRATION:

Democrat	424 (68%)
Republican	70 (11%)
Independent or Other	131 (21%)

AGE:

18-34	128 (20%)
35-49	176 (28%)
50-64	155 (25%)
65+	149 (24%)
Refused	17 (3%)

RACE/ETHNICITY:

White/Caucasian	283 (45%)
Black/African American	151 (24%)
Hispanic/Latino	144 (23%)
Other/Refused	47 (8%)

SEX:

Male	285 (46%)
Female	340 (54%)

BOROUGH:

Bronx	100 (16%)
Brooklyn	185 (30%)
Manhattan	140 (22%)
Queens	150 (24%)
Staten Island	50 (8%)

Intro 1476 - A bill to prohibit the sale or offer for sale of fur apparel

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to prohibiting the sale of fur apparel

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 4 of title 20 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new subchapter 13 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER 13

FUR APPAREL

§ 20-699.10 Definitions

§ 20-699.11 Prohibited conduct

§ 20-699.12 Penalties

§ 20-699.13 Injunctive relief

§ 20-699.10 Definitions. For purposes of this subchapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

Commissioner. The term “commissioner” means the commissioner of consumer affairs.

Fur. The term “fur” means any animal skin, in whole or in part, with the hair, fleece or fur fibers attached.

Fur apparel. The term “fur apparel” means any article of clothing or fashion accessory, to be worn on any part of the body, made of fur, in whole or in part.

Used fur apparel. The term “used fur apparel” means any fur apparel that a natural person has acquired for that person’s own use as an article of clothing or fashion accessory.

§ 20-699.11 Prohibited conduct. No person may sell or offer for sale any fur apparel except for used fur apparel or fur apparel made from fur sourced exclusively from used fur apparel.

§ 20-699.12 Penalties. a. Any person that violates section 20-699.11 on or after the first day of May next succeeding the effective date of the local law that added this subchapter shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for that person’s first violation and each additional violation occurring on the same day as the first violation, and not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,500 for each subsequent violation. Violations shall accrue on a daily basis for each item of prohibited fur apparel that is sold or offered for sale.

b. Any fur apparel offered for sale or any revenue generated from fur apparel sold in violation of section 20-699.11 shall be subject to forfeiture upon notice and judicial determination.

§ 20-699.13 Injunctive relief. In addition to any other relief available by law, the commissioner may seek any relief available under article 63 of the civil practice law and rules in a proceeding against any person alleged to be in violation of any provision of this subchapter.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 90 days after it becomes law, except that the commissioner of consumer affairs shall take such measures as are necessary for the implementation of this local law, including the promulgation of rules, before such date.



Dan Matthews, Senior Vice President at PETA Testimony – Intro. 1476

Honorable Council Members,

My name is Dan Mathews. I'm a Senior Vice President at PETA, where I have worked since 1985.

PETA was involved in the fur bans that passed overwhelmingly in L.A. and San Francisco, and we are heartened that New York is poised to be next. Lawmakers are voting to ban fur sales because fur producers operate outside of the law. Unlike other industries that use animals, fur producers do not receive government oversight or inspection to ensure that the animals live or die with even minimal standards.

PETA filmed a mink farmer in Maryland who killed the animals by injecting them with weed killer, which caused a slow and painful death, but which the owner found cheap and easy. He had no experience and no interest in veterinary medicine. We filmed a chinchilla farmer in Indiana who electrocuted the animals by clamping their genitals with a cord leading to a car battery. He sometimes used too weak a voltage and some animals hobbled off the skinning board, which he found funny. He had no experience and no interest in veterinary medicine.

In Korea, we filmed a fur farmer who swung foxes by the tail between two wooden boards, and then crushed them to death before exporting their pelts to New York. In China, we filmed fur farmers who slammed raccoon dogs' heads into the ground, which dazed them but didn't kill them. They were skinned alive. Dog fur from China has ended up on racks here in New York City where it was mislabeled as fake. The Federal Trade Commission cited many retailers for false labeling, but there were no penalties whatsoever. That's why we need a law banning fur that comes with a penalty.

Nowadays in the States, with little interest in fur coats, animals are often killed for less conspicuous fur trim or collars—mostly coyotes, killed in traps like this.

It looks like a medieval torture device that should have been banned long ago. In fact, over 100 countries have banned these traps. But only seven of the United States have banned them, meaning traps are used coast to coast, including just outside the city in upstate NY and Connecticut.

Why have 100 countries banned these traps? Let's take a look at how they operate.

(Demonstrate trap)

This trap is available for \$10 on Amazon. It's meant for coyotes, who trappers then bludgeon to death, but they routinely cripple and kill family dogs, cats, owls, and the occasional human hiker.

Like fur farms, trapping is a sadistic, self-regulated hobby. Trappers claim they check their traps daily, but if the weather's bad, a game's on TV, or they just don't feel like it, animals can languish for days. They die of exhaustion, infection, shock, or by being eaten by a predator from whom they can't escape. Some animals, especially mothers desperate to return to their young, even attempt to chew off their limbs to escape.

Trapping cannot be regulated because only the trappers know where the traps are set.

Like fur farmers, trappers operate outside the view of the law. That's why lawmakers are banning fur.

Thank you.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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May 15, 2019

Chairman Rafael Espinal
Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing
250 Broadway Suite 1754
New York, NY 10007

Chairman Espinal and Honorable Committee Members,

As the New York State Director for the Humane Society of the United States, I thank you for the opportunity to present today and for Speaker Johnson's leadership on this issue, which is historic and in line with what both Los Angeles and San Francisco have accomplished - prohibiting the cruel and unnecessary sale of new fur products.

The Humane Society of the United States has worked with top apparel companies – from Gucci, Michael Kors and Chanel to TJ Maxx and Burlington Coat Factory – to establish sound, profitable fur-free policies. When these significant companies examine the fur trade closely, they understand that it is not possible to humanely source fur. Versace and Coach have taken a leadership role, as well, and we expect this market-led trend to grow exponentially.

Serious animal welfare concerns regarding the “harvesting” of fur for fur products include animals taken by anal electrocution, wild animals crammed in barren cages for their entire lives and wildlife caught in steel leghold traps for days without food or water. Additionally, investigations have shown that “certified” farms raising animals are rampant with self-mutilation and other injurious behaviors caused by significant stress and fear.

Consumers, industry leaders, leading animal protection organizations and constituents applaud the introduction of Intro 1476, and respectfully ask that this measure pass committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Shapiro
New York State Director
The Humane Society of the United States
200 W 57th Street #705
New York, NY 10019
bshapiro@humanesociety.org
(845) 707 5350



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF INTRO 1476 – Ban Sale of Fur in NYC

Business: GUNAS NEW YORK, 4630 Center Blvd, #1005, Long Island City, NY 11109

www.gunasthebrand.com E: info@gunasthebrand.com

To: Consumer Affairs Committee and City Council member, Jimmy Van Bramer.

My name is Sugandh Agrawal and I live in Long Island City in council member Jimmy Van Bramer's district. I urge him to support this bill. Since 2009 my company, Gunas has been a brand committed to making luxury, vegan and cruelty-free handbags for the modern, style conscious and fashion forward woman. It has been awarded the Best Green Handbag label by Instyle, Best Retail bag by Macy's and Best Vegan Handbag brand from PETA. The brand's been featured in Vogue magazine, Harper's Bazaar, Let's Make a Deal -TV show, A Girl Friend's Guide to Divorce on CBS and A series of Unfortunate Events on Netflix. I'm here today to testify in support for the ban on the sale of fur in New York City with primarily three strong arguments.

1. **Plastics are a genius human invention:** Unlike plastic straws and bottles that are a convenience tool and can easily be avoided, faux fur and faux leather are a genius use of plastics. Using plastics as faux fur is an adaptation of nature, a way to mimic its beauty instead of destroying it. Several innovations in the form of fur made from hemp fibers, corn based plastic, water-based faux materials instead of petrochemicals and even plastic made from avocado seeds are now being developed by scientists all over the world. Let's not be a creature of habit, rather an evangelist of change; a change that is the need of the hour. Let's stop the abuse of animals in the name of fashion.
2. **Ethical jobs will be created:** There comes a time when an industry no longer serves the purpose of humankind. We are at this very crossroads with the fur industry. Instead of fearing change we need to embrace it, innovate and give our future generations what they really want. There is a clear, growing demand for animal-free products. As a small business owner, the growing success of my brand is a clear indication that the Millennial and Gen Z consumers want this change. We want to have nothing to do with garments made from brutality. No amount of regulations in the fur industry can justify the torture, abuse and pain we inflict upon animals.
3. **Designers do NOT support the use of fur in fashion:** Household fashion brands such as Gucci, Versace, Burberry, Michael Kors, Armani, DVF, Tom Ford, Stella McCartney, Vivien Westwood, DKNY, Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein have all dropped fur from their collections. London Fashion Week, vowed to go fur free in 2018. New York is one of the top 4 world capitals for fashion. What values do we want to stand for?

Torture cannot be labeled as aesthetically, morally or visually pleasing. Animal abuse is modern day slavery. Let's liberate them by creating incentives similar to those embraced through several other green initiatives by our city. Every time we've embraced such a change we've emerged happier and stronger. As a mom, this is the kind of world I want for my child. As a business owner, I know it can be done.

Thank you,
Sugandh Goel Agrawal

**TESTIMONY OF REV. DR. JOHNNIE GREEN
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND
BUSINESS LICENSING**

MAY 15, 2019

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to testify before the committee regarding my opposition to the proposed ban on the sale of fur apparel, Intro 1476. My name is Rev. Dr. Johnnie Green and I am the Senior Pastor at Mount Neboh Baptist Church in Harlem. I am also the President of Mobilizing Preachers and Communities (or "MPAC"), which is a non-profit civil rights and faith-based organization with a membership of over 300 churches through the New York and tri-state area. I co-founded MPAC because I felt that the church needed to take a more active role in the life of the community to ensure justice and equality for all people. It is these concerns that bring me here today.

I find it troubling that activists and leaders such as yourselves would try to take away our right, here in New York City, to choose what we can and cannot buy. While citizens here in our diverse and urban city, largely populated by minorities, are being stripped of their right to purchase what they choose.

People have the right to choose not to wear fur, but fur opponents do not have the right to determine how we reward our hard work. Americans believe in freedom, choice and prosperity. We believe that with hard work and opportunity, you will be rewarded. For our community, that has struggled for centuries to achieve equality and freedom in this country, to be now told what we can and cannot purchase is an insult. Everyone is entitled to their own personal beliefs whether it be culture, religion or custom, but opponents to fur are not entitled to encroach on the rights of others who disagree.

Opponents of fur do not understand its importance in the black community. They do not understand that we have a long history of wearing furs passed down through our families for generations. They do not understand the role of fur as a symbol of achievement in society for our disadvantaged group. Our ability to wear fur historically has been a sign that we have finally become a part of New York society, something we were prevented from being a part of for hundreds of years.

A ban on fur is a ban on black culture. For us, this is a pattern throughout history, of Blacks being told what rights they can and cannot have by the White majority. We cannot and will not stand for this injustice and this discrimination.

A fur ban will not only negatively impact the Black community—it will have devastating economic impacts for the historic fur industry and the City's entire fashion economy. This will destroy one of the last small business-run industries in our city. Shouldn't we be protecting these workers who rely on the industry to make money to feed their families? Shouldn't we be preserving small businesses instead of destroying them?

New York City would lose 7,500 jobs and 150 business would be forced to shut down if we ban the sale of fur. These are small, family businesses that are being forced to shutter their storefronts that have been around for generations without a fair say. A fur ban would be another way for the City to rapidly gentrify—taking jobs away from 1st and 2nd generation Americans whose parents and grandparents came to this country and worked hard to provide for their families. This will destroy small business, most of them minority-owned, ignoring the cries of our people.

In my community, on our finest days at church, those who have minks wear them. It is a part of the America dream. Let's prioritize what matters to our communities, instead of wasting time on issues that don't serve the people.



Advocacy that fits.

740 6th Street, NW • Washington, DC 20001 | P: 202-853-9080 | www.aafaglobal.org

May 15, 2019

On behalf of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), I thank you for the opportunity to testify on Intro 1476-A.

AAFA is the national trade association representing apparel, footwear, travel goods, and other sewn products companies, and their suppliers, which compete in the global market. We represent over 100 companies with corporate offices or headquarters in New York State which would be impacted by a restriction on the sale of animal skin or fur products.

This legislation would greatly impair our companies' ability to deliver products that consumers want. The choice of materials used in apparel and footwear products is very important, and consumers make educated decisions about the types of products that they purchase. When consumer demand exists, the product is there to supply that demand, and when demand changes, companies adapt. Regulating material choices *for* companies artificially restricts trade and will drive business out of the city into surrounding areas. Because the demand for fur will still exist, it is likely that most consumers will continue to buy fur whether it is sold in New York City or elsewhere. Moreover, this legislation will cause the loss of jobs and closure of small business manufacturers in the city. Dictating elements of style and design may also negatively impact fashion trade shows which frequently travel to New York City, which threatens New York City's status as an international fashion capital. This also risks a negative impact on tourism and shopping, a major source of revenue for all types of businesses.

Additionally, AAFA consistently advocates for the harmonization of regulations at the city, state, and federal levels. Numerous and conflicting regulations from one locality to the next increases the cost of doing business, especially for companies who sell in many different product categories, as many of our members do. Of course, increasing the cost of business by requiring companies to track changing regulations, update their compliance policies, and develop new products, increases the cost of products for consumers.

We recommend that the Council reconsider this legislation which will limit consumer choice, kill jobs, and hurt New York City's economy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

PETER SPELIOPOULOS PROJECTS

FOR THE RECORD

My name is Peter Speliopoulos and I am the Founder of Peter Speliopoulos Projects, a designer working in Fashion, Costume and a Creator of Home Accessories, in which I use shearling, haircalf and leather and suede. I was formerly Creative Director of Donna Karan for 13 years, a business where we made and sold shearling, haircalf, leathers and suede— in clothing, shoes and handbags, and jewelry. Donna herself had personal reservations about the use of fur, and so we did not create or sell fur products.

There is a big difference between “fur” and “shearling and haircalf,” and I believe it is critical to understand this. The Fur Industry has already been working for years to establish regulations concerning farming and ethics. The legitimacy of using shearling and haircalf has been built around the idea that these are animal byproducts. In fact, that is exactly what they are! The hides of animals — cows, sheep, goats, are harvested worldwide, after these same animals have already provided the world with food! Since the beginning of Man, Man has made great use of the entire animal, first as a food source, then using hides for clothing, utility and shelter. How are we to face, and fight against the human tragedy of World Hunger without sacrificing these animals for food? What are we to do with what’s left over? Not to mention the use of these leftovers feeding all of our cats and dogs! Are we outlawing the killing of our food sources?

Moreover, shearlings and haircalf come from the same animals, the same skins, as leather and suede!!! Meaning, through various tanning processes, the original hides, which have hair— shearling and haircalf, become leather and suedes of different qualities and grades. The hides themselves are made up of different layers, all of which are used— the inferior layer is used to make cheap suede and interfacing and linings in bags, sneakers and shoes. Going further, the hair or wool pile of these hides goes on to become yarns... So, what exactly is being banned here in this bill? And on what grounds?

Shearling, haircalf, leather, and suede — basically all the same thing, the same animal byproducts, the same hides, are in fact, also the most sustainable and ecological products. These are elements of nature, and they biodegrade in one year!!! Tanneries have made huge strides and are using ecological means to process shearlings, haircalf, leather and suede, with major restrictions on chrome and formaldehyde. A bigger problem are the plastics and petrochemicals used in the fake fur and synthetic leather industries, which seem to never biodegrade, accumulate, and are ruining our Earth.

And as an American, a business owner and private citizen, I cannot accept a government that dictates what I can or cannot utilize in the making of responsible products, nor a government that tells me I cannot wear this, buy that or eat this and that. The greatest movements forward in this country have given us the freedom to choose, and have provided everyone with ethical, sustainable and ecological options.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Peter Speliopoulos

May 15, 2019

STALLION INC.

NYC Economic Development Corporation-funded manufacturing Company

We are a manufacturer and retailer of women's fur coats and ready to wear apparel. Our annual sales are approximately \$30 million. Our Councilmember for our 3 Manhattan retail stores is Keith Powers and for our Long Island City factory is Jimmy Van Bramer, and our 90 employees also are also represented by Councilmembers here in the Committee and in the Council. We are proud of our accomplishments and our label and logo clearly states "Handmade in New York City".

We currently employ over 90 people most of whom reside in New York City. At our retail stores and production facility in Long Island City most of our employees are involved in the design, production and sales of our ready to wear line. In addition we also subcontract to other ready to wear garment manufacturers in the garment district of NYC. Our fur business accounts for the majority of our income.

We moved to Long Island City in 2007 and funded our current production facility with financing provided by the NYC Industrial Development Group. The financing was provided because we improved the economic and employment conditions in the area. Our number of employees has doubled over the last 12 years. In 2015 Build NYC Resource Corporation re-financed our building with over \$7 million of Revenue Refunding Bonds. A substantial portion of the proceeds were used to improve our building and provide additional resources specific for the fur business.

If NYC decides to ban fur it will have a catastrophic impact on our operations.

- We will be forced to close our factory and retail stores in NYC and elsewhere.
- All of our employees will be let go without severance pay and benefits including medical insurance which we provide to our employees at no cost to them.
- We will go into default on \$8 million in obligations on the NYC Revenue Refunding Bonds.
- All costs associated with our store leases of over \$3 million will be lost; we will default on our working capital debt of about \$6 million; and our inventory supply contracts will be abandoned that will result in a mire of law suits.
- We will default on our multiyear Madison Avenue leases which will result in a huge liability.

Our 90 employees, with families who are dependent on them, will lose their livelihoods because you are deciding to put our industry out of business.

John Georgiades
Stallion Inc.
36-20 34th street
Long Island City NY 11106

New York City Locations:
J.Mendel 787 Madison Avenue.
J.Mendel at Bergdorf Goodman.
Dennis Basso 825 Madison Avenue

FOR THE RECORD

**Testimony from Sharon Discorfano, Esq.
at Hearing on May 15, 2019
Regarding Intro 1476, Prohibition of Sale/Offer for Sale of Fur Apparel**

Good afternoon. My name is Sharon Discorfano. I'm a New York City resident, member of the New York State Bar and of the New York City Bar Association's Committee on Animal Law. I'm here testifying in a personal capacity **in support of Intro 1476**, prohibiting the sale of fur apparel.

As an animal protection attorney and advocate, I have shared my story of a naïve 16-year-old Sharon on a school trip to the Soviet Union, when I purchased a fur hat as a souvenir. I share this story to underscore how each of us can and *must* change our consumer behavior as our own understanding evolves. I no longer purchase or wear fur because I now know what I didn't know then: how millions of animals are bred to die on fur farms every year; how they're confined to tiny wire cages for their entire lives; how undercover investigations have documented horrific cruelty, including animals being skinned alive. With that knowledge comes the responsibility to make more humane choices. And when that knowledge becomes *common* knowledge, our laws need to reflect and enforce the collective belief – a cornerstone of any civilized society – that cruelty, simply, is *wrong*.

Opposition today will focus on the impact this ban will have on businesses. I appreciate that, as the hub of the fashion industry, New York will be especially cautious about a ban similar to ones approved in LA and San Francisco. However, leading design houses such as Gucci, Versace, Burberry, Michael Kors, and Coach already have renounced the use of fur. Publications such as *InStyle* and *London Fashion Week* have banished fur from their pages. As always, continued success for businesses will depend largely on their ability to adapt to the changing needs of customers rather than clinging to outdated trends.

The exemptions included in the proposed legislation make it a fair and balanced approach to addressing animal welfare concerns while still being respectful of religious customs and practical in terms of already-existing fur apparel. Furthermore, the penalties for violations are necessarily proportionate to the considerable price tags of fur apparel; dollar amounts need to be high enough to deter those who might otherwise deem the *risk* of penalty worth taking, weighed against the amount to be gained by making a sale.

For these reasons, **I support Intro 1476 to prohibit the sale of fur apparel.** And I want to close my remarks by thanking the Council members and all those whose efforts have gotten us to this point today.



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FOR THE RECORD

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Letter in Opposition to 1476-A
Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Good Morning Speaker Johnson, and Council Members Levine, Brannan, Rosenthal, Holden, Lander, Dromm and Reynoso, my name is Barbara Blair. I am president of the Garment District Alliance.

I am here to voice my opposition to 1476-A as currently written. The legislation states that once in effect, no person may sell or offer for sale any fur apparel with the exception of used fur or fur used for religious custom.

I am opposed because I do not feel that the proposed legislation will achieve the presumed intent. If the intent is to ensure that animals are harvested in a responsible manner, that is, one that does not involve torture, cruelty, or having negative environmental impacts and would require approved farming methods, then I would support such an initiative. But this legislation does not directly address that issue, rather, it is aimed at the fashion industry and retail in New York City.

The Garment District currently has 77 firms that use materials proposed to be banned. Just six months ago the Garment District Alliance was tasked by this Council with implementing a very expensive program to invest in business development initiatives which would ensure the sustainability of garment manufacturing and the retention of jobs in midtown Manhattan. In addition to the 1476-A not having clarity with regard to its purpose, it runs counter to, and seriously jeopardizes, efforts that the Alliance is trying to undertake at the Council's request.

It should be noted that the fashion industry, and for the purposes of this hearing, is seriously under siege. In 2017, 8138 retailers closed in the United States. In 2018 it was 5,524. This year it predicted to be 5994 with Lord & Taylor just announcing last week the sale or closure of its stores. These store closures have a devastating impact on suppliers including many NYC based fashion companies. And these recent closings are just piled on top of the losses the City has experienced from decades of manufacturers going overseas and other actions that have diminished our manufacturing, design, marketing and sales sectors of the industry.

While this legislation would make a great statement for the importance of animal rights, it does not appear likely to have any other positive impact locally. Instead it will move sales of all kinds of apparel from Ugg boots to shearling coats and lined gloves to New Jersey, Connecticut or any other region that will merely ship, through Amazon or some other online purveyor, to NYC. It undermines the retailers that are committed to being here, it threatens jobs at hundreds of suppliers, and it directly contradicts what the council mandated us to do just a few months ago.

I emphatically restate, that if the legislation is about eliminating cruelty to animals, mitigating environmental impacts or creating humane and decent harvesting conditions I cannot imagine anyone not supporting the proposed legislation including the Alliance. However, the impact on jobs in NYC for retail, manufacturing and design will be devastating to an already precarious industry and as such this legislation needs to be rewritten.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara A. Blair". The signature is stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Barbara A. Blair
President

Tim Gunn's Testimony on Intro. 1476 – May 15th, 2019

Honorable Council Members,

Throughout my career—as chair of fashion design at Parsons, creative director at Liz Claiborne, and host of *Project Runway*—I have advocated against fur.

The fashion business has a troubling history with animals, but it is quickly evolving. Believe it or not, furriers used to slice up chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, leopards, baby seals, and tigers for their fur. Most of that was declared illegal in the 1970s when the federal government enacted the [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#) and the [Endangered Species Act](#). Now, it's time to safeguard all the other animals from such gratuitous violence by supporting City Council Speaker Corey Johnson's bill to ban fur sales in New York City, as lawmakers have already done in [Los Angeles](#) and [San Francisco](#).

There isn't much to be happy about in politics today, but this trend toward kindness should give everyone hope. At Parsons, the fur trade enjoyed years of unchallenged promotion in which it enticed budding designers to work with fur by offering them free fur, trips to Scandinavia, and sponsorship deals. I introduced a program in which PETA was given equal time to screen videos showing what happens to animals on fur farms around the world before their pelts end up in New York showrooms. [Foxes, rabbits, chinchillas, and even dogs and cats](#) are anally electrocuted, gassed, bludgeoned, and often skinned alive.

Student interest in the fur program dried up as quickly as enthusiasm for sustainable design increased. Consumer demand for fur has plummeted. According to the treasurer of [Greater Fur New York](#), just 14 retail storefronts selling fur remained in the garment district in 2018—down from 450 in 1977. This year, there are even fewer.

Fashion has evolved. Designers are finding it increasingly easy to be creative without being destructive. Hundreds of fabrics have been developed that are more eco-friendly and animal-friendly. When my *Project Runway* cohort Michael Kors banished fur from his collections, he [said](#), "We now have the ability to create a luxe aesthetic using non-animal fur." Donatella Versace [declared](#), "Fur? I am out of that. I don't want to kill animals to make fashion. It doesn't feel right." Gucci CEO Marco Bizzarri [announced](#), "Technology is now available that means you don't need to use fur. The alternatives are luxurious. There is just no need." Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, Armani, and Chanel have enacted [fur-free policies](#), as have dozens of mass-market brands like H&M, Zara, Gap, Nine West, and The North Face.

Furthermore, the proposed ban would fit in with the city's many green initiatives. Fur production requires dangerous chemicals that pollute the environment. To keep animal pelts from putrefying, furriers steep them in pools of noxious chemicals like chromium and formaldehyde. The EPA has fined fur-processing plants for improper disposal of these poisons. A ban on fur sales would boost the burgeoning market for new, greener materials that don't harm the environment.

Let's all embrace fabrics that don't bleed and support Speaker Johnson's bill to ban fur.



AllAboutRabbitsRescue@gmail.com/347-993-2300

FOR THE RECORD

Testimony on 5/15/2019 before the NYC Council:

My name is Vivian Barna. I am the founder of All About Rabbits Rescue, Inc. located in Queens NY.

I am a constituent of Council member Karen Koslowitz based in Forest Hills Queens and I am in favor of 1476

I respectfully ask all politicians to pass 1476, follow justice and justice alone for sentient beings so that we can make this earth a better place. So that we can reduce the violence against innocent animals. Elected officials should set a higher bar for the populous. Humane living and non-violent existence with our fellow creatures is #1. It overrides pro fur sentiments that in reality equals pro torture. It overrides inflicting unimaginable cruelty on helpless voiceless innocent fur bearing animals.

Each year over 100 million animals on this planet are abused tortured and killed for their fur. To those who are pro fur, pro fur industry, who want to wear their fur collars, rabbit fur hat or fur coat, go and view the videos of how that animal with lungs eyes and beating heart ends up being fur trim, hat or coat. Have you seen the videos of the animals being skinned, sometimes alive and then tossed into a pile to suffer in shock till its life torturously and slowly ebb out? I have seen videos the rabbits skinned alive at Chinese fur farms. I have seen videos of poor minks confined in small cages for their entire lives only to be rewarded with electrocution.

Animal cruelty has no limit, no boundaries.

For those who are pro fur, the animal considers her life just as important as you consider your own breath. Imagine you are that animal being killed? It's too horrific isn't it? It's all been filmed and available for public view – all one has to do is google it.

This is not humanity. This is unconscionable depravity. But right - here right now, the city of NY has an opportunity thanks to the initiative of select city council members, to uplift the world by passing into 1476 and show the world we do not want to participate in cruelty.

To all council members I urge you to vote yes for 1476

Good Afternoon,

My name is Vincent Sireci and I am General Counsel of The Echo Design Group, (“Echo”). I have held the position of General Counsel since April 2005. Echo Design is a family-owned and operated enterprise in operation since 1923. Today, Echo Design is one of the world’s leading designers and manufacturers of accessories and home products. We sell our product in both wholesale and retail capacities to department stores and specialty stores, as well as to consumers directly through catalogs and the Internet. Echo designs, develops, produces and distributes market-leading fashion accessories driven by print, pattern, color, and texture, including scarfs, wraps, hats, gloves, home products, handbags, swimwear, loungewear, beach, custom designed products and other fashion accessory items, utilizing the best fabrics and materials available. In addition to ECHO branded product, we are the longstanding Licensee of a renowned American brand in the fashion accessories category and design and manufacture product for many other prominent brands in the industry. We employ over 120 individuals in New York and New Jersey. Fur, shearling and calf-hair leather are routinely utilized by Echo Design as key components of the articles that we produce and sell under the ECHO and other well-known brands. A ban of these materials would significantly impact our business, and that of our customers. As such, we respectfully request that this council carefully weigh the ramifications of this legislation and its far-reaching effects on the lives of business owners, employees and consumers who will be detrimentally impacted if this bill became law. Thank you.

FOR THE RECORD

May 14, 2019

Dear Members of the Board,

I come before you, to ask a question, which is bigger than the fur issue- it's the issue of freedom of choice. As one gay man to another, Mr. Johnson, how would you feel if we were here today voting to ban gay rights? Living in America gives us the choice to choose whether or not to wear fur. It is an essential fundamental American right to choose.

For someone who has spent their last forty years in the fur business, which has provided my partner and I a wonder life, I find it absurd that I am standing here today fighting for the right to ask the board not to ban fur sales in New York City. I believe we should not be wasting taxpayer money and time on a "issue" that most New Yorkers would find baffling to take away their civil liberty- their right to choose.

As a man who has lived in the great city of New York my whole adult life, I see the hardships my fellow New Yorkers are faced with everyday. We should be voting to help the homeless, help the veterans who fought for this country and are unable to find steady income. Our education system is havoc. Most of the younger generation is fighting to have a decent education. The lack of funding for public service is devastating which is why I do not understand why fur banning is a current top priority.

Mr. Johnson, to me, my friends, clients and colleagues, we all believe that this seems like a way for you to make a name for yourself. Please make time to help improve New York City, which you have been elected to do so. Stop taking away people's rights to make their own choices whether to wear fur or not.

Respectfully Yours,

Mitchell Adelman

Global Vice President Dennis Basso & J . Mendel

Mitchell Adelman
345 East 73rd Street Apt #8A
New York, NY 10021
Council Member Ben Kallos

FOR THE RECORD

May 15, 2019

My name is Sylvia Heisel and I live on the Lower East Side in Council Member Margaret S. Chin's district. I urge her to support Intro 1476.

I have lived and worked in New York most of my life and I think we all agree it's the greatest city in the world.

To maintain that status I believe the city needs to continue embracing change the same way it's inhabitants do.

25 years ago I was a young fashion designer and my collection included real fur.

I look back and I'm horrified that I participated in an industry that causes so much pain and suffering for the benefit of a small group of affluent consumers.

But that was then and times have changed.

My career has reinvented and my company develops 3D printing, advanced manufacturing and sustainable materials for fashion.

As an authority on technology and the future of fashion I can tell you it is 100% unnecessary to kill animals for clothing. There are many amazing innovative materials that look and feel warmer and more luxurious and can employ as many skilled artisans and local businesses without brutally killing innocent animals.

Change is never easy but If New York wants to continue being the greatest city in the world and attracting the best and brightest people from around the globe we need to embrace and support innovations and changes that make the world a better place.

Banning new fur sales in New York City would send a message to the global community that the greatest city in the world welcomes compassion, innovation and the rights of all living beings.

Honorable Council Members,

My name is Ashley Byrne, and I am an Associate Director with PETA, and a longtime resident of New York City. Over the past decade through my work with PETA, I've had a front-row seat as consumers have rejected fur with increasing vehemence, and as designers and retailers have responded to the demand for clothing that is ethical and eco-friendly.

Designers and business owners who continue to use abused animals in their collections are a dying breed. The future of the fur industry lies in innovations like faux fur made from modacrylics or hemp that don't harm the planet or the animals who live on it, and many designers, retailers, and brands formerly in the business of selling fur have found that they can do quite well without it.

For example, this past winter, Kym Canter, former creative director of J Mendel, launched a line of sustainable faux fur outerwear called House of Fluff. She used the skills that she had initially developed in the notorious fur atelier to create her collection, citing a desire to produce fashionable, luxurious products without the untenable cruelty to animals, and extreme environmental damage that she could no longer ignore in the fur industry. The collection debuted at Saks Fifth Avenue, and in just a handful of months it has received accolades and attention from *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *In Style*, *The New York Times*, and even *Forbes*, all saying the same thing: an ethical approach to fashion is good for business. There is no reason why others cannot and should not follow suit. With so many options that are warm, beautiful, eco-friendly, and cruelty-free, there is no excuse to cling to something as outmoded and cruel as real fur.

In closing, please consider that everyone involved would be jailed on cruelty-to-animals charges if dogs or cats in New York City were abused in the same ways as animals who are killed for their fur. But the coyotes, foxes, rabbits, and other animals who are destined to end up in bits and pieces on collars and keychains feel pain and fear every bit as much as the cats and dogs who are part of the family for millions of New Yorkers, and it is up to *you* to protect them by voting in favor of Intro 1476.

Thank you.

My name: Andrew Kaplan, DVM

Residence: Manhattan, District 6

Council member: Helen Rosenthal and I urge her to support this Bill

INTRO 1476

~~A0040~~

Gandhi, asserts that, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

As a vet I can tell you that I have first-hand experience with how animals can suffer.

I can tell you about The mental breakdown that occurs when animals are crowded into Unnatural confined spaces for prolonged periods of time.

I can tell you about how traumatic and cruel it is die by electrocution, drowning, gassing and direct trauma.

I can tell you about the unfathomabl act of skinning another living being alive.

But my words and experiences are not necessary to convince you, because everyone here, supporters and non-supporters of the fur industry alike know the truth. And that truth is, that this unnecessary commodity comes at too great an ethical cost and we all know it.

I own a veterinary hospital on the upper West side. Having had enough of seeing my clients bringing in their dogs while wearing fur coats, and confronting about it, I finally placed graphic signs in the window of my office, showing animals with their legs crushed in steel Jaw leghold traps, awaiting a bludgeoning death by their captors. This in order to educate the community in hopes of preventing them from buying these coats. Having seen my sign, one of my clients who might be here today, Ann Dee Goldin, owner of Goldin Styles, a fur company in Manhattan, felt compelled to reveal who she was.

Incredulous, I asked her what she felt was the difference between her dogs that she loves and the furbearing animals that her company tortures in her business? To that she didn't have an answer.

I then asked her how she would feel if dogs became the object of the fur industry in the United States, And if her dogs were taken from her to be killed? Again, she had no answer.

I last asked her if she'd ever visited the fur farms so she can experience the torture for herself? She said "I could never do that." Asked why, and the answer "because it would be too disturbing."

I suspect any human being with feelings, i.e. all of us, given an opportunity to witness in person what we do to these animals on fur farms and in order to capture them in the wild, would find it at least disturbing and downright disgraceful, shameful, unspeakable, contemptible and shameful at worst. And if you don't, you would certainly be in the minority.

The majority of us find this practice disgusting and shameful, and it therefore it must end. We must allow our conscience to guide us. We must allow our conscience to guide us! We must allow our conscience to guide us.

Honorable Council Members,

My name is Desmond Cadogan. I have been a PETA volunteer since the 1990s and have participated in many anti-fur protests here in New York. As a gay black man, I am also a longtime advocate of both gay and civil rights. I was surprised when I heard that a preacher planned to protest this bill because some black women like to wear fur coats to church. This bill doesn't preclude anyone from wearing fur. Also, I follow Black Lives Matter and the NAACP, and I have never seen the right to buy a new fur coat on any civil rights agenda. I saw the flier that Rev. Green posted, urging his followers to get on a bus to City Hall for what he called a free field trip, a free lunch, and the chance to win a \$250 American Express card—with no mention whatsoever of the fur issue.

As someone who volunteers for causes free of charge, I came to City Hall that day to meet this group and ask questions. I have the utmost respect for views other than my own and looked forward to having an exchange of ideas. But the group was stage-managed, and neither I nor a reporter was allowed to talk to anyone other than an appointed spokesperson. When the group got off the buses, they were handed homemade protest signs by white pro-fur lobbyists. It looked shady, and it saddened me. Whether money changed hands to stage this stunt, God only knows. There are so many serious civil rights issues that it's demeaning for the African-American community to be used as a smokescreen by the predominantly white fur trade because it can't address the issue at hand: needless, gruesome cruelty to animals. The fur trade attempted to inject the race issue last month at a hearing for a bill to ban fur sales in California. Chris Holden, an African-American assembly member from Pasadena said that he found such attempts insulting. In pledging his support for the bill, he said, "To suggest that there's a cultural connection to this issue trivializes the point, and it focuses on a divisive issue that is not accepted by me. ... [A]nd it doesn't sell with African-Americans that I know."

In closing, I'd like to point out that black icons like Oprah Winfrey, Taraji P. Henson, and Wendy Williams have stated publicly that they stopped wearing real fur and switched to fake in order to stop animals from suffering for human vanity. Last year Oprah listed faux fur as one of her "favorite things." Wendy Williams launched her own line of fake fur coats. Taraji P. Henson had producers of *Empire* replace the real fur that her character wears with fake fur, and nobody could tell the difference. And I was very happy to read that in a new poll, 75% of New Yorkers want fur sales banned and the figure is slightly higher among African-Americans (specifically, 77%). To suggest that our community has not progressed on this issue as other communities have is offensive. As you decide whether to support this bill, I respectfully ask that you consider not just what advocates on both sides have to say but also their motivation for saying it.

Thank you.

john bartlett.

www.johnbartlettny.com

To the esteemed City Council Members,

My name is John Bartlett and I live in Chelsea in Council Member Corey Johnson's district and I urge him to support this bill. I am here to speak for those who have no voice, the animals. I am a fashion designer here in New York City, a member of the prestigious C.F.D.A. (Council of Fashion Designers of America) and have had my own clothing label since 1992. I am the winner of two awards from the CFDA, Best Newcomer and Menswear Designer of the Year and also the recipient of Designer of the Year from the American Apparel and Footwear Association.

My work has been shown on runways across the globe and I have sold my collections in higher-end department stores like Bergdorf Goodman, Barneys and Saks Fifth Avenue. For my Fall 2000 collection, I reluctantly used fur due to ongoing pressure from both retailers and magazine editors who wanted a more "luxurious" product. After many years of being out of fashion, the industry was seeing a resurgence in fur and I decided to jump on the band wagon and use it. I didn't feel comfortable, to be honest, and immediately after I showed my collection during New York Fashion Week, I received a video from fellow designer Stella McCartney revealing the underbelly and violent reality of the fur industry.

I have never used fur since then and have realized how heartless, inhumane and archaic the fur industry is. While smaller animals are gassed to kill them only for their fur, larger animals like foxes are anally or vaginally electrocuted and this is something the public does not realize. Steel traps are used for coyotes in the wild, another cruel practice, and many customers don't even realize that they are buying a fur trimmed or fur garment.

It is time for New York to embrace a more humane economy, one that reflects the values of the majority of its inhabitants. Our culture and society are evolving in so many ways and banning the sale of fur, an outdated and inherently violent and cruel product, would reinforce New York's stature as the fashion capital of the world and create new opportunities for the fashion industry to evolve along with its customer.

There is talk that using fur is more environmentally efficient and “green” than faux fur. But there is no relevance in this either/or argument. For one, raising an animal for its fur is not environmentally sound and causes a good degree of waste and suffering. And many of the new faux furs being developed are environmentally friendly as the demand for them grows. Irregardless, the issue is not real fur versus faux and anyone using that as an argument to justify suffering is grasping at straws. The issue is whether it is time to turn the page on a product that is intrinsically inhumane and embrace a new age of design and manufacturing that reflects our ever evolving compassion and respect for living beings. As a fashion designer, I for one am always looking for the next big thing, and anally electrocuting an animal simply for its fur is the furthest from this pursuit.

My name is John Bartlett and I am here for the animals.

Thank you

FOR THE RECORD FOR THE RECORD

My name is Maria Camila Buriticá, I work in the mental health field and I am a constituent of District 34.

I want to thank Antonio Reynoso my council member for being part of this bill and supporting this powerful cause. Thank you so much for being on the right side of history.

In my opinion it doesn't take a vegan activist to realize how unnecessary, outdated and cruel this industry is. Being the year 2019, we are driving cars, coming up with all sorts of technology and have our choice of a vast array of fabric and materials. Why do we need to torture millions of animals for their skin as if we were living in pre-historic times, all for a fashion statement?

It is our moral duty to do what is in our hands to end this. What will the world say when the most progressive city in the world allowed this opportunity to slip by? What will we tell our grandchildren when they ask what we did in order to stop this massacre?

We must do it in the name of every single dog, cat or other animal companion who has touched our lives, because it is them who we are confining, skinning and anally electrocuting. These creatures have become such an important part of our daily lives, our families and our society. We have created laws to protect them and put their abusers in prison or face fines. So what sense does it make for it to be legal to torture their relatives in unspeakable ways that we would never do to the worst of criminals here, all for a coat?

The opposition says but what about our jobs? However, the reality is, businesses need to adapt and find other ways of making money besides exploiting animals. See, that's what we have the capacity to do as humans; we innovate, we grow, we change our ways for the greater good.

Like some of the business owners and workers, I am also a woman, an immigrant and a minority, but I am also an animal lover who believes in justice for all.

And this is why I fully support intro 1476.

FOR THE RECORD

My name is Jeffrey Monge, I am a constituent of Antonio Reynoso, district 34.

I came to speak on behalf of passing intro 1476. I am proud to say my council member supports this bill, thank you Antonio Reynoso.

Humanity is the word for the qualities that make us human, such as the ability to love, have compassion, and be creative. The word humanity is from the Latin word "humanitas" for "human nature and kindness." The only thing that we need in common right this moment is our humanity, why you may ask?

Because in no way it is "humane" to keep a living being starving, cold, sick and frightened, or to skin them alive just for our comfort, status, or whatever mundane excuse we might want to use to justify the existence of this industry.

NYC teaches us how to live in community no matter where we are from.

As a working class Colombian-Costarican immigrant. I know there is many ways to make a living without the suffering, pain and abuse of millions of innocent beings who go through hell on a daily basis for a primitive form of survival which we now call fashion.

For that cat you have at home waiting for you - it feels pain just like a mink.
For that \$2000 Dog you bought from a breeder - it feels pain just like the coyote that now lines the hood of your jacket.

For those innocent beings who love, feel and share this world with us.
I support this fur ban.



Retail Council of New York State
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Ted Potrikus
President and CEO

**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE HEARING**

Wednesday May 15, 2019

Int. 1476-A: Prohibiting the Sale of Fur Apparel

The Retail Council of New York State is the state's leading trade association for the retail industry, representing member stores in New York City and across the state ranging from the smallest independent merchants to the nation's best-known brands. Thank you, Speaker Johnson, Chair Espinal and the other members of the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony related to Introduction 1476-A, currently before you for consideration.

We share the vital concerns raised in the Introduction regarding the sourcing of fur currently available for sale and endorse without reservation the restriction of fur produced without regard for animal welfare.

We submit respectfully that product bans no longer are an effective tool to affect permanent change within the supply chain. Shoppers in 2019 demand choice and, literally within the palms of their hands, they have more options than ever before as to where, when, and how they shop. It's easy for today's shopper to evade any ban -- unable to find the fur they want in a New York City store, they simply will go to another city, state, or on-line merchant to buy what they choose.

This Council has the opportunity to preserve that coveted customer choice and drive real and sustainable change that would affect the fur marketplace far beyond the City's border.

To that end, we urge the Council to incorporate certain provisions found in related measures approved in Los Angeles and elsewhere, including allowing the sale of shearling and cattle hair and an effective date of January 1, 2021. In addition, we think strictly-regulated practices in New York would reduce and quite possibly eliminate bad actors throughout the global supply chain. Codified standards for the sourcing of fur sold in New York City would require suppliers from around the world to accede to certain assessments. Surely suppliers would want their products to be available for sale in New York City - one of the world's top shopping destinations - and they would redouble their efforts to ensure that they meet the City's requirements.

We offer the following specific comments for your consideration.

Permit the sale of shearling and cattle hair

The definition of “fur” as written in Intro 1476-A (§20-699.10) includes a ban on shearling and cattle hair – natural and humane uses of an animal byproduct. Shearling and cattle hair feature in a panoply of products in demand today with shoppers in New York City and elsewhere.

The cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Berkeley are among the local jurisdictions that have banned the sale of certain fur items while still allowing for the sale of products with shearling and calf hair. The Los Angeles ordinance (Final Ordinance No. 186002, 2019) stipulates that fur does not include *cowhide with hair attached thereto; or lambskin or sheepskin with fleece attached thereto*. We urge you to include this exclusion in your proposal.

The Fur-Free Alliance, which oversees the world-wide “Fur-Free Retailer” program, also delineates between the sources of fur and leather products. Under the program (furfreeretailer.com), which counts some 1,001 participants across 24 countries, retailers agree to neither sell nor promote products that contain real animal fur derived from animals raised primarily for fur production. Fur-Free Retailer defines fur as any animal skin or part thereof with hair or fur fibers attached thereto, either in its raw or processed state, or the pelt of any animal killed for the animal’s fur. “Animal” includes, but is not limited to, mink, fox, rabbit, karakul lamb, and raccoon dog.

Pursuant to the Fur-Free Retailer model, “fur” does not include:

- Such skins that are, or are to be, converted into leather or which in processing have, or shall have, the hair, fleece, or fur fibers completely removed;
- Materials clipped, shorn, or combed from animals such as fleece, sheepskin, or shearling;
- Leather or hair attached to skin that is typically used as leather, e.g., cowhide with hair attached; or
- Synthetic materials intended to look like fur.

We hope you agree this outline establishes strict standards that protect animal welfare while still allowing for the availability of a complex and broad range of products. We urge you to include these specific exclusions in your bill.

Allow a later effective date

We are deeply concerned that the measure as currently drafted would take effect a quick 90 days after it will have been signed into law. Simply put, retailers of all size need more time and urge you to enact a longer ramp to an effective date. For example – even though we’ve just endured a long and cold winter and all of us are looking forward to nice summer weather, retailers small and large already have placed their orders for the merchandise that will be on the shelves in winter 2019/20 and the spring of 2020.

The aforementioned Los Angeles ordinance holds a January 1, 2021 effective date, giving retailers and others within the supply chain a sufficient amount of time to sell through existing product and adjust practices where necessary for business occurring after January 1, 2021. We hope you agree that the marketplace will be better able to adjust to the ban given that (roughly) three-year lead-in, ensuring full compliance on the effective date.

Consumer choice drives marketplace realities

Retailers do not sell what the buying public does not want. The number of major brands that have adapted to meet the standards of the Fur-Free Retailer designation is proof that there is a broad and growing market for products made without fur.

We reiterate respectfully, however, that shoppers assiduously guard their ability to choose for themselves the products they do or do not want to buy. There remains a large population of shoppers living in and visiting New York City who want fur and, as a result, the City remains home to some 130 brick-and-mortar stores selling primarily fur products. People come from all over the world for the cache attached to buying their fur in the stores and boutiques of New York City. Denied that option, however, they'll head to stores in neighboring counties or states (or the Internet) and buy their fur.

We urge you to consider the supply chain changes that would take place, however, if those wanting to buy their fur in New York City were offered products sourced and manufactured only under exacting ethical conditions. The impact would be far more lasting than a ban that simply moves the sale to another jurisdiction.

Require ethical sourcing throughout the supply chain

Government and industry standards today regulate fur production, with welfare and sustainability at the core of its operations. Programs such as the European Commission-endorsed "Welfur" assessment program, introduced in 2009 to govern the farming of mink and fox, provide a reliable assessment measure of animal welfare based on scientific standards evaluated by independent third-party examiners.

New York City could drive direct and permanent impact on sourcing throughout the world with an appropriate codification of that assessment process. Those merchants wishing to sell fur products in the City could be permitted to offer for sale only those products certified to have been manufactured in compliance with strict and verifiable standards of ethical sourcing.

Surely suppliers would want their products to be available for sale in New York City – one the world's top destinations for shoppers from all over the world – and would redouble efforts to meet those standards so their products could be available in the stores large and small that attract so many to the City.

We urge you to consider codified sourcing standards and would welcome the opportunity to work with you in this discussion.

Fur harvesting of invasive species helps the environment

Fur harvesting of invasive species is considered a sustainable environmental practice. Fur-bearing animals are an essential aspect of New York's agribusiness. Other jurisdictions (including Los Angeles) have exempted fur produced from products taken lawfully under a trapping license. We urge you to consider a similar exemption in your bill.

In conclusion

On behalf of our member stores large and small operating within New York City, we appreciate greatly your consideration of the concerns outlined in this testimony.

We are confident that we can work constructively with you to achieve the public policy goal envisioned under Int. 1476 while still allowing for the availability of products manufactured humanely and sustainably.

We welcome the opportunity to join in this conversation as you review the legislation and in the future, when we hope to be your partner in ensuring full and rigorous compliance with its provisions.

**Testimony of Tom Garcia
Senior Vice President & General Counsel
Deckers Brands**

Before the

**New York City Council
Committee on Consumer Affairs & Business Licensing**

Regarding

Int. 1476-A – Prohibiting the sale of fur

Good afternoon. My name is Tom Garcia and I serve as the Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Compliance Officer at Deckers Brands. I would like to thank Speaker Johnson, Chairman Espinal, as well as members of the committee for the opportunity to testify before you today. Founded in 1973, Deckers Brands is a global, multi-brand company that includes footwear brands such as UGG®, Teva®, Sanuk® and HOKA ONE ONE®.

I am here today to testify in regards Int. 1476-A, which prohibits the sale of fur apparel. The current definition of “fur” in the bill means any animal skin, in whole or in part, with the hair, fleece or fur fibers attached. This definition would prohibit the sale of certain UGG® Brand products, including our iconic UGG® classic boot, that contain sheepskin. It is important to distinguish sheepskin products from luxury fur products such as fox, lynx, and mink that this legislation is seeking to ban.

Sheepskin, like leather, is a by-product of food production making it fundamentally different from luxury fur products. On May 8th, Speaker Johnson framed the byproduct distinction in explaining that the current bill would not apply to leather by saying “Leather is a co-product of meat. So right now, if you're killing a mink, or a chinchilla, or a coyote for fur, you're not eating their meat.” In light of this important distinction, we believe a byproduct exemption for sheepskin should be included in this legislation. Simply put – sheepskin is just like leather. It is important to note that the hides would otherwise be discarded if not incorporated into products. Utilizing them is a more sustainable approach.

It is for these reasons that other jurisdictions with fur bans, such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, and the City of Berkeley, have exempted sheepskin from the definition of “fur.” There is also a bill in the NYS Assembly sponsored by Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal that bans the sale of fur but includes an exemption for sheepskin in the definition of “fur.”

We are committed to sourcing our material in a sustainable way as evidenced by our Ethical Sourcing and Animal Welfare Policy, which is posted on our website. Additionally, Deckers Brands is part of the Animal Welfare Group within the Leather Working Group, which is made



up of member brands, retailers, and leather manufacturers that work together to develop industry best practices.

We urge the Council to amend the legislation to include an exemption for sheepskin from the definition of “fur.”

We look forward to working with the Council on this issue.



My name is Marc Bouwer, I am a New York fashion designer.

I have a successful business here in NYC

We do not sell or design anything using real fur.

I am fortunate to dress some very famous women:

like Angelina Jolie, Beyonce, Shania Twain, Maria Carey, Emily Blunt and Tyra Banks to name a few, many who seek out fur like alternatives

We New Yorkers do not hunt animals for food

We New Yorkers do not live in caves,

There is no good reason for us to wear real fur on our bodies to keep us warm.

Technology has given us incredible faux fur if we choose to wear fur

Animals that are bred on fur farms specifically for their skins,

live in horrific caged conditions, they are finally electrocuted causing unimaginable suffering.

Many don't actually die from this process and are often skinned while they are still alive

In places like China they are just skin peeled alive and tossed into writhing piles to die a slow agonizing death.

All these poor animals like us humans, bond and protect their young

and they, just like us.. experience fear, pain and suffering

There is absolutely no excuse for cruelty to animals

Anyone that profits from the sale of fur is perpetuating cruelty to animals

Anyone wearing real fur sends a message of vanity... that they just don't care....

so I'm asking you to care...

We New Yorkers are the heroes of compassion and change

Please New York... be the heroes for these suffering animals and ban the sale of fur in New York!

Real fur belongs on an animal's body, not on ours

Thank you ladies & gentlemen of the City Council,

My name is Rodney King. I am a proud native Brooklynite, a husband and father of two wonderful young men, who comes before you today to speak in strong support for ~~Intro 1476~~, the measure to ban the sale fur products in NYC.

My purpose today is to speak not only as a proponent for the humane and ethical treatment of animals, but as an African American man, I'm here to dispel some of the myths and stereotypes of how African Americans, and more specifically, Black men think when it comes to issues such as these.

I come from a people who have too often been portrayed by the larger society in general, as people who are incapable of a broad range of feelings and emotions, as incapable of showing compassion for others, much less creatures described as 'lesser' than us. Of being not much more than brutish creatures ourselves. ~~It is indeed a cruel irony considering this nations ugly and ongoing history of displaying a lack of compassion towards us and treating us as 'lesser' creatures, put here on this Earth simply to serve the wants and needs of others who claim superiority, sometimes divinely, over us.~~

African Americans have indeed routinely been denied the ability to achieve the so-called status so often reserved for many white Americans and so, when the obstacles to that achievement are overcome it is indeed something to be celebrated and cherished.

However, immersing ourselves in the outward trappings and raiment of this so-called status does nothing to actually indicate ~~any sort of~~ achievement at all. It only serves to reinforce ~~common tropes and~~ long held beliefs that we are a backwards thinking, juvenile people, who are more concerned with material goods and obtaining the many baubles and trinkets of our former oppressors, that were so long denied to us, as opposed to obtaining the true signifiers of achievement, a good education, a good job, decent living conditions, decent healthcare, a just and fair criminal justice system and the respect of our neighbors and peers in the community.

The notion that the main way for African Americans to display that they have quote, "made it", unquote, is to adorn ourselves in the carcasses of poor defenseless animals, cruelly and inhumanely slaughtered, merely for our capricious benefit, is simply abhorrent. Just as abhorrent as the wearing of conflict diamonds, stained with the blood of our brethren in Africa, sacrificed so that someone here can flaunt a little more 'bling' on their watch or on a bracelet.

~~Please don't fall for the okey doke. For the sham.~~ The cynical use of black clergy and their congregants, as props by the fur industry as a shield for their cruel, inhumane business is truly foul. It's really offensive to me as a person of color to see this obvious straw man tactic, ~~this red herring,~~ being used in this way. ~~It's interesting to see that there aren't 100 Black furriers here from Harlem, from Brooklyn, from the Bronx, etc to protest this ban. Is it because Blacks don't have a significant place in this industry other than as a revenue stream? Why is it Black clergy here instead? Why isn't there a significant number of Black fur industry executives or representatives here to testify? Is it because there simply aren't many? So, since the fur manufacturers can't come before you and present a viable case that their industry does not employ cruel and inhumane tactics and methods to obtain and kill the animals that they make their products from, they therefore instead cynically play the race and religion card and use subterfuge to mask their intent, hoping to instill political fear in council persons' who's conscience would otherwise lead them to support this ban. So please, don't be afraid to do the right thing. Support this ban.~~

FOR THE RECORD

Robert Englander
Miller & Berkowitz Fine Furs and Outerwear Ltd.
New York, New York

Nazi Germany! My father in law survived Nazi Germany as a child. His parents were not as fortunate. Their successful men's clothing store was shut down by The Gestapo after "Kristallnacht," the Night of Broken Glass. The Jewish people had their rights to own a business taken away.

Here we are in America in 2019 and a politician is targeting one group of people, the fur industry, and seeking to destroy it, based on HIS own personal agenda. Is this any different than Germany in the 1930's and 1940's? I think not!

My father in law was an immigrant, who came to the United States, who nothing but a small suitcase and the clothes on his back. His name was Nathan Berkowitz. He lived the American

dream. He worked diligently, often seven days a week, built a business and became one of the most well respected people in the fur industry in New York. Unfortunately, he passed away three years ago. My wife and I had been running the business he originally started, along with him, for over 30 years. We have owned it for the past 15 years. Now we stand to lose what was rebuilt by him in America. He would be appalled to see lawmakers trying to take away our business, our LIVELIHOOD, solely based on animal activist rhetoric.

No fur, no leather, no silk, no wool, no meat, no animal research to save human lives. This goes against America, the America I once knew, and against Freedom of Choice!

Please think very carefully about the decision you are making.

Think about my father in law, Nathan Berkowitz and his American dream.

Thank you.

FOR THE RECORD

Testimony regarding Intro 1476 Committee Hearing – 5/15/2019

Name: Christopher Hrones

Address: 524 St. John's Place, [REDACTED] Brooklyn, NY

Council Member: Laurie Cumbo

Good afternoon Council Members and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Christopher Hrones and I am testifying as a resident of New York with a conscience. We live in a world in which we humans use our power over animals to use them indiscriminately for our pleasure and vanity, in the process causing incredible pain to sentient beings and ultimately killing them against their will. In the past, when humans may have needed to use animals for our survival this was understandable. However, we have advanced as a species to a point where there is no longer a reason to do so. In particular, we do not need fur to stay warm, and there are plenty of alternatives. Any arguments you hear today for keeping the status quo in my opinion are outweighed by a moral imperative. It is simply not right to torture and kill for a completely unnecessary luxury. I cannot tell you how to vote today, but I would ask you to acknowledge this issue to be first and foremost an ethical one, and to search your conscience as I have done before making your decision.

Testimony by Andrea Katz Professor of Fashion at Parsons School of Design and Pratt Institute.

FOR THE RECORD

As a designer and teacher of fashion designers I can testify to the fact that all the most prestigious fashion universities globally including Parsons, Pratt, Rhode Island School of Design, Savannah College of Art + Design, Central St. Martins in London, The Royal Academy of Art in Antwerp, Bunka College in Tokyo are producing graduates who have majored in changing fashion systems in order to address fashion's exploitation of labor, the environment, and animal friends globally.

I would like to speak to the loss of jobs that the Fur Council touted as a reason to not ban this archaic and cruel industry.

I am a very strong advocate for labor issues in the fashion industry and can ask them where have you been for the last decade or more? If you were so concerned about your workers how could you ignore the changes in the fashion industry. On the other hand we in NYC have been devastated by the loss of production jobs because of outsourcing.

We are desperate for factories with seasoned, experienced production people. The transition from production of fur coats to alternative pile fabrics and regular woven fabrics is an easy one.

- Designers work with the same silhouettes
- Pattern makers make the same patterns
- Cutters cut from those same patterns
- Sample makers, make the same muslin samples,
- The skiver and shearing machines can be used on non- animal pile fabrics
- As can the fur overlock stitch machine
- and the lockstitch machines used for making linings.

The transition should have started years ago as has happened in the wool and fabric industries where representatives from them visit universities to expose future designers to humanely raised wool and environmentally safe dyed and printed fabrics that are available to them now.

I encourage incentives to these factories for the transitioning.

I live in the 1st City Council District and I request that Margaret Chin support the ban.

FOR THE RECORD

The proposed ban on shearling shoes and accessories is another nail in the coffin of retail here in New York City. As a small business owners, we have had to contend with a variety of issues that make doing business here in New York City more difficult than ever. Rising rents, a new minimum wage of \$15 per hour, rising healthcare costs and a drastic shift towards Amazon and online shopping are just a few of the hurdles we have managed to clear over the recent years. As retailers, we carry the products our consumers demand. If there is no demand, we don't carry them. It's just that simple. Government intervention here is simply wrong, and in addition where does it go from here? What is next? Are you going to regulate what food we eat? Are we going to ban leather? This might sound like a joke, but it's no laughing matter. Sheepskin - like leather - is a byproduct of the food industry and should be exempted from the proposed legislation.

As small business, we are overtaxed and overregulated already and now you want to tell us what items we can or can not sell? That's simply outrageous. Additionally, this unfairly targets middle and lower income people who work in these businesses. From stock people, cashiers, sales people and managers, we would have to make significant changes to our staff. We are a union store and many of our staff members have worked for us for decades. They are like family, but if stripped of the ability to sell shearling, these changes would be inevitable in our quest to survive. Local 1102, the union affiliated with retail, wholesale and department store employees would also take a hit here as without the ability to sell these big ticket items, these jobs would disappear. This proposed ban will send shockwaves through retail here in NYC and it would be irresponsible of you to pass such legislation

-Lester Wasserman
Tip Top Shoes est. 1946
155 West 72nd St
NY, NY 10023

My name is Rachel Ejsmont. I reside in Bellerose Queens, NY. My district council member is Barry Grodenchik. I am here today to ask each and everyone of you on the committee to please support Intro1476 the bill to ban fur in NYC.

To the New York City Council,

The International Anti-Fur Coalition (IAFC) extends their total support to NYC's Bill to Ban Blood Fashion Fur. Considering that four cities in the USA and many other global locations have already banned Fur, it is an action whose time has come. Indeed NY State, California and Hawaii are advancing statewide bans too. Hence the time is overdue that NYC the virtual epitome of evolved modern lifestyle should ban a product that is so totally backward, barbaric, brutal and bloody!! The victims of the Blood Fashion Fur Industry are born into a nightmare of physical and emotional torment in tiny filthy cages that ends in their cruel murder, often by electrocution, strangulation, are bludgeoned to death and even skinned alive as to not damage or bloody the fur.

Throughout history ethical evolution has brought about moral change. Here too it is evidenced that the fashion world evolved to embrace Fashion with Compassion. An ever increasing impressive list of leading names of the fashion industry including Versace, Gucci, Burberry and Michael Kors have declared themselves Fur Free, giving their logical and ethical reasoning to ditch fur to be founded on the discovery of the Hidden Horror of the Blood Fashion Fur Industry and the well documented environmental harm.

Hence the IAFC applaud NYC, their ethical public whose vast majority support the ban and all the ethical people and organizations who are tirelessly working to put an end to the shameful atrocity that is BLOOD FASHION FUR.
THE FUTURE IS FUR FREE!!

In Deep Gratitude
Jane Halevy Merano
Founder/Director of IAFC

Rachel Ejsmont, International liaison, anti-fur global event coordinator

Mitzi Ocean
Global Coordinator and Correspondent IAFC

Rachel Ejsmont
~~██████████~~ Avenue 91st
Bellerose, NY 11426

To whom this may concern:

Re: Civilized Society/Animal Abuse

I believe it is high time for elected officials to discuss the issue of current interest, namely the very urgent problem of animal abuse. Every day we hear about organizations and industries moving away from conducting and using animals for scientific research and/or profit. It is not surprising that mass media helps with the spread of alternative normative policies that prove how important animal protection is. But, your animal cruelty laws are not enough for the protection of animals, therefore, many feel they can get away with the infringement of such laws and continue their path of abuse against an innocent segment of society, one who are and will always be dependent on us for protection.

I live a life of privilege, as such, for most of my adult life; have worn fur and animal skins. One day I realized that this privileged life I was leading felt incongruous and incompatible with the culture of humanity and morality that I thought was inherent in civilized life. Treating animals should orient towards not only animal law, but also our own moral norms. Animal protection should be a priority for every self-respecting human being.

Finally, I need to express to you that there is no need to be cruel to animals to stay warm, or look glamorous or even to combat malnutrition. If you choose to set aside this matter, you will have only shifted the animal cruelty discourse central to the U.S. national story, and you will be responsible pitting humanitarians against non-humanitarians and when those policies are being debated in your legislators, which side will you be on?

Rachel Ejsmont

Good Afternoon, Councilmembers. My name is Pratikshya Patil. I live in Brooklyn. I am a small business owner, veterinarian and Co-President of the PTA of PS 32, my children's school. My councilman is Carlos Menchaca. I've worked in practices that span many districts including those of Carlina Rivera, Corey Johnson, Keith Powers, Mark Levine, Helen Rosenthal, Brad Lander, Steven Matteo and Inez Barron. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of the Fur Ban Bill, Intro 1476.

I have included animals in my circle of care and compassion from a very young age. As a graduate of Purdue University Veterinary School in 2005, I wholeheartedly accepted a professional oath to protect and do no harm.

In 2010, I joined the National Disaster Medical System, serving the United States as a Veterinary Medical Officer to widen my circle of care and compassion to include strays and farm animals caught in disasters. My most recent deployment was last September for Hurricane Florence. My role also includes caring for canine working dogs.

I am here today to broaden my circle once again. I've been a New Yorker for 14 years but my pride in this city has grown over the last 3. Since the last presidential election, I've watched the city protect those who can't fight for themselves. Together we can broaden our circles of compassion further to include the fur bearing animals tortured and killed for their coats.

I consult on cruelty investigations, interpreting body posture, eye and ear positioning, and other cues, to educate my audience on the stress and inhumanity of confined living conditions. I have reviewed the Fur Commission USA site and have seen the cages in seemingly endless rows across many buildings. Per numbers cited, in the US alone, 3,305,000 mink were caged in 2017. Though the site claims that these animals are domesticated and are used to living in cages, living in cage itself is a form of torture. Nothing thrives in a cage.

I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago. My high school job was at a cat and dog practice scrubbing the grouting and walls. While in college and earning my BS in Animal Sciences, I participated in Foal Watch to help horses give birth in the wee hours of the morning. Wild animals fascinated me so I volunteered at the Wildlife Medical Clinic giving care to injured and orphaned wildlife expanding my sense of empathy to animals without owners.

We are not born with the ability to understand how others think and feel. We develop this sense of fairness and empathy at a young age nurtured by family, friends and society. A law banning the sale of fur commits this broad sense of empathy to the books.

I understand that some of you may think about this issue through its economic impact. I too stop and think about my neighbors and others in this industry. I think about their livelihoods and have care and compassion for them. But I know that, given all my experiences so far, that banning the sale of fur in New York City is the right thing to do- for the animals and for people who kill, cage and skin them. Constant exposure to violence can be traumatizing. It's an injustice to the laborer who earns their living by locking cages and sharpening knives for their fellow humans. There is no glamour in this industry.

Thank you to Voters for Animal Rights for inviting me to speak. Members, I am asking you to support the Fur Ban Bill, Intro 1476.

Hello, my name is Kaitlyn Zafonte. I've been a resident of New York City, within Council Member Bill Perkins's constituency, for the past 9 years and have always been actively involved in city politics. I am currently a writer/editor for Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and I'm proud that my career contributes to the vibrant culture of our city. New York is a dynamic city, always changing and improving. As a longtime animal-rights activist, I felt it was imperative to take the day off from work to attend this hearing. Fur is a product of immense cruelty: animals are electrocuted, gassed, strangled, or shot after being confined to unethically small spaces. Things that most people would find abhorrent—including genital electrocution or standing on a trapped animal to crush their neck or lungs—are considered standard practice in the fur industry. Unimaginable cruelty such as this has no place in a progressive city like New York. I urge you to support Intro 1476 and ban the sale of fur.

My name is Nicole Damon and I live in Williamsburg Brooklyn in Council Member Antonio Reynoso's district. I urge him to support this bill.

I'd like to share a quote from Albert Einstein.. He said: Those who have the privilege to know, have the duty to act.

I believe this is why many of us are here today. Not because we have anything to gain if the bill passes, but because we feel it's our duty not to stand by idly while others suffer needlessly.

My aunt said to me when I was a little kid that animals are a test of our character. She said we must treat them with kindness.. and not because they have rights but really because they don't. They are all completely and totally **at our mercy**.

Some people argue wearing fur is a personal choice - but this does not consider the animal who's life had value to them. In the name of fashion we have condemned them to a life of confinement, monetized their bodies and labeled them "do not dry clean". *No one* here would want to imagine this happening to our own cat or dog. Just because we've always done something, doesn't make it right, and no tradition where cruelty is integral is worth keeping.

Luckily, we no longer need to wear fur to keep us warm, or to look fashionable. Non-fur options are abundant, and readily available at any price range.

Council members.. as the fashion capital of the world, New York City must take a stand on this issue. The fur trade is an industry built on violence towards animals for a product is no longer relevant or necessary. Please support the bill.

My name is James Scotto. I am a physical education and health teacher for grades 8 through 12. Good afternoon. I support Intro 1476, Prohibiting the sale of fur apparel.

Every year, worldwide, over 100 million animals are killed so that people can wear their fur. Many animals are trapped in a brutal manner, like getting their leg crunched in a steel jaw trap. They writhe in pain and fear as they feel terror for how long? Until a trapper shows up to shoot them or beat them to death.

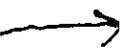
On fur farms, animals are intensively confined. Animals who love to play, run, swim, make nests and enjoy nature are crammed into cages. Everything that's natural to them is denied. Many animals pace, claw at the cage, self-mutilate and cannibalize others because they are going crazy. To make matters worse, the animals can be in stacked rows of cages in dark, filthy warehouses where ammonia from the accumulating urine and feces burns the animals' eyes.

Killing methods are barbaric. Animals are gassed, beaten, poisoned, have their necks snapped and get anally electrocuted. Due to improper stunning, some animals are skinned while still conscious. Under what condition should any of this be occurring? This becomes especially true in a society that considers itself civil and progressive. The fur ban becomes even more urgent considering that this mass amount of suffering inflicted upon the most innocent and defenseless amongst us... is all perpetrated so that someone can feel fashionable in a fur coat or a hat with a fur pompom on the top.

I'll never forget the day I looked into the fur industry and watched undercover videos. I was in shock for a few days. I cried, felt nauseous and could barely speak. I couldn't process the fact that what I saw was actually legal and happening to animals all day, every day. Things got especially ugly when I pictured my dog, Tiki, a Siberian Husky, in one of these farms. Imagine the animal being tortured on a fur farm was your companion animal, a dog or cat who's your family member, who you love. In fact, dogs and cats are used in the fur trade but the main point is that all animals abused for their skin are sentient beings who have complex emotions and feel pain and suffering, just like the companion animals who are beloved members of many of our families.

Fortunately, humans have skills to find employment and fellow humans to support us through transition. We don't experience the agony of being stuck in a trap, or getting anally electrocuted or being skinned while still conscious.

What do the animals have? They have nothing but unimaginable suffering and misery. The only ones coming to lend a hand are those who will further brutalize the animal. If people in New York City, in the year 2019, are okay with this, then there's no way we can call ourselves, as a society, civilized or progressive. The legality of fur is, no question, a horrific statement about our humanity.



Sincerely,
James Scotto
436 E. 9th Street, 4C
New York NY 10009
(917) 693-9601

Celebrating 10 years



**HUMANE SOCIETY
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ASSOCIATION.**

May 15, 2019

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Dear Honorable Council Members,

My name is Dr. Eileen Jefferson - I am a full-time practicing veterinarian as well as the New York State Representative for the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association. We are a national association of veterinary professionals focused on animal health and welfare. On behalf of our 9000 veterinary professional members nationwide and 330 in New York, we support passage of Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur in New York City.

The production of fur relies upon inhumane methods of husbandry and trapping, which drastically compromise the health and welfare of the animals used. Millions of rabbits, mink, foxes and other wild animals are confined lifelong in cramped wire-floored cages on factory fur farms. There they are deprived of their abilities to engage in natural behaviors, such as hunting, digging and swimming. They are often kept in unnatural social groups as well; for example, mink are forced to live in extremely close proximity to each other, despite not doing so in nature. The contrived living conditions on fur farms inevitably lead animals to suffer severe psychological and physical distress. Instances of unproductive repetitive behavior, a sign of compromised psychological well-being, have been well-documented on fur farms, as have cannibalism, untreated wounds, foot deformities and eye infections. The animals on fur farms are typically killed via medically and ethically objectionable methods, such as gassing or electrocution.

Less frequently, animals may be trapped in the wild for their pelts. Animals caught in crippling leghold traps also undergo immense compromise and suffering, which can include hemorrhage, lacerations, psychological distress and self-trauma. These animals are often forced to spend days lingering without food or water. In addition, these archaic traps remain a public health and environmental concern, as they may injure and kill unintended targets, including threatened species, pets or even human beings.

Consumer choices have for many years been trending away from fur products. We hope the New York City Council will take a firm lead on this issue. We strongly support Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur in New York.

*Testimony - Joshua Katcher
292 Graham Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11211
Antoni Reynoso's District*

My name is Joshua Katcher. I'm a fashion designer, author and educator — I've taught at Parsons, and lectured internationally on the topics of ethics and sustainability in fashion.

The beauty of a garment should be matched by the beauty of how it was made. This is why fur is the epitome of bad design.

So many respected brands, retailers, cities and countries have already left fur behind. In this age of transparency, any positive symbol of fur crumbles when the truth about how it's made is revealed. In the last two months, five major studies and polls from respected firms like the Boston Consulting Group show that demand for fur is plummeting. Shoppers want cruelty-free products.

The fur industry's profits hinge on the lies they tell and the truths they hide - and fur production is hidden for good reason. A typical fox or mink on a factory farm will languish. These are wild animals stuck in small wire cages for their entire lives. This is not natural. Then they are anally or vaginally electrocuted, gassed, or worse - some are skinned alive. Imagine the desperation, consider the animal's perspective. Now multiply that by over 100,000,000 per year.

The fur industry wants you think that formaldehyde, chromium, and chemically dyed fur is natural and sustainable. Their misleading ads have already been exposed by the French & Dutch advertising standards authorities for making dubious "natural", "sustainable" and "humane-treatment" claims. Those same ads are running here in American fashion magazines.

Let's talk about jobs. The fur industry claims that furriers can do no other

work, yet they know how to design, pattern, sew, drape, sample, merchandise and more. Fur is simply one input. I've taught fashion students, and I assure you every single one of those skills are valuable, in-demand and transferable.

Fur is obsolete. What's coming next is an unstoppable wave of innovation. We are growing silk, leather, fur, and other protein fibers in laboratories. We are making biosynthetics from algae and crafting infinitely recyclable fibers from trashed fishing nets. We are making luxurious fabrics from citrus peels, pineapple leaves, mushrooms and agricultural waste. We will make superior design decisions, that are less harmful to animals and the environment. There is so much opportunity in this emerging space.

Greed has blinded the fur industry. They have not prepared for the inevitable design evolution that is already underway. Imagine a New York City fashion landscape as innovative, profitable and vibrant as it is ethical and sustainable. There is no future for fur here. Animals in cages and traps killed in horrific ways to make fiber can be left in the past, here and now. Please, vote for a Fur Free NYC.

5/2019 - May 2019 Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy Poll found that 75% of New Yorkers support a fur sales ban. By borough, Brooklyn had the highest percentage of support for a fur ban at 77%, and demographically, African Americans had the highest rate of opposition to the ban at 77%. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/new-poll-new-york-city-voters-reject-fur-300849108.html>

5/2019 - A recent study of 80 million shoppers over 12 month shows a 66% increase in searches for sustainable fashion with "Vegan fashion" specifically responsible for over 9.3 million social impressions on Lyst. <https://www.ecotextile.com/2019031224141/fashion-retail-news/consumer-thirst-grows-for-sustainable-fashion-online.html>

5/2019 - Boston Consulting Group / Pulse of the Fashion Industry Report 2019, released just days ago, shows that "animal cruelty" is a major concern among consumers wanting make more ethical/sustainable fashion decisions. <http://www.globalfashionagenda.com/Pulse-2019-Update/#>

5/19 - "Consumer demand for fur has plummeted. According to the treasurer of Greater Fur New York, just 14 retail storefronts selling fur remained in the garment district in 2018—down from 450 in 1977. This year, there are even fewer," <https://nypost.com/2019/05/13/project-runway-host-tim-gunn-backs-city-council-fur-ban/>

4/19 - A poll recently released by McKinsey & Co. found that department store consumers will double their purchasing of sustainable products in the next five years and are moving away from brands that have sustainability concerns – including animal welfare. As well, it predicts that those consumers will soar from 25 percent to 95 percent in a decade. <https://sourcingjournal.com/topics/sustainability/mckinsey-department-store-sustainability-145736/>



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**Memorandum in Support – NYC Intro 1476
Relates to prohibiting the sale of fur apparel**

My name is Jayna Sisbarro with the Animal Legal Defense Fund. We are a national non-profit organization with roughly 20,000 supporters in the State of New York. We support the enactment of Intro 1476 for these reasons.

Fur is Cruel

Millions of animals, including foxes, wolves, minks, and rabbits, are brutally killed every year so people can wear their fur. Whether trapped in the wild or bred to die on fur farms, animals exploited by the fur industry endure tremendous suffering. Animals on fur farms are confined to tiny wire cages for their entire lives. Oftentimes, these cages are outdoors – stacked in wooden sheds that provide no protection from the heat or cold. Unable to engage in any of their natural behaviors, these animals routinely resort to self-mutilation, obsessive pacing, and infanticide. Fur farms kill animals through gassing, electrocution, neck-breaking, and poisoning. Undercover investigations on fur farms have documented egregious cruelty – including animals being skinned alive. There just isn't a humane way to raise an animal only to peel its skin off for clothing and accessories.

Alternatives Exist

There is no justification to continue to breed and kill animals for their fur considering the availability of faux fur and alternative products that are virtually indistinguishable from animal fur. So indistinguishable that in November 2017 we called for a Baltimore furrier to be investigated for false advertising when they used an image of a faux fur jacket from the HBO series Game of Thrones to advertise the animal furs in their store.

Fur Bans are on the Rise

Several California cities (Los Angeles, San Francisco, Berkeley and West Hollywood) have already banned the sale of fur. New York could be the largest U.S. city and a fashion capital of the world to do the same. Abroad, multiple European countries, including Germany, Austria, Croatia, and the United Kingdom have already banned fur farming (or are in the process of phasing it out). São Paulo, Brazil also banned the sale of fur products in 2015. In addition, hundreds of retailers, brands and designers at all price points have instituted fur free policies—including Calvin Klein, Kenneth Cole, Ralph Lauren and JCPenney—acknowledging the cruel industry and the public's negative feelings about the practice.

Majority of NY Residents Support

As a society we are increasingly reevaluating and refining our values and laws regarding what is acceptable treatment of animals. New York City residents care about animals and support this ban as evidenced by the 75% bipartisan approval in the recent poll conducted. Intro 1476 positions New York City as a leader in animal protection and more closely aligns the city's laws with its values. No more profiting off the literal backs of animals.

For these reasons, the Animal Legal Defense Fund strongly supports the enactment of Intro 1476.

I want to thank the Council members for holding this hearing, especially my representative, Margaret Chin. And I want to extend a huge thank you to the speaker Corey Johnson for having the courage and compassion to propose bill 1476 to ban the sale of fur in New York City.

I feel very strongly about this bill because as long as I can remember I have been a devoted animal lover. I grew up in a household with cats, dogs, birds, turtles, ducks even a pet slug, you name it. When I went to visit my grandmother who also claimed to love animals, my favorite pastime was laying her mink coats on her bed and lying on top of them, luxuriating in the soft, plush of the fur. It wasn't until many years later that I started to sense that something wasn't right about wearing animal skins and it was around that time that the animal rights movement was beginning to have a voice so I started to educate myself about the facts behind the beautiful furs that my grandmother and mother wore. I learned about the miserable, tortured lives that wild animals meant to roam free must endure. Being crammed into tiny wire cages barely able to move, driven crazy and often self mutilating as a result of their confinement only to end their lives by having their necks broken, being anally, electrocuted, gassed or bludgeoned. The other method of fur procurement, trapping is equally unacceptable and cruel. Trapped animals can be left for days in agony and will try to chew their own limbs off in order to free themselves. Traps are non-discriminating. 1 out of 10 animals caught is unintended and on many occasions a beloved family pet has been known to perish in one.

Now I know the truth. I know that they will try to tell you that animals are treated humanely on fur farms. **Don't believe them.** And they will tell you that it's nonsense that animals are skinned while still alive. **Don't believe them.** The evidence has been filmed for all to see.

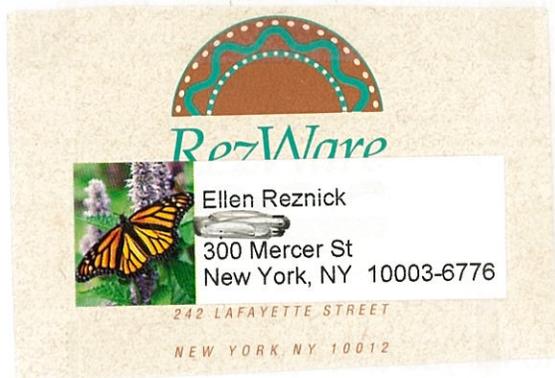
Many will say that people don't really wear fur anymore. Well, they haven't paid attention to the increase in fur items on both men and women in the form of trim on winter jackets, pom poms that are in fashion on hats and accessories, the fur lining on shoes, gloves, coats and hats. The industry is very clever at marketing their products.... a little bit here and a little bit there. Whereas in the past it seems that only women wore fur items, now men seem to find it desirable to have a bit of fur on their jackets and accessories as well. I've become quite good at discerning fake from real fur and when I inform people, especially those walking their beloved family pet that they are wearing **real** animal fur, more often than not, they tell me it's fake. When I tell them the truth behind the fur on their jacket, and that even cat and dog fur is used they are horrified and regret buying it. I remember well in 2013 when it was revealed that a line of Mark Jacobs hats were being sold as faux fur but investigators discovered that the hats were made from raccoon dogs.

People need to know the truth.

We all know that New York City is the greatest city in the world and we should be the leaders in showing the world that we will not tolerate the sale of a product of animal torture and violence in our town. Over 50 million animals lose their lives because of the fur industry. The world is often an unjust and cruel place and we feel helpless to effect it but this is an issue that we can effect and change. **Fur is not fashion.** It is sanctioned barbarism and there are cruel free alternatives. **We in N.Y.C. do not want it sold here.**

We must join forces with San Francisco and Los Angeles and the many compassionate countries that have banned fur farming and say

No More Fur Sold in New York City.



Good Morning Members of the City Counsel and guests, My name is Charles Neocleous.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about the industry that I Love and grew up in.

I am **literally** a product of the Fur Industry, my Grandparents and parents emigrated from the Island of Cyprus to the United States after World War II. They were seeking an opportunity for a better life, the Freedom to choose what they wanted to do and prosperity that their own country could not provide to them.

My Grandmother, a seamstress was eager to help the family begin the American Dream by securing employment as a “finisher” in the Fur Business. Her task was to sew the linings into the fur coats. After my Father completed High School, she secured him a job as well, where he learned the trade and developed his skills as a contractor. He met my Mother, who was also working as a finisher in the same building. They married in the 1950’s and worked together to build a successful small business and raise a family in New York City. Finally, achieving their “American Dream”.

I also worked in the family business, learning the trade and continuing my formal education. I graduated with an Economics Degree, and completed Fur Design and Marketing at the acclaimed Fashion Institute of Technology. With life experience, formal education and LOVE of this industry, I am the third generation to work in the Fur Business in my family.

I am currently employed at “Blum & Fink”, one of the oldest and largest Fur Companies in the industry. My tasks include; working with wholesale accounts from all over the US, retail fur customers, import& export, design production, inventory, invoicing, and overseeing day to day operations of the business.

This Fur Ban would impact our business negatively and create a downward spiral of the entire industry. Forcing business to downsize or close. This has always been a reputable business of hard working Americans, I am proud to say “ I work in the Fur Business”. And We oppose this Ban!

Thank you,

**TESTIMONY OF FLO ANTHONY
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND
BUSINESS LICENSING
MAY 15, 2019**

Good afternoon. My name is Flo Anthony. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today to discuss the proposed ban on the sale of fur apparel in New York City.

As an African American publicist, reporter and resident of New York City, I am deeply saddened by the proposed ban on fur by the City Council. Fur is a deeply important part of African American culture and community in this city, and this proposed ban represents an attack on our achievements, commitments and aspirations as a community. I know this from my own life and decades of diverse experience working in and for the black community. I launched my career as a publicist after graduating from Howard University, a historically-black college. I have had the pleasure of working with famous African American sports legends such as Muhammad Ali, Butch Lewis, Michael Spinks, Larry Holmes, Mike McCallum and others.

As a reporter, I became the first African American to work on the gossip column of the New York Post, a section of New York City's most popular paper that was traditionally reserved only for stories covering the lives of wealthy, White elites. Additionally, I was the first African-American to pen a column in The National Examiner.

I have been featured on E! True Hollywood Story episodes as an expert on the history of African American celebrities like Robin Givens, Janet Jackson, Whitney Houston, Bobby Brown and countless others. I am also a columnist for The New York Amsterdam News, New York's predominant Black newspaper.

I mention my accomplishments not to boast, but to present myself as an expert on Black history and culture here in New York City. I have spent a career in media and publicity watching Black leaders fight for our rights, only to be repeatedly knocked down. For decades, fur has represented the progress and achievements of our community. While fur was once something that only wealthy white women could afford, for decades, it has become a symbol of dignity and love that black women can share and pass down. Fur is not only for Marilyn Monroe and Jackie Kennedy—it is also for Aretha Franklin, Coretta Scott King, Beyoncé, and black families across this country filled with hope, love and dreams.

Fur is a way we can show world that we have finally made it and show black people across the country we can accomplish anything we set our minds to.

A ban on fur in New York City is a ban on Black culture, one that discredits our successes and takes away a right that we have fought tirelessly to have. We will fight this proposal, just like we have fought every other effort by politicians to take away our rights, restrict our freedoms, and diminish our dignity.



FOR THE RECORD

Humane Society of New York

ANIMAL CLINIC / VLADIMIR HOROWITZ AND WANDA TOSCANINI HOROWITZ ADOPTION CENTER
306 East 59th Street, NYC 10022 / tel: (212) 752-4842 fax: (212) 752-2803

The Humane Society of New York strongly urges your support for Int. 1476 to ban the sale of fur in New York City. The bottom line is that whether animals are raised and killed on fur farms or caught in crippling traps, it is cruel and unnecessary to harm and kill animals in the name of fashion. We do not need to wear fur.

Animals in fur farms are kept in cramped cages for their lives, deprived of any quality of life and used as breeding machines, just to be killed. Animals caught in traps suffer tremendously, some even chewing off limbs in an effort to escape. Non-target animals, including our pets, also get trapped. As a society, we should be better than that.

And as more and more people have recognized the cruelty inherent in killing animals for their fur, many companies have stopped using fur in their products. Several countries and a few U.S cities also have fur bans. We urge you to add New York City, the greatest city in the world, to this list.

Elinor Molbegott, Esq.
Legal Counsel/Animal Issues

5-19

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FOR THE RECORD

**TESTIMONY OF IRENE GANDY
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND
BUSINESS LICENSING
MAY 15, 2019**

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today to discuss the proposed ban on the sale of fur apparel in New York City.

My name is Irene Gandy. I am a Tony-Award winning Broadway producer and for 50 years I have been the only Black female member of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers, a nearly 100-year old union for theatre press agents and managers. I have lived in New York for all my life and have worked in theatre for my entire career. I have become well-known on Broadway for my style and fashion, and even launched a fur collection of my own in 2014.

This proposed ban would attack a longstanding tradition and source of pride in New York City's Black community, which we fought so hard to achieve. Furs are a part of our culture. For centuries, fur was reserved exclusively for wealthy, upper-class white people. It represented wealth and status. Finally, just a few decades ago, black women started to have the ability to purchase and wear it.

For decades, when black people were denied every other right and status in this country, fur represented dignity and equality. Fur is a symbol of our achievement in American society. Now, it seems, the City Council has decided to undo all this progress and return the right to buy fur to only the wealthy.

In the Black community, fur apparel gets passed down from our grandmothers and aunts to our children and cousins. They are a symbol of generations of love and respect for the hard work

that our families had to strive for in this country. Every Sunday in church I stand surrounded by my community, who proudly wear their furs as a display of our people's success in American society.

Banning the sale of fur in New York City would singlehandedly affect the city's black community. Although purchasing fur would be illegal here, it would be perfectly legal in wealthy, White suburbs, such as in New Jersey, Westchester, and Long Island. This sends the message that urban communities don't deserve the same rights as wealthy, white suburbs.

As a designer and a community activist, I can speak firsthand about how seriously and negatively the proposed ban would affect New York City's black community—and we refuse to stand for this. This ban is unjust and demeaning to our community, blatantly stripping us of a right we worked to achieve and deserve to have.

In the face of centuries of bigotry, injustice, and intolerance, fur has been a symbol of accomplishment in the African American community. As one of very few Black women in Broadway, I wear my fur proudly on the red carpet, in hopes that it may raise up my people and inspire those in my community to never stop fighting for our rights.

I will continue to speak out so that my people have the right to make our own decisions and everyone in this country will have the right to buy what they want, wear what they want, vote for who they want, live where they want, and love who they want.

FOR THE RECORD

My name is Frederica Miller. I live in District # 4. I urge Council Member Keith Powers to support a NYC law to prohibit the sale of new fur apparel. I support this proposed law because killing animals for their fur is cruel and unnecessary.

I want to address the question of why a law is needed when many designers have voluntarily given up fur? A law is needed because: 1. Many people are unaware of they are wearing real fur; 2. Many people are unaware of the cruelty associated with this industry--they don't know what type of fur they are wearing or the method used to raise and kill the animal to produce the fur. Yet we know that 85% of animals killed for fur are from fur farms. These animals are raised in cages only to be killed for their coats. They live a barren and unnatural existence, without space to roam and frolic. While many New Yorker are no longer buying real fur coats, people continue to buy hats with fur poms, fur-lined gloves, and the ubiquitous black down jackets with fur trim. When people go out to buy warm clothes, I don't think they make a conscious decision to buy real fur trim. But these coats are made available by the industry and people buy them. It perpetuates itself. People buy fur trimmed garments because they're available, they're available because people buy them. It becomes a fad. If the stores only sold jackets with faux fur trim or no fur trim, people would continue to buy winter garments. Real fur is not a necessity. This law is needed, otherwise NYC will fall further behind other cities who have recognized the cruelty of the fur industry by banning the sale of fur garments.

Passing this law is a great opportunity for NYC to establish a new moral standard that recognizes that killing animals for their fur is no longer justified.

Submitted by:
Frederica L. Miller
412 East 55 Street, 8H
New York, NY 10022

FOR THE

FOR THE RECORD

My name is Laura Leopardo and I live in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn in Council Member Laurie Cumbo's district. I urge her to support this bill.

Bare with me for a while as it may seem that I'm digressing a bit, but I would like to share a story that was told by someone that many of us are familiar with and have heard. This person was traveling through southeast Asia where they eat dogs. Yes, he visited a dog meat farm to witness and then raise awareness to the extreme suffering of the dogs. He saw long rows and rows of cages and cages stacked up one on top of the other. The dogs had open sores and wounds, some by other dogs from extreme boredom, frustration and even insanity--from being in too small cages barely able to move around their entire life and some chose to attack and cannibalize other dogs. He wondered how can we do this, how can humans justify doing so many horrible things to other living beings who lead rich social and emotional lives, who feel pain, love and are conscious, sentient beings. Well, the problem with this story is that it is not entirely true. The only thing that is not true is that it's not about a dog farm, it's actually about a fur-farm. Everything else is true. Animals on fur farms are forced to spend their entire lives confined to tiny filthy cages, without proper medical treatment. Many go insane from the stress and frustration, pacing back and forth, gnawing on cage bars, tearing out their own fur or gnawing on their own limbs. This is what happens when they are alive. Then there is their excruciatingly painful death. Some are killed by smashing their heads into the ground, or by breaking their necks or back, other are skinned alive to preserve their pelts, others annaly electrocuted, all to beings who feel pain and suffer. Can anyone here imagine having that done to your pet, your own dog or cat. Yes, it's truly heartbreaking just to think about it, but yet it's ok for us to do it to some animals, some animals that society has arbitrarily deemed worthy of for their fur just for fashion, for status. If my descriptions of fur farms seem hard to believe, and I'm sure some of you don't believe my words, I encourage you to do a simple google search and see and read for yourself the truths I have shared. It's all just a few keystrokes away. I know the other side says but it's our jobs, it's our livelihood, it's our cultural tradition to wear fur, and all their other arguments, but all I simply ask you is--is it morally right to do so? Can you honestly look into your heart and truly admit that it's still the right thing to continue to do?

MY NAME IS M.S. AND I live in Long Island City in
council member JIMMY VAN BRAMER'S DISTRICT AND I
STRONGLY URGE HIM TO SUPPORT THIS BILL.

Public attitudes, especially over the past few years, have dramatically evolved on the issues of fur in fashion and the purchasing of fur products. There has been an increasing recognition that brutality toward defenseless animals in the interest of vanity or style should not be encouraged. As a result, many fur-free and faux fur products have steadily replaced the real thing as demand for these cruelty free alternatives continues to be on the rise.

A decision by the City Council to ban the sale of fur products in New York City is in the public interest and will place the City squarely in sync with other states and the fashion industry as a whole which are in the vanguard of this movement towards the ethical treatment of animals.

What the City Council can do is to use its law-making powers to recognize that public sentiment has massively shifted and that people across all walks of life are in favor of moving to fur-free garments. Madison Avenue has continued to reduce its use of fur and consumers are voting with their pocketbooks to let the industry know that brands which sell products made from the fur of animals will be rejected in the marketplace.

You need not be an animal activist or even an animal lover to recognize the suffering that occurs on fur farms and through the process of trapping animals for their fur. These animals are brutalized in agonizing ways without regard for the fact that they are living beings, no different than our pets, and not inanimate objects. When you think about this cruel reality, you can understand why the public has shifted its thinking about the use of fur and why products which use real fur can no longer be supported. We are not a primitive society living in the tundra with no other options to keep ourselves warm.

The campaign against the sale of fur-based products is gaining popularity but legislative action is needed to codify its success and the passage of Intro 1476 is the way to do it.

Thank you.

FOR THE RECORD

Intro 1476 Hearing To Ban the Sale of Fur in NYC

May 15, 2019

Testimony of Teresa Russo

FOR THE RECORD

Animals used in the fur industry lead horrible and short lives, which end in unthinkable suffering. In China, where much of the fur trim used on our winter coats and accessories comes from, the animals are raised on fur farms. They are kept in wire cages, outdoors in all kinds of weather. When the time comes to skin them for their fur, they are dragged out of the cages, held down by the workers, and their skin is sliced with a long knife. The worker then grabs the animal's skin and yanks it off their bodies. The animal is still alive and fully conscious. After the animal is skinned, it is left on the ground to die a slow, agonizing death. Videos are available for you to watch this sickening act. I have included photos of the animals with my testimony. These are unfortunately very real.

The human race should have progressed farther than this by now. To cause this kind of horrific and unimaginable suffering to living, feeling beings, for something as frivolous as fashion is truly unconscionable.

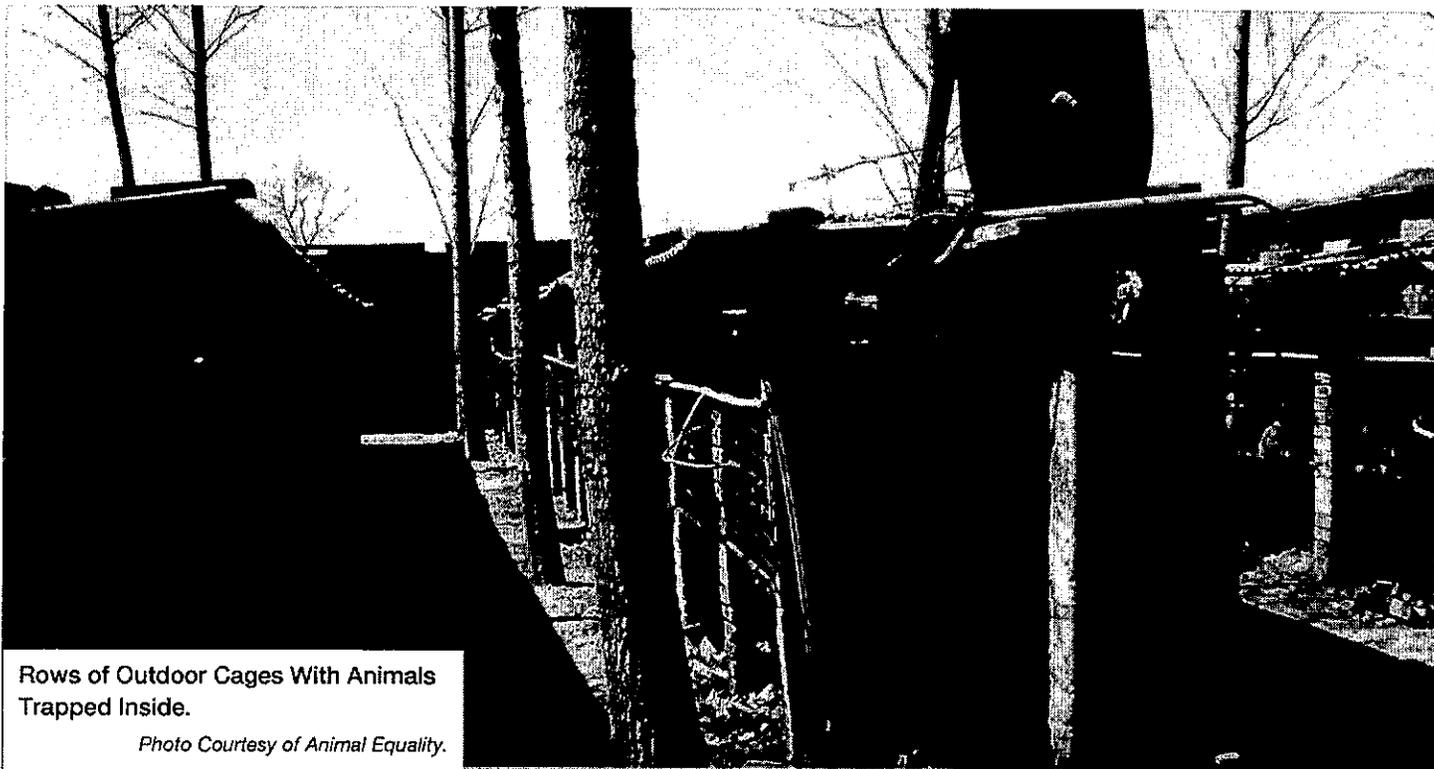
Human beings do not need to wear fur in order to live. Fur does not help cure diseases or feed hungry children. There are so many synthetic materials to use in fashion. There is simply no good reason to continue to allow this atrocious abuse of living beings. I hope that the City Council will choose the ethical and humane stance and finally ban this horribly cruel and totally unnecessary item in New York City.

I would like to add one quick thought:

When I was a very young child, the local candy store sold rabbits feet to the children. I didn't know any better, just thought they were pretty, and bought one or two. When I got a little older, I actually thought about where that rabbit's foot came from, and realized it was from a living being, whose foot had been cut off. When we, as adults, see fur trim on coats and accessories, as well as on entire coats and jackets, we should be able to realize by now that that fur was cut off a living, feeling being.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak about this issue that has been very important to me for ⁵⁶long.

Teresa Russo



Rows of Outdoor Cages With Animals Trapped Inside.

Photo Courtesy of Animal Equality.



Dead carcasses of animals that were skinned for their fur are fed to the animals who are still alive, waiting to be skinned.

Photo Courtesy of Animal Equality.

Dogs whose fur is damaged and not suitable for fur pelts are sold to the dog meat trade, to be tortured to death for human consumption. The dogs are purposely tortured in the most nauseating ways imaginable, because the people think that the more the animal suffers, the better its meat will taste.

Photo Courtesy of Animal Equality.



Animals are anally electrocuted, which renders them paralyzed, but still alive and conscious while they are being skinned.

Photo Courtesy of Animal Equality.

STATEMENT OF ERICA R. SHEINART IN SUPPORT OF INTRO 1476: SALES BAN ON
FUR APPAREL and INTRO 1378: FOIE GRAS SALES BAN
626 2ND STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11215
DISTRICT #39, COUNCILMEMBER BRAD LANDER

My name is Erica R. Sheinart. I reside at 626 2nd Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11215.

Thank you, Councilmembers, for giving me an opportunity to speak to you today.

I want to thank City Council Speaker Corey Johnson for proposing this legislation that would ban the sale of fur apparel in New York City.

I also want to thank my Councilmember from District 39, my Park Slope neighbor, Mr. Brad Lander, for co-sponsoring both Intro 1476 (the Fur Apparel Sales Ban) and Intro 1378, the proposed Foie Gras sales ban.

Thank you so much, Mr. Lander, for supporting innocent animals who undergo so much agony to become unnecessary fur coats and pate for humans.

You are giving your voice to those who have none, but who, if they could speak, would certainly say, "Please save us from this horrible life and terrible death."

I sincerely hope that all of your fellow Councilmembers follow your example.

This is the ethical and humane thing to do.

The fur sales ban is especially personal to me because my great uncle was a furrier in Brooklyn in the 1930s through the 1970s. My mother, who is in her 80s, remembers that our uncle made her mother- my grandmother- a fur coat with her initials inside. When my sister and I were very young, he gave us what I remember were mink tails that we used for our Barbie dolls.

I was too young to understand then the terror and pain those minks went through. I now know that these beautiful animals lived an awful life in a cage and died a horrendous death by being gassed, drowned, electrocuted or skinned alive.

I loved my great uncle, but if he were alive today I would have to ask him how he could continue to make fur apparel, knowing the torture these sentient beings, with feelings of despair, agony and pain just like ours, went through all their lives, just to become a fur coat, a hat, or the trim on a pair of gloves.

My mother and I discussed my being here today to speak in front of you. She, the niece of a furrier, grew up to become a lover of all animals. When I was 5 years old, she brought home our beloved childhood pet, a cat we loved and adored for 9 years. My father likewise, has always loved animals and has had pets since he was a child. My mother and father are very proud that I am here today to support both the fur sales ban and the foie gras sales ban. They want you to know that they believe these bills need to be passed into law to help end the suffering of the animals they love.

One of my personal heroes is the great founder of the ASPCA and the humane movement here in New York City, Henry Bergh. Henry Bergh memorably said, "Men will be just to men when they are kind to animals." Please, councilmembers, let's again show the world that New York City is a leader when it comes to being just and compassionate, both to men and animals. Please support and pass these animal protection bills into law in New York City. Thank you very much for listening.

**Testimony in support of Intro 1476
Donny Moss - District 3 (Corey Johnson)**

I'm a NYC voter, an an advocate for animals and a companion to a furry rescue dog named Max.

Imagine for a moment that someone put you in a large coffin, cut a few holes so that you could breathe and left you there for two years. How long do you think it would take before you went insane? That is the fate of animals on fur farms.

In the wild, mink live on 2,500 acres of wetlands, and they swim. So it's no wonder that these wild animals spend their lives frantically spinning around in circles in their cages from the stress and frustration of intensive confinement inside a factory farm. What they're forced to endure is a fate far worse than death.

Now imagine that you're walking in a park and step into a steel trap that clamps onto your leg. And you're in so much pain that you try to tear off your leg to escape. But you can't. And you lie on the ground in agony, slowly dying from hunger and thirst, until someone comes, not to rescue you, but to shoot you in the head.

We don't have to trap, imprison and kill fur-bearing animals to survive. We can wear other things. The animals' fur is not our fabric. Their furry skin doesn't belong to us.

I was bullied in high school because I was gay. In the 10th grade, a kid in my class punched me in the face on the basketball court, and my classmates stood by silently. Those of us who have been victims of oppression have a moral obligation to speak out when we see other vulnerable individuals being tortured.

The fur industry argues that people should have the right to wear whatever they want. We agree. We don't care about what people are wearing. We care about who they're wearing. Because the individuals who they're wearing wanted to live in peace, just like us.

The sale of fur has already been outlawed in San Francisco, Los Angeles and other cities. It will eventually be banned everywhere because, as Martin Luther King once said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." The question for Council Members is - will you choose short-term political expedience, or will you choose being on the right side of history? When future generations look back on this historic moment, will they see that you voted for justice or for oppression? Because those are the only choices.

My name is Michael Dolling, I am a Brooklyn resident and I fully support Intro 1476. I am on the board of directors of Tamerlaine Sanctuary and Preserve in New Jersey, whose founders are current residents of Tribeca and fully support this ban as well.

Our mission at Tamerlaine is to rescue and protect animals who are abused and neglected and as a preserve we are dedicated to the conservation and protection of wildlife. On our 336 acre sanctuary we are home to coyotes, rabbits and fox, the same animals that the fur industry would love to turn into a fur coat, a pom pom on top of a hat, a pointless trim on a coat, a key chain, ear muffs or a cell phone case.

We are lucky enough to live side by side with these beautiful animals and we are honored to protect them. I have seen what leg-hold traps can do to a mother who is out looking for food for her children. I have seen coyotes missing feet and limbs, covered in blood guaranteed to die a slow painful death because they were so desperate to escape a trap. I have seen how the fur industry tears families apart. I have seen how the greed of the fur industry destroys lives and I have seen compassionate people cry when they see footage of what the fur industry does to these animals.

At our sanctuary we give tours to the public, many of whom travel to us from New York City, and on those tours we educate people about the mistreatment of animals by human hands. What we see from our outreach is a generation who is turning away from animal cruelty. We see a generation turning towards compassion and justice and we see a generation that is turning away from fur.

We at Tamerlaine urge the City Council to follow in the footsteps of other great cities and ban the barbaric fur industry from our own. When Trump was elected and people feared for their freedom, the leaders of New York City declared that we would be a sanctuary city for all who needed protection. From one sanctuary to another, please protect these animals who cannot speak for themselves and support Intro 1476.

Fur is completely unnecessary in today's society. We are not walking around naked like our ancestors once did. Today a fur coat is considered a status symbol and/or fashion statement. And let's start calling it what it really is - it is a skin coat, because the fur rests upon the skin of the animal off which it was torn. Most of the time this happens while the animal is still awake and conscious, and completely aware of what just happened. It's helpless, bleeding body is then thrown into a pile with other skinned animals, some still conscious, while they lay in excruciating pain, until they eventually expire.

This is the material of horror movies - it should not exist in a civilized society. Many top designers and retailers have already realized this and gone fur free and technologies exist to produce eco-friendly faux fur. We stand before you today, asking you to finally put an end to this brutal, outdated atrocity by passing Intro 1476. Send it into the past, where it belongs.

My name is Yuki Endo, resident of Jackson Heights, Queens and I'm volunteer for Korean K9 Rescue, non-profit organization working with South Korean Dog activists to ship Korean Dogs to NYC for adoption. I support Speaker Corey Johnson's Intro Bill 1476 to sale ban of real fur in NYC. Real fur is not sustainable and my jacket Pantagonia is not plastic and it's similar experience price as Canada Goose jacket. Fur Industry are think Faux Fur will be replacing real fur, not many of people will not wear either real or faux fur. There are way Fur Industry can make money without using real fur. Fur Industry can switch to fur free stores without selling faux fur. Burlington Coat Factory and Keith went fur free. If these places can do it, so can Century 21, Bloomingdale's, Lord & Taylor, Saks 5th Av/Off 5th Av, Nordstrom, Macy's. If fur is ban, they can partnership with Pantagonia and Wully Outerwear, fur free fashion designers to sale their clothes at this major department stores. These photos below are dog farms in China that some dog furs that falsely advertise as other animal and dogs are stolen from people's yard. Majority of people around the globe are in support of fur ban in NYC because they love animals. I'm urging all NYC Council Members including Speaker Corey Johnson to visit Korean K9 Rescue adoption event at Union Sq Park North this Saturday if possible to meet cute Korean Dogs that rescue from dog meat farm. This is reason real fur need to be ban even if you love African Wild Dog and Coyote in zoos, you should not wear real fur.

Respectfully yours truly,
Yuki Endo



Testimony in favor of Intro 1476, the Bill to Ban Fur Sales in NYC

Joyce Friedman, 67-10 108 Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375

Board of Directors, Voters for Animal Rights, Constituent of CM Karen Koslowitz

Dear Chair Espinal and Members of the Committee on Consumer Affairs,

My name is Joyce Friedman and I am a constituent of Council Member Karen Koslowitz in Forest Hills, Queens. I am on the Board of Directors of Voters for Animal Rights and I thank you all for this opportunity to speak in support of this very important bill to ban the sale of fur in NYC, Intro 1476.

I encourage the members of the Committee to, for a moment, focus on the root of this issue and to ignore all these attempts to obfuscate fundamental facts.

Right now, at this very moment, there are tens of millions of animals- wildlife- in dirty wire cages going stir crazy, engulfed with intense fear, in pain from untreated infections, who are subsequently dragged out of the cages and painfully killed by genital or anal electrocution, or are skinned alive.

Right now, at this very moment, there are wild animals who were living their life freely and then are suddenly caught in steel jaw leg hold traps, animals who are now screaming in pain because steel claws are clamped through their legs, and animals whose whole bodies are being slowly crushed in conibear or body-crushing traps (less than 15% of them die instantly as the furriers will proclaim)

And right now, at this very moment, semi-aquatic animals such as beavers and their families are struggling in underwater traps they find themselves caught in, in which they slowly and painfully drown.

These animals are why we are here today in support of this bill. Please, when considering your vote think of these individual animals and please weigh the pain and suffering of these animals – all for a superfluous luxury item – against the claims made by the fur industry and its supporters.

It is quite simple. The fur trade is animal abuse. If these barbaric actions were done to cats and dogs, the perpetrators would be arrested and the actions would be so strongly rallied against as to make headline news.

I ask you frankly if the fur industry and its defenders ever talk about these abuses? We know they do not. Not surprisingly the fur industry and its defenders want you to focus on **anything** but these facts- that this is animal abuse and animal torture and for a completely unnecessary item.

Now let's jump forward. If this bill passes, your constituents, even the ones who are against this bill, will continue to live their lives as they have before. People adapt. For those constituents who own fur garments they can still choose to wear them. If they want to buy more, they will simply need to do so in Long Island or NJ or another nearby locale. Or better yet, they may simply choose from the multitude of other warm, beautiful, non-animals' fur garments that the vast majority of Americans who don't buy fur already purchase. It's that simple.

And for the business owners who have made a living from this barbaric industry, they can still sell clothes and prosper by selling clothes made of any material except fur. Experts in the field say their skills are transferable.

Companies and designers are ditching fur and using other materials. America's history is one of changing business models. Now perhaps more than ever in our nation's history we see new business models arising, based on new technologies and efficiencies, as well as our culture's evolving humane values. And that's what this bill supports - a business model that is not based on cruelty towards animals, a model which the fashion industry itself is already embracing.

For the millions of wild animals currently in small wire cages becoming or already psychotic (just google fur farm cruelty and you will see it for yourself), or currently attempting to bite through their bones to escape the excruciating pain of a steel leg hold or body-crushing trap, or slowly drowning in an underwater trap- this bill means everything. As council members you have this incredible opportunity to take a stand against animal abuse and cruelty. I will repeat- not surprisingly the fur industry and its defenders want you to focus on anything but the fact that they abuse animals. We trust in your humanity and wisdom. Please lead us to a more humane world.

Hello. I'm Kathryn Casey, a Midtown East resident, District 4.

I fervently support Intro 1476 because it's the only decent thing to do. Hidden behind every fur garment, trim, or accessory is abhorrent suffering made all the more abhorrent by its being unnecessary. That truth alone should render other arguments irrelevant.

The suffering animals endure can be so grotesque that many — if not most— of us have trouble even looking at it. And we know its scale, even if we can't quite fathom it: 100 million creatures every year.

With that knowledge comes responsibility to stop it.

Consider for a moment: We see flashes of public outrage at news reports about dogs thrown from cars and lions killed as trophies. Yet that and worse is being done every day to millions of animals. And we call it an industry.

What justification can there be in May 2019 for an industry that trades in cruelty? Fur industry animals are not only condemned to a life of misery. They're killed in vile ways in order to preserve their fur — electrocuted* anally or vaginally, clubbed to death, even skinned alive. Every time we allow a piece of fur to be sold, we give that cruelty the thumbs-up.

We don't need fur for warmth. We don't need fur for jobs; fur represents 1/2 of 1% of fashion jobs in NYC, and the skills for those jobs would transfer to alternative materials.** And, though it's shameful that this should even be a consideration, we don't need fur for fashion. Stunning alternatives are available and more are coming.

Nevertheless, some claim a ban on fur would violate our freedom. The argument is obscene. Freedom doesn't, or shouldn't, mean freedom to indulge our vanity at the cost of other creatures' skins. Haven't we learned by now that brutality is seldom an earmark of freedom? Does anyone really believe we have the right to inflict a lifetime of desolation, fear, and pain on a sentient creature just because we want to? Or that one's desire to flay another being for a "status" hair band should be protected or honored in the name of freedom?

Common decency screams we have no such right. Every inclination to mercy screams *No*.

Nor should we invoke the sins of the past to justify those of the present. We did plenty of regrettable things in the past. Mom wore furs. Dad drove drunk. In fur's heyday, American doctors routinely appeared in cigarette ads; in some, they encouraged expectant mothers to smoke to relieve constipation. Around the same time, we used lobotomy and electric shock treatment for mental disorders and behaviors perceived as such.

But, ideally, our ideas and behavior evolve as our information, awareness, and wisdom evolve.

Knowledge grows. Cultures mature. Consumers change. Laws change. Industries adapt.***

Sometimes, we have to admit that our past was just plain benighted. This is one of those times. We here in New York have the opportunity to correct course, and to be on the right side of history, by passing Intro 1476. I hope in the name of decency we'll take it.

Thank you for your time.

Kathryn Casey
350 East 52nd Street, 4K
New York, NY 10022
646-732-3417
kathryncasey59@gmail.com

*Related note: Just this week, the state of Indiana (via House Bill 1615) outlawed inhumane methods, including electrocution, of animal euthanasia. Approved unanimously in the House and applicable to all animal control programs, the bill deems killing an animal by electrocution a level 6 felony in that state.

**Faux fur is now so luxurious that I, for one, would be afraid to wear it lest fellow New Yorkers think I supported fur! Moreover, retailers that sell fur accessories and trim will simply sell furless or faux fur accessories and trims. Accessories departments will not shut down because bits of animal are no longer dangling from purses.

***Fur isn't the only industry asked to adapt. Energy has had and will have to do so. Ditto communications — constantly. Typewriter, walkman, Polaroid, or dial-up Internet, anyone?

Jill Lauri, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Rockaway Beach, NY 11693

212-289-3540

New York City Council Testimony

Int. No. 1476-A: Prohibiting the Sale of Fur Apparel

May 15, 2019

My name is Jill Lauri and I am here today as the voice of the animals. Thank you, Speaker Johnson, Council Members Levine, Cabrera, Brannan, Rosenthal, Holden, Lander, Dromm, and Reynoso for sponsoring Int. No. 1476-A and creating this public forum where the cries of the animals can be heard.

Those of us who have been fortunate enough to have relationships with animals know that they experience pain, just as we do. We also understand their capacity to love and offer us unconditional love. With that comes a moral responsibility on our part to protect and eliminate practices that cause them pain and suffering. In the case of fur used in clothing, this cruelty is perpetrated for reasons of fear, greed, vanity and ignorance.

The brutality that we, as a society, inflict on animals has repercussions beyond the pain of the animals. We are all interconnected - human and non-human animals. Just as when you toss a pebble into a body of water, it has ripple effects throughout, so does our cruelty towards animals boomerang back to us. Our desensitization to the suffering of other living beings perpetuates violence and compromises the fabric of our society. We know in our hearts and souls that no good can come from it. *Rather than a choice between humans and animals, this is a choice between love and fear.* So, Council Members, I ask that as you listen to today's testimonies, you be:

- 1- Compassionate enough to listen and hear the pain and suffering of the animals
- 2- Wise enough to see the big picture of what condoning barbaric practices towards animals creates for all of us
- 3- Humble enough to admit that we have been wrong for tolerating the abuse of animals
- 4- Courageous enough to act to remedy this injustice, and pass Int. No. 1476-A into law

Thank you.

Deserie Matos
22427 Manor Road
Bellerose Manor NY 11427
Councilman Barry Grodenchik
Re: Intro 1476

FOR THE RECORD

The fur industry has been in business for hundreds of years. No one really knew how these furs were made, or even gave it a second thought. Today with the accessibility of the internet and google searches, we know all too well about the torture and slaughter of beautiful innocent animals for their skin. We know about the fur farms where animals are kept in filthy, cramped wire cages, where they are denied everything that is natural to them, the sun on their backs, the grass under their feet, bodies of water to drink and bathe from, and the ability to raise their families in the wild. We know about the excruciatingly painful and horrific torture and slaughter for so called "fashion" and status. There is nothing glamorous about this blood trade! What has been done behind closed doors, far away from the fancy fur shops, and away from public view can now be seen with a google search and click of a mouse. Now we know, the secret is out! No more business as usual, turning away, or ignoring the truth. Those who buy fur, and those who manufacture and sell fur have blood on their hands! A recent Mason-Dixon poll indicated that 75% of New Yorkers surveyed join Speaker Johnson in advocating for animals who are needlessly tortured and killed. The other 25% just haven't seen the videos or heard the screams of innocent beautiful animals having their skins ripped off their bodies while they are still alive.

A great majority of humans possess the ability to feel compassion, empathy, sorrow, and regret, especially for those who are defenseless and voiceless. A new day is dawning. We are evolving and realizing that just because an industry has been around for hundreds of years doesn't mean it should continue. It's wrong, inhumane, cruel and barbaric. We don't need to wear fur. There are many alternatives that don't involve the skins of animals that are just as warm and fashionable.

In the words of Dr. Maya Angelou "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better!" We can do better for the animals. Today's the day, and NYC is the place. Fur Free NYC!!!

ISAAC MIZRAHI

FOR THE RECORD

To whom it may concern. I'm a fashion designer who would love to be heard from on this matter but unfortunately I am out of the city on the day in question. First of all, thank you so much for allowing me to participate, and I thank you to the person reading this statement and to all who are listening.

Statement:

I began my design career in the early 1980s, coming up through the usual channels as a design assistant. I was exposed to the crafting of furs through different licenses at my respective jobs, and in those days high end furriers had facilities in New York City which processed and made fur coats and trims of all kinds. I became a kind of expert in the field of designing furs and was even capable of directing people to make them. At that point— this was over thirty years ago, any twice-thinking I had about the issues of humanity or cruelty were quickly discounted in favor of my love for clothes. The beauty, the luxury of fur was such a big, assumed part of the high fashion world and I was, as were a lot of young people, caught up in the glamour and the rich history of it and hence able to shrug away any misgiving. It was around that time that Anti Fur groups emerged and I disdained them, even once or twice vocally.

After a few years on my own, at some time in 1992 I was approached to sign a fur license with a company who's owners I considered part of my family, one of the most esteemed furriers in the world. I saw the opportunity as a crowning achievement, a kind of arrival in a world I had fought so hard to rise up in. The license was one of my more successful ones and it lasted for about six years. Again, I was able to toss aside any conflicting feelings, any thoughts about cruelty, in favor of carrying on what I thought was the right tradition that reflected well on my luxury brand.

In December of 2000 I rescued a dog named Harry, a border collie mix. He became the very center of my life quickly. He lived with me for 16 years till his death in 2016. Even through those first years with Harry I was somehow able to justify loving him with the routine organized killing of animals for the making of fur apparel. If people bred animals for food why not clothing? And on I went living this hypocritical life of dog lover / fur designer and advocate.

Halfway through our acquaintance, in the fall of 2008 Harry fell mysteriously ill one night. I rushed with him to the all night animal hospital where I waited for him to be treated for about three hours, after which he recovered completely. But I finally had the epiphany which leads me to this statement today. There in that animal hospital waiting room at two o'clock in the morning, surrounded by all kinds of sick animals, I was able to admit to myself that killing animals is wrong for any reason— especially for the making of clothes.

After years of self-delusion, rationalization, there is nothing I can tell myself anymore to justify my actions. I'm proud to tell this story even though it points to a deficit, a great weakness in my past.

Thank you for listening.

Isaac Mizrahi

politicians do not even offer us mere thoughts and prayers much less the resources we need to prevent gun violence and the cycle of trauma.

Today, the City Council is examining whether to permit the sale of fur apparel in New York City. Yet, in downtown Manhattan, it is still legal to purchase guns and ammunition, all while the New York City Council Taskforce to Combat Gun Violence is listed as inactive on the Council's website. It both shocks and saddens me that we are refusing to take action on the most serious challenge facing our city, gun violence.

If our leaders want to strive to make New York a true city upon a hill, and if we're focused on setting an example across the country as a truly progressive city, then why not ban guns and tackle the 30% increase in homicides across our city? It disgusts me to see that we are hiding from this issue of serious importance. A fur ban is historically discriminatory and a tactic to distract us from the real issues at hand. Let's prioritize what matters to our communities and make sure that true progressive values are at the forefront of the City Council. Thank you.

COUNCIL HEARING TO BAN SALE OF FUR (Intro 1476) FOR THE RECORD

CITY HALL FURFREENYC TESTIMONY May 15, 2019

Hello, I'm Margaret Lee, a NYC resident in Council Member Chin's district. I'm a voice for animals in a world where Greed prevails, where animals who are used for selfish human purposes have precious few voices speaking for them, *few and inadequate laws protecting them.*

This will be a fairly short statement as there can be no reasonable defense of the monstrous fur industry! It is unconscionable and represents all that is wrong with the world.

Living in the NYU neighborhood, I'm appalled at the sight of many many students wearing animal-torture Canada Goose coats as a status symbol, being either oblivious to or uncaring of the horror they're wearing, apparently not giving a thought to the mothers stolen from their cubs, chewing their legs out of the made-in-Hell steel traps in a desperate attempt to escape and return to their babies. These NYU students - predominantly Asian for some unknown reason (we would need a good sociologist to explain these demographics) flaunt their animal-torture coats as they race to their classes in presumably everything but Ethics. Is this what NYU, NYC, the World has become? Unacceptable! Grade F!!! *from Hell*

There is no legitimate way to defend such horror, an industry based on the murder of defenseless animals. Words such as 'humane killing' are ridiculous! There is no such thing as humane murder!

It's insanity that in 2019 this is a subject for debate! Stealing the skin off an animal does not belong in a civilized society. Period. Even in a society as greed-driven, status-seeking as NYC, this is indefensible. NYC needs to stand up, face a heartsick world, a world desperate for compassion, and make it clear that we are more than a heart on a Visitor Center logo. We need to show we are capable of true compassion, the real deal, *a real heart,*

Ripping skin off an animal is not a viable skill set that belongs on anyone's resume! That's why you don't see it listed on LinkedIn. It is not a job that features 'Take Your Child to Work Day' ... It's done in secret, hidden away, either by illegal immigrants desperate for anything that pays, or by sociopaths who get their thrills by torturing animals, getting noticed only if they advance to humans, the Ted Bundys of the world.

Is this a Job that can possibly give one's life purpose? No one is born to be a stealer of animal skin! Jobs that entail ripping skin from an animal to put on a human's back does not deserve the word JOB! Its proper title is Depravity, Violence, Evil, Crime.

All the excuses used by the Fur Horror Industry are an insult to anyone with operating neurons.

Joblessness is not an excuse for stealing an animal's skin.

Culture is not an excuse for stealing an animal's skin.

Money is not an excuse, though it's the one that carries the most weight in our greed-driven world.

Being heartless is the only explanation that makes sense, but that should never be endorsed. Rather, the Fur Industry worker should receive pity and counseling to prepare for an authentically productive way of life.

There is no way that the Fur Industry can be justified. It is without a soul. Anyone with a conscience must see it as unconscionable. Anyone who views stealing skin from an animal as a legitimate job must be told to find a job that serves the world, not one that destroys, not one

Margaret Lee, NYC

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based on greed and the blood of defenseless animals. If the world made any sense, the Fur Trade would be considered a crime of the worst sort. It certainly has no place in a society that calls itself civilized. It must go and it must go now. Enough of this insanity! Be a voice of compassion, New York! Look past the dollar signs of an Evil industry and do what is right. Say NO to fur! Say YES to a FurFreeNYC, a City we can be proud of, a City with an actual heart, not just one on a tourist logo.

As we stand here at this moment at City Hall we are a city with a poor track record for animals. But we don't have to be this way. We can be better. We can have an actual heart, not a logo heart!

The critical Question here today is, Can NYC be a City of Compassion? Or does it only hear the clink clink call of Money Money Money? Is NYC capable of hearing the distant screams of animals stripped and dying for their fur? Or does NYC only hear the clink clink clink of a cash register?

Are we a city that prefers the look of a model or celebrity strutting about on a stage wearing a dog? Or are we a city that thinks a dog is worthy of nursing her cubs wearing the fur she was born with for her survival on this planet?

What are we? What values does NYC hold dear? What exactly do we stand for? Do we have an actual living breathing heart, or must we admit we are in fact merely a logo?

Fur is Hideous! Fur is Heinous! NYC does not want to be the Face Of Evil, and yet, strangely, it has allowed this to persist, by its sale.

We have a Mayor who is possibly a candidate for President and yet we still have a city that accepts cruelty to and senseless murder of animals! How can this be? ENOUGH! ENOUGH! ENOUGH! Time for this insanity to end!

Where there is money there are endless excuses for the Greed that drives it. Humans are great at developing excuses and convincing others to buy in. Whatever the excuses may be, the underlying fact remains. The Fur Industry is Evil and must be named for what it is. Anyone who works for, buys, wears, supports, invests in, votes for the continuance of the Fur Industry is complicit in a heinous crime against Nature, crime against the Planet, crime against a fundamental Moral Code. Sometimes this is called the Golden Rule, though it's been perverted to mean Ruled by Gold in our present times. It's way past the point where NYC must say very clearly, ENOUGH!!!

Some years ago there was a case in NYC of a young woman who decided to make a belt with the fur of a neighbor's dog. This was treated as a crime, albeit not strong enough given that laws protecting animals are pathetic, when they exist at all. Nevertheless it was treated as a crime, the sensible, proper response, and some punishment was enforced.

And yet here we are with stores selling these vile products and it's open for debate! Are we in The Twilight Zone? Seems so! Though Hell might be more accurate!

It is only because of brave people daring to penetrate and expose this dark world that we are able to see the images and hear the heartbreaking screams. We are left to imagine the smell of the blood and death, the starvation of the cubs waiting for a mother who will never return.

Once we've seen and heard the murderous horror, acceptance, for those of us with heart, is impossible. Whatever the method of killing, it is murder and it is wrong to take an animal's skin. This should be self-evident. We should not be debating this as we approach the year 2020.

Margaret Lee, NYC

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NYC must show that it thinks about more than money! Clearly there's more money in greed than compassion, no doubt about it. Compassion doesn't pay particularly well, but overall love is the better choice! Most of us know this.

The question we now face is, Are we a shameful city, or are we a city we can be proud of? Will we continue to be a city low on heart or will we be a city that honors the beauty and splendor of the magnificent animal life that blesses our world?

NYC is late waking up, but it's showing some signs of hope. NYC must lead the way to a Kinder World. It's possible! Let it begin here!

So, the Big Question remains, will we choose Greed, or will we choose Mercy and Compassion? Most often, in our extremely fallen world, Greed prevails. But we're dangling at the Cusp of Change. California is acting as a force for change and NYC must now also step up boldly. The forces that speak for money ruling over everything are very strong. We see this all around, especially when it comes to humans dominating animals for their own selfish purposes. But as people with functioning hearts see more of what the animal murder industries try to keep hidden, those with a conscience are raising their voices to say STOP, NO MORE, ENOUGH. STOP THE INSANITY NOW!!!

There will always be depraved individuals who steal what is not theirs and then sell their stolen goods to unscrupulous or unthinking third parties. If the item is a TV set, an Amazon delivery from someone's porch, a cellphone on the subway, a wallet from a pocket, such a crime is sometimes caught on camera and shown on the 6:00 news. Sometimes a reward is offered for information leading to an arrest. Such people represent a threat to the community and the property is seen as valuable.

But stealing the skin off an animal, selling it in a store, and then having it on a stage worn by a singer to great applause - where is the outrage? Where is the law to protect? Where is the law that says this is wrong??? Sadly, laws do not exist to protect the innocent victims of skin thievery! At most, an animal may have, her skin removed, her eyes still blinking, a caring human hand to hold her paw as she takes her last breath.

This must change and this must change NOW in NYC!!! With hope, the world will see for a fur-free NYC and join in the change for a fur-free World. After all, This is Our Planet and Theirs Too!

Thank you, New York, for ending this madness! I'm thanking you in advance because it's the only reasonable and sane way to proceed as a city with a leadership position in the world!

I am proud of my Council Member Margaret Chin having a record of compassion for animals, and I'm trusting she will stand again for animals by voting to make NYC fur-free! I fervently hope all of you will work to make the world safe for animals, freeing them from their torment, breaking their traps, opening the bloody cages that enslave them, never again to be filled with their desperate unheard cries! Their freedom begins NOW with this critical vote!

If you listen closely you will hear the animals thanking you...

Margaret Lee, NYC

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**YOUR FUR TRIM
HAD A FACE**



**FUR
FREE
NYC**

TOTAL LIBERATION



*Margaret Lee,
NYC*

p4

Long a beacon of progressive values and legislation, New York City has been slow to follow fur-ban laws issued by Los Angeles, San Francisco, and other cities worldwide; London banned the use of fur during fashion week. Intro. 1476, introduced by Speaker Johnson, could finally change this glaring oversight.

The pro-fur folks are putting on a full-court press, pleading with this Council and the public, claiming that a ban on animal fur would claim hundreds of jobs. Noticeably absent is any denial of the very reason the fur-ban bill was introduced: horrific and unnecessary animal abuse. That is because it can't be denied. A fur coat, a fur-trim lining a hood, a fur tassel on a hat, or a fur accessory all come from the skins of innocent animals who are killed in unimaginably barbaric ways. One need not delve deeply online to view the horrors of the fur trade.

Canada Goose traps coyotes and other animals who have the grave misfortune of stepping into an excruciating steel leg-hold clamp. The animals often first suffer hypothermia, severe blood loss, hunger and dehydration before being shot in the head or bludgeoned to death by trappers. Left suffering for days, defenseless animals often desperately try to gnaw off their own limb in order to free themselves. No better are body grip traps, which were developed to cause immediate death, but rarely work in such a way; these torture devices often leave a trapped animal in agony for hours or days. Water-set traps induce drowning, which can cause nearly ten minutes of panic and pain. Pole traps hoist the animal in the air by their trapped limb as they fight for their freedom; these animals suffer the same dreadful fate as those trapped for Canada Goose. Then there are traditional fur farms where animals are crammed into crowded and dirty cages and live their unnatural lives in constant fear, stress, pain, disease and other ailments until they are killed in the most torturous of ways, including anal electrocution, and being skinned alive so as not to damage their valuable pelts.

Those who attempt to justify these practices and killings as "humane" are at best kidding themselves but really are just lying to susceptible consumers for money—which often changes people's views of morality. Regardless, how can killing a living being who does not want to die ever be called "humane?" That their suffering and death is solely for the purpose of unnecessary decoration or a symbol of wealth is grotesque, particularly when beautiful, warm, synthetic alternatives exist. Besides, NYC is not exactly the arctic.

Some in the fur industry allege that faux fur is more harmful to the environment. This is an outdated industry talking point belied by facts. Animal fur cannot simply be sewn onto a jacket; it needs to be treated after the animal is skinned to keep the pelts from rotting and decaying because it is, after all, part of a dead body. Such treatment typically includes toxic dyes and chemicals that include ammonia, formaldehyde, hydrogen peroxide, chromium and bleaching agents. Disturbingly, many of the chemicals used are classified as toxic substances and carcinogens that pollute the air and our bodies. Consider too those fur farms, which produce upwards of 85% of fur; they are filthy warehouses that are akin to factory farms. Biological

waste builds up and pollutes nearby rivers and streams, wreaking havoc on marine life and animals who encounter that water, as well as potentially contaminate our drinking water.

With advanced technologies many faux fur designers are using innovative, eco-friendly, man-made products like hemp fibers and recycled fabrics. Companies operating with similar modalities are far better for the environment than those who manufacture animal fur, and vegan options are becoming increasingly mainstream.

For years now the fur industry has been on notice. Many top designers and retailers have spoken out against the cruelty of fur and pledged to never use or sell it again. Several cities have implemented fur bans. Anti-fur activism has proliferated throughout New York City. Merchants unwilling or unprepared for this change have nobody but themselves to blame.

New Yorkers stand together for the tens of millions of animals violently and callously murdered each year for a “fashion” statement. A recent Mason-Dixon poll indicated that 75% of New Yorkers support Intro. 1476. Council members have a choice:

Protect the mink with an electric rod jammed into her rectum, or the mink merchant who refused to even try cruelty-free alternatives?

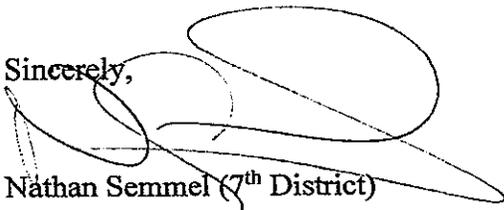
Protect the mother coyote trapped for days in a steel leg clamp, or the Canada Goose corporation trying to convince a generation that social status and projecting wealth is most important?

Protect the baby fox who has every inch of her skin peeled from her still living body, or the shop lying to its customers about it being “ethically sourced?”

Protect the rabbits jammed into filthy cages for their entire miserable lives, or the souvenir shop selling them as pom-poms on a hat or a key chain accessory?

Protecting the profiteers over the abused would be a dereliction of duty and contrary to the compassionate and progressive trend that is the hallmark of this body. Fur is inhumane and has no place in an evolving society. It is a symbol of cruelty in a world that sorely needs more empathy and compassion. Standing up against the oppression of innocent beings is, ultimately, the legacy for which we all should strive. Bravo, Speaker Johnson and all members who support Intro 1476.

Sincerely,


Nathan Semmel (7th District)

May 15, 2019

Dear Councilmembers:

Fashion has come a long way in recent years. A growing number of designers realize the negative impact the industry has had on animals and the environment and are taking steps to repair that damage. Luxurious, eco-friendly, and sustainable fur-like fabric not only exist, but are nearly indistinguishable from the skins of innocent animals.

That ability to ethically evolve, improve our practices, and be environmentally considerate, while causing the least amount of harm is the bedrock of a civilized society and something for which we must always strive. How could anyone justifiably condone a practice that profits off the torture and death of screaming animals, especially when cruelty-free alternatives readily exist?

The clothing we wear can make a statement without causing harm – just ask Versace, Gucci, Michael Kors, Armani, Tom Ford, Stella McCartney, and the growing list of other designers who have committed to fur-free fashion.

All these designers—and the 75% of New Yorkers who support this ban—know that fur—whether a coat or an accessory—comes from the bodies of innocent animals who were barbarically killed. Killing a living being who does not want to be killed is, by definition, inhumane. Period.

Many against this bill divert to the same argument: that no one has the right to push personal opinions onto anyone else. Where that logic falls apart, however, is when there are violent consequences like producing fur. I proudly join Speaker Johnson; my council person, Mark Levine; and the other council members who support this bill. I stand with the millions of animals callously murdered each year for a “fashion” statement who – aside from human greed and selfishness – could otherwise live full lives. For those opposed or undecided, I implore you to delve online and see the atrocities of the fur trade. View the horrors for yourself. New York City should never stand for or condone such violence. A vote against this ban is a vote for animal abuse and cruelty—and New York is better than that.

Sincerely,

Meredith Schriver, District 7

Christina Liew
2015 Shore Pkwy
Brooklyn, NY 11214

To: New York City Council
From: Christina Liew, constituent of District 43
Re: Intro 1476 Fur Ban

FOR THE RECORD

My name is Christina Liew and I live in Brooklyn. I am a constituent of council member Brannan.

I am here today to ask the city council to support Intro 1476, the bill that will ban the sale of fur in New York City.

Like the many people who stand before you in support of the ban, we can all agree that the fur industry is an outdated, cruel, bloody, and murderous industry that profits off the bodies of sentient animals. No animal should be forcibly bred and have their life taken away from them, all for the sake of a "fashion statement."

The reality of fur farms is that these animals live in deplorable conditions-- from the beginning of their life to the very last moment they are killed. There is nothing humane, ethical, or sustainable about using fur. There is nothing fashionable about an animal being skinned alive, anally electrocuted, drowned, or caught in snare traps.

The use of fur in fashion is unnecessary. So many high-end fashion designers like Burberry, Galliano, Versace, Michael Kors, Stella McCartney, Gucci, and others have turned their backs against the fur industry because they have realized the cruelty that goes into making fur. Many of these designers have realized that fashion today should be socially and environmentally responsible and have chosen ethics over cruelty. They are steering towards the future in an industry that does not include the unnecessary killing of an animal.

We need to stop the cruelty. We need to show empathy towards the suffering of these animals in the industry. There is no reason, in 2019, that as "progressive" New Yorkers, we are taking a step backwards by wearing cruelty where cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco have taken the advanced steps to ban the sale of fur.

Those that oppose the ban are only concerned about money. They are concerned that they will not be able to make a profit in an industry that kills and murders innocent animals. They are stuck in their old ways and refuse to acknowledge that new technology in fashion is creating other sustainable and alternative means to fur. My question for those who oppose the ban -- could you explain to your children what happens to the animals that are used for fur? Would you show them the graphic videos of animals being killed? How many of your children would be appalled by what happens to these animals?

As a society, people have lost their connection with most animals and have commodified them. Animals are treated as mere objects and considered "products." For those who have pets at home, do you consider your dog or cat as mere "objects?" Would you subject them to the conditions that the animals on fur farms face?

Thank you.

My name is Kirk Miller and I live in Central Harlem. My Council member is Bill Perkins and I urge him to support the bill to ban the sale of fur in New York City, Intro 1476.

Four hundred squirrels; two hundred and forty ermine; two hundred chinchillas; one hundred and twenty muskrats; eighty sable; sixty-five mink; fifty martens; thirty raccoons; twenty-two bobcats; twelve lynx; or five wolves. This is what it takes to make a single fur coat.

What is a life worth? The trim on your coat? Nothing? Or everything?

Over a billion mostly wild animals are killed every year for their fur. Most are raised in tiny cages with deplorable conditions where disease, self-mutilation, infanticide and other psychotic behaviors are commonplace. Others are trapped in the wild in painful traps, only to be electrocuted and skinned alive to preserve their fur. Those who insist that the animals are not suffering are spreading bald-faced lies in the interest of making a profit. To date, there are no laws protecting these animals.

This is not a religious issue. This is not an ethnic issue. This is not even a partisan issue. A recent Mason-Dixon poll shows that 75% of New Yorkers who agree with this bill are evenly split between conservatives and liberals.

This is an animal abuse issue. This is an environmental issue. Fur farms are huge polluters, dumping raw feces into lakes and rivers, along with formaldehyde, chromium, and cyanide-based finishes.

Thankfully, today, we have quality and affordable alternatives to wearing fur that involve little if no suffering and far less pollution. If we can prevent or diminish suffering and waste, then why the hell not? If we can transition to more compassionate fashion, why wouldn't we? The bottom line is: there is no excuse.

May 15, 2019

Heather Greenhouse, 786 Jefferson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221
Council Member Alick Ampry-Samuel

Testimony in support of Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur in NYC

Hi, I'm Heather Greenhouse and I am on the Board of Voters For Animal Rights. I am going to address some of the many outright lies the fur industry relies on to defend their brutal business. One such lie - "fur is sustainable" - was ruled as false advertising by several European countries, and they are prohibited from making that claim in many places. The truth is that fur is toxic and unnatural. To prevent the skin from rotting, they use toxic chemicals which are among the world's top 5 worst for toxic-metal pollution. They pollute the air with greenhouse gases, water with ammonia and phosphorus, and rely almost entirely on fossil fuels. There's also nothing natural about forcefully breeding wild animals, confining them to barren cages, and denying them every single natural instinct before gruesomely murdering them through anal or vaginal electrocution.

Another popular mistruth they're spreading here in NYC is that this bill would cause severe job loss. Animal-killing fur industry jobs represent only 0.5% of fashion jobs in NYC and their skills are transferable to ethical materials. Regardless, fur is a bloody, barbaric business that future generations will look back in horror and shame. All industries continuously evolve for ethical, environmental, and economic reasons and this is no different. They have a choice to move with the times or remain in the dark ages. The grandiose claims of job loss are ridiculous when the real issues are ethics, morality, progress, and innovation. There is no excuse. We know better. They're on the wrong side of history and they know it. Only greed and profits drive them, but we have the truth and we are fighting for justice. The passing of Intro 1476 would represent a huge step in the right direction for NYC to show that we as ethical and progressive a city as we claim to be.

Pass the Bill!

Thank you Honorable City Council members for holding these hearings

+ Thank you Corey Johnson for introducing this important bill.

Note: The overwhelming majority (75%) of NYC voters support banning the sale of fur apparel in the city!

Making a profit off of suffering & cruelty is never in Fashion!

There are so many ethical alternatives!

-1- Support Fur Ban: Intro: 1476 From: Laurie Jordan District: 24
Wed. 4/15/19
Meth: TALKING POINTS - Arguments Against Fur

1. Furriers say real fur is more sustainable, natural, less harmful to the environment than faux fur.

Fact: After a fur-bearing animal is slaughtered in the a most barbaric way, the skins are treated w/ chemicals to keep them from rotting + decomposing. According to the world BANK the hazardous process of fur dressing is so problematic that the fur industry is now ranked as one of the world's 5 worse industries for toxic metal pollution.

Fur is natural. Yes, natural on the animal!

Meth:

2. Furriers say fur-bearing animals are treated well, fed properly, + vet-treated.

Fact: There are no federal laws to protect animals on U.S. fur farms. 85% of furs come from animals that were held captive on fur-factory farms in crowded, filthy, wire cages. These animals were later beaten, anally electrocuted or skinned alive.

Furthermore, there are no penalties for animal abusers in China which is the world's largest exporter of furs, supplying millions of dollars of finished fur garments to the U.S.

Additionally there is a thriving dog + cat fur industry, in which fur is often mislabeled →

FOR THE RECORD

-2-

and exported to unsuspecting consumers around the world. Imagine your kitten being skinned alive!

3. Furriers say there is no danger of extinction of fur-bearing animals

Fact: This is because they ^{artificially} breed them for profit on fur-factory farms.

Myth: 4. Fur animals are slaughtered humanely.

Fact: Electrocuting fur-bearing animals orally + genitally is an agonizing slaughter method used frequently to limit damage to the fur. My state is the first state to have banned this inhumane cruel ~~method~~ practice.

Myth: 5. The fur industry does not harm the environment.

Fact: Fur farms produce millions of lbs of feces on US mink farms alone. One dangerous component of this waste is nearly 1,000 tons of phosphorus which pollutes nearby rivers + streams.

Myth: 6. The steel-jaw trap is an effective way to trap fur-bearing animals.

Fact: The Am. Vet. Medical Ass calls the steel jaw trap completely inhumane, but it is the most widely used trap. It's been banned by the European Union + a growing # of US states!

Needlessly many animals including companion animals, cats + dogs are "accidentally" caught in these heinous contraptions! They bite off their limbs in an attempt to escape.

Myth: 7. Fur is ~~a~~ necessary + warmest ^{the} garment.

Fact: Nonsense. With all the technology we have today in producing warm clothing + garments there is no excuse to wear real fur.

It is outdated + un-necessary + Not Fashionable.

From an aesthetic point of view why wear a bulky garment, (produced in the cruelest of conditions) which doesn't flatter most figures; when fitted, tailored items look so much better. Ironic isn't it??

The fur industry would have you believe it's your choice whether or not to wear fur.

In this instance they're right.

Get the facts. Then make the right choice!
Don't buy fur. Support the ban!

I am a teacher, YOGA Instructor, animal advocate, wife + mother who implores you to do the right thing + pass Bill 1476 to Ban the fur trade!!

As a young model living in NY I was
sent to a Go-See which turned out to be
a fur modelling job. Before I even understood the
 ramifications of the fur industry I knew it
didn't feel right and refused the job to the chagrin
of my agent.

FOR THE RECORD

Name: Garry Zeltser
Subject: Intro 1476
Position: In favor of the ban

Good morning,

My name is Garry Zeltser and I live in Sheepshead Bay in Council Member Chaim Deutch's district. I urge him to support this bill.

My statement today will come from the perspective of Judaism.

My wife and I are both Orthodox Jews. Within Judaism, there is a prohibition of what's called Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayim. This law bans the unnecessary suffering of animals.

I have seen many videos of how fur products are produced. In case you are not aware, the practice includes skinning the animal alive so the fur slides off their flesh easier. Their limbs are broken with blunt objects to ensure the person removing their flesh is safe from any scratches. There is no anesthesia. The animals are completely conscious. The fur trade practice is depraved and sadistic. This is in direct violation of our Jewish values and laws.

Although several council members are on board with creating a religious exemption of the sale of fur, I had heard of a concern from one of the council members that this ban would further ignite antisemitic attacks on Jews in the city who wear shtreimels which is the fur head covering typically worn by some married Jewish men. The dawning of this head piece is what we call a minhag, otherwise known as a custom. We are a people who hold dearly to our past in order to preserve our future so I can understand why customs within our community are almost never broken.

But my response to the possible escalation of antisemitism from this ban is as follows - Let us be sincere and acknowledge that a Jew will be hated whether he has a shtreimel, a yamakah, or a baseball cap on. I have seen footage of Jews with shtreimels and no shtreimels attacked in this city before this legislation was put up for a vote. Antisemites could care less about what kind of head piece we have on.

My compassion is not just for the animals but also for the businesses that will be affected by this legislation. Economic mitigation should awarded to those who will be affected by this ban.

When you vote for this legislation, think beyond the money. Remember the lives whose limbs were broken when they stepped foot on bear traps for their initial capture and whose flesh was stolen from their bodies while they were still breathing. These victims could not be here today and speak for themselves.

Thank you for allowing us to be here on their behalf and voice our support of the banning of fur.

FOR THE RECORD

Dear Councilman Cornegy,

I am a constituent in your district and an Fashion Institute of Technology graduate. I have been in the New York City fashion industry for over 15 years and I'm here to tell you that the fashion industry DO NOT WANT FUR! In fact in a recent citywide survey, conducted by Mason-Dixon, found that 74% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans and 79% of independents support the ban.

The faux fur movement has well surpassed the real fur of your parents generation. Faux fur is much more eco friendly now with companies using and developing faux fur that has been made from recycled plastic bottles and hemp (Ecopel & Unreal Fur). Because it comes on a roll, like fabric there is less waste, less time spent cutting and a lot more upcycling. Upcycling in fashion refers to buying overstock fabric from designers with excess. This is a huge trend right now in fashion and many brands are relying on this eco friendly method as their sole source of fabric.

And now with higher quality faux fur available, designers like Pelush, Maison Atia, and House of Fluff have brought a new light to the luxury faux fur industry while continuing the made in New York City brand. ~~As you can see from my swatches the faux fur~~ ^{Faux Fur} requires a skilled hand to craft into a garment. I don't take a production lot of faux fur to a shirting factory or a pants factory. I take it to a craftsman that can both cut and sew it properly. And when fur is banned in NYC I will take it to the craftsmen of a fur factory. I will argue that the same machines used now to cut and sew fur can be used to craft other clothing and accessories. With the midtown garment center shrinking, there are plenty of designers who are looking for production houses in the city. With a slight pivot the fur factories can easily be adapted to other garment manufacturing. When smoking was banned in NYC, people thought the bars and clubs would suffer. They are thriving. People thought the tobacco farmers would suffer, they are growing soybeans. People adapt. Businesses adapt. We are a country of moving forward, at least up until recently, I thought so, and we can not keep this inhumane, archaic and frivolous practice alive in the capital of the world. We as New Yorkers must stand up for what's right!

London has banned fur in their city and runway, San Francisco, Los Angeles, West Hollywood, Sao Paulo, Brazil to name a few. Designers that have stopped using fur are Gucci, Armani, Tom Ford, Versace, Burberry, Margiela, Furla. American designers that run the NY fashion economy who also stopped the use of fur Tommy Hilfiger, Ralph Lauren, Coach, Michael Kors, Calvin Klein, Diane Von Furstenberg, Donna Karan- DKNY, New York and company, Kate Spade, Victoria's Secret, Norma Kamali, Phillip Lim, Rebecca Taylor, Hugo Boss, Betsey Johnson, William Rast, John Varvatos, Ann Taylor, North Face, Gap, Guess, Club Monaco, Henri Bendel, Steve Madden, Edun, SDN Brooklyn, Sincerely Tommy of Bed- Stuy. Attached is a list of close to 400 designers and US retailers that no longer use fur. We, your people, call on you to do what's right! Thank you for your time,

ELizabeth Corrado

██████ Halsey st. Brooklyn, NY 11233

Major Fur Free Designers

Kate Spade - 1993 (since inception)
Calvin Klein - 1994
Bottega Veneta - 2001
Stella McCartney - 2001 (since inception)
Vivienne Westwood - 2007
Tommy Hilfiger - 2007
Ralph Lauren - 2007
Victoria Beckham - 2008 (since inception)
Lacoste - 2014
Armani - 2016
Hugo Boss - 2016
Maggie Marilyn - 2016 (since inception)
Gucci - 2017
Michael Kors - 2017
Furla - 2018
Versace - 2018
Donna Karan New York - 2018
Maison Margiela (John Galliano) - 2018
Burberry - 2018
Diane von Furstenberg (DVF) - 2018
Coach - 2018
Gaultier - 2018
3.1 Phillip Lim - 2019

Fur Free US retailers

A

2RU2RA <http://2ru2ra.com>
 ABERCROMBIE & FITCH <http://www.abercrombie.com/>
 ACTIVEWEARUSA.COM <http://www.activewearusa.com>
 ADATYTE <http://www.adatyte.com>
 ADOLFO DOMINGUEZ <http://www.adolfodominguez.com>
 AERIE www.aerie.com/aerie-swimwear/
 AÉROPOSTALE <http://www.aeropostale.com/>
 AHINSA SHOES <http://ahinsashoes.cz>
 ALBERT NIPON www.neimanmarcus.com
 ALEXANDRA K <http://www.alexandrak.co>
 ALLOY <https://www.alloyapparel.com>
 AMANDA PEARL <https://amandapearl.com>
 AMERICAN APPAREL <http://www.americanapparel.net/>
 AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS <https://www.ae.com>
 ANGELROX <https://angelrox.com>
 ANN TAYLOR <https://www.anntaylor.com>
 ANNE KLEIN NEW YORK <http://www.anneklein.com/>
 ARCADIA GROUP <https://www.arcadiagroup.co.uk>
 ARMANI <https://www.armani.com/us/armanicom>
 ASHLEY WATSON <https://www.ashleywatson.co.uk/shop/>
 ASOS <http://us.asos.com>
 ATHLETA <http://athleta.gap.com/>
 ATSIKELI IR VARAI <http://atsikelirvarai.lt>
 AZALEA <https://www.azaleasf.com>

B

BAHAR SHAHPAR <http://baharshahpar.com/current/>
 BANANA REPUBLIC <http://bananarepublic.gap.com/>
 BANDOLINO <http://www.bandolino.com>
 BARACUTA <http://baracuta.com/>
 BASS <https://bassshoes.harborghb.com/>
 BEALLS <https://www.beallsflorida.com>
 BEBE <http://www.bebe.com>
 BENETTON <http://www.benettongroup.com/>
 BERGANS OF NORWAY <https://www.bergans.com>
 BESTSELLER www.bestseller.com
 BETSEY JOHNSON <https://www.betseyjohnson.com>
 BETTIE PAGE CLOTHING <https://www.bettiepage.com>
 BEYOND SKIN <http://www.beyond-skin.com>
 BHS <https://www.bhs.com>
 BIANCA <https://www.bianca.de/en/>
 BILLABONG https://us.billabong.com/global_home.htm
 BLACK N BIANCO <https://www.blacknbianco.com>
 BONGO <https://www.bongo.com>
 BOSTON PROPER <https://www.bostonproper.com>
 BOTTEGA VENETA <https://www.bottegabeneta.com/us>
 BULWARK <http://www.bulwark.com>
 BURTON MENSWEAR www.burton.co.uk

BURTON SNOWBOARDS <http://www.burton.com>

C

C & C CALIFORNIA <https://www.candcalifornia.com>
 CALLAWAY GOLF <http://cmp.callawaygolf.com>
 CALVIN KLEIN <http://www.calvinklein.com>
 CARHARTT <http://www.carhartt.com>
 CATHERINES <https://www.catherines.com>
 CCS <https://shop.ccs.com>
 CHAMPS SPORTS <http://www.champssports.com/>
 CHAPS <http://www.chaps.com/>
 CHARLIE & LEE <https://www.charlieandlee.com>
 CHARLOTTE RONSON <http://charlotteronson.com>
 CHARLOTTE RUSSE <http://www.charlotterusse.com>
 CHERRY BERRY <http://cherryberrystores.com>
 CHICO'S <http://www.chicos.com/store/home.jsp>
 CHRISSEY'S KNEE HIGH SOCKS <http://www.kneehighsocks.org>
 CHRISTOPHER RAE BURN <https://www.christopheraeburn.co.uk>
 CLAE <https://www.clae.com>
 CLAESENS <https://claesens.com>
 COLLECTIVE COLLAPSE CLOTHING <http://www.collectivecollapse.cz/shop/>

CLOTHING UNDER 10 www.clothingunder10.com
 CLUB MONACO <http://www.clubmonaco.com/home/index.jsp>
 COLDWATER CREEK <http://www.coldwatercreek.com/>
 COLE HAAN <http://www.colehaan.com>
 CONVERSE, INC. <http://www.converse.com/>
 CREEM COLLECTION <http://creemcollection.com>
 CRI DE COEUR <https://cridecoeur.myshopify.com>
 CUBAVERA <https://www.cubavera.com>

D

DAVID JONES www.davidjones.com
 DAVID LAWRENCE <https://www.davidlawrence.com.au>
 D.C. SHOES <http://www.dcschoes.com>
 DALIA MACPHEE <http://www.dalaonline.com>
 DELIA'S CLOTHING <http://www.deliasclothing.com>
 DELIKATE RAYNE <https://www.delikaterayne.com>
 DEMA <http://www.godemago.com>
 DEUTER <http://www.deuter.com/DE/en/>
 DIESEL <http://shop.diesel.com>
 DISTYLED <http://distyled.it>
 DOCKERS www.Dockers.com
 DODIPETTO <http://www.dodipetto.it>
 DOLLHOUSE <http://www.dollhouse.com>
 DONNA SALYERS' FABULOUS-FURS <http://fabulousfurs.com/>
 DRESS BARN <http://www.dressbarn.com/>
 DUCKIE BROWN <http://www.duckiebrown.com>

E

EAGLE CREEK <http://www.eaglecreek.com>
 EASTBAY <http://www.eastbay.com/>
 EASTPAK <https://www.eastpak.com/oc-en/>
 EASY SPIRIT <http://www.easyspirit.com/>
 ECOGANIK <http://www.faeniesdance.com/brands/ecoganik.html>

ECOSKIN <https://www.ecoskincollections.com>
ED HARDY <https://www.edhardyoriginals.com>
EDDIE BAUER <http://www.eddiebauer.com>
EDUN <https://edun.com>
EILEEN FISHER <https://www.eileenfisher.com>
ELAN INTERNATIONAL <https://www.elan-usa.com/>
ELISE BALLEGEER <https://eliseballegeer.com>
ELEMENT <http://www.elementsclothing.com/>
ELLA MOSS <http://www.ellamoss.com>
ENCORE BALLROOM COUTURE <https://encoreballroomcouture.com>
ESPRIT www.esprit.com/
SHOP ETHICA <http://www.shopethica.com>
EVANS <http://www.evansusa.com/?geop=home>
EXPRESS <http://www.express.com/>

F

FABULOUS-FURS <http://fabulousfurs.com/>
FARFETCH <https://www.farfetch.com>
FARAH <https://www.farah.co.uk>
FASHION BUG www.fashionbug.com/
FJALLRAVEN <https://www.fjallraven.us>
FOOT LOCKER <http://www.footlocker.com/>
FOOTACTION <http://www.footaction.com/>
FOREVER 21 <http://www.forever21.com>
FORMAT <http://www.format-favorites.de/cms/>
FREE PEOPLE <https://www.freepeople.com>
FTLA APPAREL <https://www.ftlaapparel.com>

G

G-LISH FASHIONS <https://g-ish.myshopify.com>
G-STAR RAW https://www.g-star.com/en_us
GANT <http://us.gant.com/>
GAP <http://www.gap.com>
GARY HARVEY ECO Gary Harvey Eco
GEOX <http://www.geox.com/en/>
GIRL STAR <http://www.pery.com/girlstar.asp>
GLO JEANS GLO Jeans (Jones Group)
GLORIA VANDERBILT www.jcpenney.com
GOODY'S Goody's
GOTCHA <http://www.gotcha.com/shop.asp>
GRAND SLAM <http://grand-slam.com/>
GRANE <http://www.zazzle.com/grane+accessories>
GRAPE CAT <https://www.grapecat.com>
GUNAS <http://www.gunasthebrand.com/>
GUCCI https://www.gucci.com/nl/en_gb/
GUESS <http://shop.guess.com/en/>

H

H&M <http://www.hm.com/us/>
HARD TAIL <http://www.hardtailforever.com/>
HAVANERA <http://www.havanera.com>
HELLY HANSEN <https://www.hellyhansen.com>
HENDRICK BRUN <http://www.hendrickbrun.com/>
HENRI BENDEL <http://www.henribendel.com/>

HILFIGER DENIM <http://uk.tommy.com/>
HILFIGER SPORT <http://usa.tommy.com/>
HOLLISTER CO. www.hollisterco.com/
HONOLUA SURF CO. <http://honoluasurf.com/>
HOWIES <http://www.howies.co.uk/>
HSN <http://www.hsn.com/>
HUGO BOSS <https://www.hugoboss.com/us/>
HURLEY INTERNATIONAL LLC www.hurley.com

I

ICONIX <http://www.iconixbrand.com>
IDO <https://www.ido.it/world/>
IMPOSTER <http://www.imposter4animals.com/>
IPATH www.ipath.com
IRIS IMPRESSIONS <http://insimpressions.com>
IRON FIST <http://www.ironfist.co.uk/>
ISLAND IMPORTER <http://www.islandimporter.com/>
IZOD <http://izod.com/>

J

J CREW <https://www.jcrew.com>
J JILL <https://shop.jill.com>
JACK SPADE <http://www.jackspade.com/>
JAG <http://jagfashion.com/>
JANSPORT <http://www.jansport.com>
JANTZEN <http://www.jantzen.com/>
JAY MCCARROLL <http://www.jaymccarrollonline.com/>
JCPENNEY <http://www.jcpenney.com/>
JIGSAW <https://www.jigsaw-online.com>
JILL MILAN <https://www.jillmilan.com>
JIMMY Z <http://jimmyzworld.com>
JOHN BARTLETT <http://www.johnbartlettny.com>
JOHN HENRY <http://www.nextag.com/john-henry-clothing/products.html>
JOHN VARVATOS <http://www.johnvarvatos.com/>
JONES NEW YORK <http://www.jny.com>
JUICY COUTURE <http://www.juicycouture.com/>

K

KAIGHT <https://kaightshop.com>
KAREN WALKER <https://www.karenwalker.com>
KATE SPADE <http://www.katespade.com/>
KEEPSAKES ETC <https://www.keepsakes-etc.com>
KENNETH COLE NEW YORK <http://www.kennethcole.com/>
KENSIE GIRL <http://kensie.com/>
KILLAH www.yoax.com
KIMBERLY OVITZ <http://www.kimberlyovitz.com/>
KIND CLOTH <http://www.clothandkind.com>
KIND OWL <https://www.thekindowl.com>
KILLAH <http://store.killah.com/ITA/it-IT>
KIPLING <http://www.kipling-usa.com>
KLONE LAB <http://klonelab.com/site/>
KOMODO <https://komodo.online>

LEI <http://www.leifashion.com>
LA SENZA <https://www.lasenza.com>
LACOSTE <http://www.lacoste.com/>
LA DRESS BY SIMONE <https://www.ladress.com>
LANDS' END <http://www.landsend.com/>
LANE BRYANT <http://www.lanebryant.com/>
RALPH LAUREN <http://www.ralphlauren.com>
LARA MILLER <http://www.laramiller.net/index.asp>
LEANNE MARSHALL <http://www.leannemarshall.com>
LEE <https://www.lee.com>
LEVI'S <http://us.levi.com/>
LILLA P <http://www.lillap.com>
LILLY PULITZER <http://www.lilypulitzer.com/>
LINDEE <https://www.lindee.com/uk/>
LOIS JEANS <http://en.loisjeanstore.com>
LUCKY BRAND <http://www.luckybrand.com/>
LUCY <http://www.lucy.com>
LULU'S.COM <http://www.lulus.com/>
LULULEMON ATHLETICA <https://shop.lululemon.com>
LUR <http://lurapparel.com>

M

MADEWELL <http://www.madewell.com/index.jsp>
MAGGIE MARILYN <https://maggiemarilyn.com>
MAJESTIC ATHLETIC <https://www.majesticathletic.com>
MALAN BRETON <https://www.malanbreton.com>
MARC'S <https://www.marcs.com.au/Marcs-home.html>
MARCIANO <http://guessbymarciano.guess.com/>
MARMOT <http://marmot.com/>
MATT AND NAT <http://www.mattandnat.com/>
MAVERICK APPAREL <http://www.maverickapparel.com>
MAURICES <http://www.maurices.com>
MEMDALET CLOTHING <https://www.memdalet.com>
MEXX <http://www.mexx.com/en/campaign>
MISS ME <http://www.missme.com/>
MISS SELFRIDGE <http://us.missselfridge.com/?geop=home>
MISS SIXTY <http://www.missixty.com/>
MODA EXPRESS <https://www.modaexpressonline.com/index.asp>
MODAVANTI <http://modavanti.com>
MONTRAIL FOOTWEAR <http://www.montrail.com/>
MOUNTAIN HARDWEAR <http://www.mountainhardwear.com/>
MR PORTER <https://www.mrporter.com>
MUNSINGWEAR <http://www.musingwear.com/>
MURPHY & NYE <http://store.murphynye.com/>
MYER <https://m.myer.com.au/shop/mobile/mystore>

N

NAPAPIJRI <http://www.napapijri.com/us/>
NATURAL ISSUE <http://www.natural-issue.com/>
NATURESVILLE <http://naturesville.com.sg/>
NATUREVSFUTURE <http://naturevsfuture.myshopify.com/>
NAUTICA <http://www.nautica.com/home/index.jsp>

NET-A-PORTER <https://www.net-a-porter.com/us/en/>
NEUAURA <http://www.neuaurashoes.com>
NEW LOOK <http://www.newlook.com/uk/womens?selectCountry=true>
NEW YORK & COMPANY <http://www.nyandcompany.com/nyco/>
NIKE <http://store.nike.com/>
NINE WEST <http://www.ninewest.com/>
NORTH FACE <https://www.thenorthface.com>
NORTHSTYLE <https://www.northstyle.com>
NORTHCOUNTRY CATALOG <http://www.coldwatercreek.com/>
NSF CLOTHING <http://nsfclothing.com/>

O

OAKLEY <http://www.oakley.com>
O BAG <https://obag.us.com>
OBERMEYER <http://www.obermeyer.com/>
ODD MOLLY <https://www.oddmolly.com>
OLD NAVY <http://oldnavy.gap.com/>
OLSEN HAUS <https://www.olsenhaus.com>
ORGANIC BY JOHN PARTRICK <https://www.organicbyjohnpatrick.com>
ORIGINAL PENGUIN BY MUNSINGWEAR <https://www.originalpenguin.com>
OUTFIT <http://www.outfitfashion.com>
OVERSTOCK.COM <http://www.overstock.com/>

P

PALAIS ROYAL <http://www.palaisroyal.com/>
PAPAYA <http://www.papayaclothing.com/>
PATAGONIA <http://www.patagonia.com/home/>
PAYLESS SHOESOURCE <http://www.payless.com/>
PEEBLES <http://www.stagestoresinc.com>
PERRY ELLIS AMERICA <http://www.perryellis.com/>
PGA TOUR <https://www.pgatour.com>
PINNED BY K <http://pinnedbyk.com>
POLO JEANS CO <https://www.ralphlauren.com>
PRANA <http://www.prana.com>

Q

QUIKSILVER INC <http://www.quiksilver.com>

R

RAIN TEES <https://www.raintees.com>
RALPH LAUREN <http://www.ralphlauren.com/>
REBECCA TAYLOR <http://www.rebeccataylor.com>
RED KAP <http://redkap.com>
REEF <http://www.reef.com>
RICHLU <http://www.richlu.com>
RO & CO. <http://www.roandcompany.com/>
ROBERT RODRIGUEZ <http://robertrodriguezcollection.com/>
ROXY <http://www.roxy.com>
RUGBY <http://www.ralphlauren.com/>

S

SAMUEL DONG <https://www.samueldongus.com>
SARABANDA https://www.sarabanda.it/en_us/world/

SAVANE <http://savane.com>
SAVE THE DUCK <https://savetheduckusa.com>
SDN BROOKLYN <http://sdnbrooklyn.com>
SEARS <http://www.sears.com>
SELFRIDGES <http://www.selfridges.com/US/en/>
SHEILA FRANK <https://www.sheilafrank.com>
SHERRI HILL <https://www.sherrihill.com>
SHOESCRIBE.COM <http://www.shoescribe.com/fashion/goodbye>
SIERRA TRADING POST <https://www.sierratradingpost.com>
SISLEY <http://www.sisley.com/>
SIXTY DISTRIBUTION <http://www.sixtydistribution.com>
SMAK PARLOUR <https://www.smakparlour.com>
SMART WOOL <http://www.smartwool.com>
SOLANDRIA <https://www.storevy.com/stores/B42601-solandria>
SPLENDID <http://www.splendid.com/>
SPOILED BRAT <https://www.spoiledbrat.co.uk>
STAGE <http://www.stagestores.com/>
SAVANE <http://savane.com>
SAVE THE DUCK <https://savetheduckusa.com>
SDN BROOKLYN <http://sdnbrooklyn.com>
SEARS <http://www.sears.com>

SELFRIDGES <http://www.selfridges.com/US/en/>
SHEILA FRANK <https://www.sheilafrank.com>
SHERRI HILL <https://www.sherrihill.com>
SHOESCRIBE.COM <http://www.shoescribe.com/fashion/goodbye>
SIERRA TRADING POST <https://www.sierratradingpost.com>
SISLEY <http://www.sisley.com/>
SIXTY DISTRIBUTION <http://www.sixtydistribution.com>
SMAK PARLOUR <https://www.smakparlour.com>
SMART WOOL <http://www.smartwool.com>
SOLANDRIA <https://www.storevy.com/stores/B42601-solandria>
SPLENDID <http://www.splendid.com/>
SPOILED BRAT <https://www.spoiledbrat.co.uk>
STAGE <http://www.stagestores.com/>
STEIN MART <https://www.steinmart.com>
STELLA MCCARTNEY <https://www.stellamccartney.com/us>
STEVE MADDEN <https://www.stevemadden.com>
STEWART + BROWN <http://stewartbrown.com/comingsoon/>
SUGARLIPS <http://www.sugarlips.com/>
SUPERDRY <https://www.superdry.com/us/>
SVALA <https://svala.co>

T

TALBOTS <http://www.talbots.com/>
TATANIA INGLIS <http://www.taniainglis.com>
TED BAKER <http://www.tedbaker.com>
THE GAP <http://www.gap.com/>
THE HAVANERA <http://www.havanera.com/>
THE LIMITED <http://www.thelimited.com/>
THE NORTH FACE <https://www.thenorthface.com>
THE ICONIC <https://www.theiconic.com.au>
THE OUTNET <https://www.theoutnet.com/en-US/>

THREE DOTS <http://www.threedots.com>
THREE STONES <http://www.threestones.com/>
TIGERLILY <http://tigerlily-usa.com/>
TIMBERLAND <www.timberland.com/>
TOBI <http://www.tobi.com>
TODD OLDHAM <https://www.toddoldhamstudio.com/lee>
TOM BIHN <https://www.tombihn.com>
TOMS <http://www.toms.com>
TOMMY HILFIGER <http://usa.tommy.com/en>
TOPMAN <http://us.topman.com/?geop=home>
TOP SHOP <http://us.topshop.com/?geop=home>
TROVATA <https://www.trovata.com>
TRUE RELIGION <http://www.truereligion.com>
TUNDRA GEAR <https://tundragear.com>

U

UMBRO <http://www.umbro.com/choose/>
UNDERCOLORS <https://us.benetton.com>
UNIQLO <https://www.uniqlo.com/us/en/home/>
UNLISTED BY KENNETH COLE <https://www.kennethcole.com>
URBAN OUTFITTERS <http://www.urbanoutfitters.com/>

V

VAN HEUSEN <https://vanheusen.com>
VANS <https://www.vans.com>
VAUTE COUTURE <http://vautecouture.com/>
VAVA BY JOY HAN <http://voombijoyhan.com>
VELU FUR <https://velufur.com/>
VERSACE <https://www.versace.com>
VICTORIA'S SECRET <http://www.victoriassecret.com/>
VIVIENNE WESTWOOD <http://www.viviennewestwood.com/en-gb>
VONZIPPER <https://us.vonzipper.com>
VOOM BY JOY HAN <https://us.vonzipper.com>

W

WALLIS <http://www.wallisfashion.com/?geop=home>
WEATHERPROOF GARMENT COMPANY <http://www.weatherproofgarment.com/>
WET SEAL <http://www.wetseal.com/>
WHITE HOUSE/BLACK MARKET <http://www.whitehouseblackmarket.com/>
WILLIAM RAST <https://www.williamrast.com>
WRANGLER <https://www.wrangler.com>

X

XCVI <https://www.xcvi.com>

Y

YMI JEANSWEAR <https://www.ymijeans.com/>
YOOX NET-A-PORTER GROUP <https://www.yoopx.com/us/women>

Z

ZAPPOS.COM <www.zappos.com>
ZARA <https://www.zara.com>
ZUMIEZ <http://www.zumiez.com>

My name is Felicia Greenfield. I'm an UES mom, Keith Powers constituent, and I'm here to speak for those who don't have a voice

In the 80's, my mother worked in the fur industry. It seemed wrong, but if my mom was doing it, I figured it couldn't have been that bad.

Then I grew up.

It is incumbent upon every person, especially those with your power to directly affect so many lives, to question everything. With the advent of the internet, we can no longer say 'we didn't know it was wrong.'

The excessive physical and emotional cruelty inflicted on hundreds of thousands of sentient lives for the sole purpose of making a profit is disgusting and beneath the dignity of any decent human being. The Greatest City in the World can no longer allow this.

I have spent hours over the last week on social media reading posts by the fur-industry. With complete honesty I can say that I did not find one reasonable argument against this ban.

The end of a family dynasty? My family's electronics business, started by my grandfather after WW2 shuttered 10 years ago, because we didn't keep up with the times. We moved on.

Job loss? These textile skills are transferrable - and we're in one of the fashion capitals of the world! Do what you do, with any material that does not bleed.

Plastic in faux fur? A. Greatly exaggerated. B. Many of us would never even wear fake fur.

Freedom of choice? A. You're forgetting about the animals' choice B. Your choice is devastating to our environment C. Laws - by definition regulate the actions of a community's members (see smoking ban, plastic bag ban, loud music ban, et al). D. If your choice requires the murder of innocent lives - it needs to be taken from you.

Let me finally point out that every single person here from the fur industry is representing only what is best for themselves. Those of us here to help the helpless have nothing to personally gain – we have given our entire day just to implore you to make the only right, moral, and just decision - for the greater good.

Tsa'ar bal'ai hayim y no hay excusa para maltrato animales

Felicia Greenfield

100 E 61st Street

New York, NY 10065

FOR THE RECORD

Hi my name is Leanne Mai-ly Hilgart. I live in District 34, and I just wanted to say THANK YOU to my council member Antonio Reynoso for co-sponsoring this bill to ban the sale of fur in NYC!

This is a very special day to me. When I was 6 years old, a girl down the street got a rabbit fur coat for christmas. I didn't know anything then about anal electrocution, fur farms, or that it took 40 lives to make a fur coat. But I was friends with the rabbits in my neighborhood, and I knew that many like them had lost their lives for this coat. It was hard for me to understand how, and at 10 I used my social studies fair report to research fur farming - what I found was so awful, that I knew I needed to dedicate my life to saving animals from industrial cruelty.

So ten years ago I started VAUTE, a pioneer vegan fashion brand, to make winter coats warm enough for a Chicago winter without the use of any animal materials (also sewn in NYC!). I filled our coats with high-tech textiles like Primaloft ECO that keep astronauts and arctic explorers warm, so that there is no reason for innocent animals to lose their lives for fashion. There have been many amazing cruelty-free winter coat companies that have followed since then.

While still many people have no idea how a fur coat is made, or how many lives are lost so tragically- as people have become educated the demand for ethical fashion has begin to grow intensely. 50% of Americans prefer responsible brands and 2/3 of Millennials do. Plus a recent study shows 9.3 million "vegan fashion" social impressions over a 12 month period (Lyst).

I understand there is concern for the workers who currently make fur as a living. Fortunately- as fur-making declines, this new type of luxury fashion, ethical fashion, prioritizes local and living wage production. Ethical fashion doesn't just include making things cruelty-free or good for the environment, but also often prioritizes making apparel locally, supporting our city's garment district & artisans with living wage jobs - as my label has for several years.

When I was 18 I participated in my first Fur Free Friday, and it is so exciting to be here today. The world is ready for the new era in fashion - where we are creating good through our industrial systems, using business to make the world a better place, not murdering 40 animals per coat. As a leader in the world, it's time for NYC to ban the sale of fur- and begin the end of this barbaric outdated industry to usher in a new era of ethical standards in fashion.

District 34 Williamsburg
Leanne Mai-ly Hilgart
email: leanne@VauteCouture.com

THANK YOU COUNCIL SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON FOR SPONSORING THE BILL TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF FUR APPAREL IN NEW YORK CITY AND TO ALL WHO HAVE SUPPORTED IT.

MY NAME IS ELIZABETH ARGIBAY AND I REPRESENT TOTAL LIBERATION NEW YORK, AN ORGANIZATION WHO'S COMMITTED TO SHINING A LIGHT ON THE EXPLOITATION AND OPPRESSION OF ANIMALS, GIVING THEM A VOICE AND COMING TO THEIR DEFENSE.

MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS OF ANIMALS ARE MURDERED NEEDLESSLY BY CRUEL AND BARBARIC MEANS EACH YEAR ONLY TO END UP LITTLE, UNRECOGNIZABLE BITS OF FUR TO LATER BE STITCHED TOGETHER AND SOLD FOR PROFIT AS: FUR TRIM, HATS, COATS, NOVELTY ITEMS OR OTHER USELESS TRINKETS.

WHILE THERE ARE COUNTER ARGUMENTS THAT TRY TO INTRODUCE CULTURE, FASHION OR TRADITION AS A VALID EXCUSE TO THIS CONVERSATION - THESE ARGUMENTS LACK ACTUAL REASON. LET US PAUSE AND CONSIDER WHERE WE'D BE TODAY IF WE STOOD BY SILENTLY AND DID NOTHING IN THE NAME OF PROGRESS BASED ON THESE REASONS ALONE?

THERE APPEARS TO BE A DISCONNECT AND UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT ANY FORM OF CHANGE OR TO EXPERIMENT IN NEW TECHNOLOGY/ SUSTAINABLE FABRICS. PERHAPS ITS HAVING NO VISION FOR A CRUELTY-FREE FUTURE. **IS THAT REALLY WHAT WE WANT?!** THIS IS A COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE MODEL FOR NEW YORK CITY, ESPECIALLY WHEN NEW YORKERS ARE CALLING OUT FOR A COMPASSIONATE AND HUMANE CITY.

WEST HOLLYWOOD, SAN FRANCISCO, LA AND BERKLEY ARE ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A GROWING TREND OF FORWARD THINKING CITIES IN THE U.S. TO BAN THE SALE OF FUR. NEW YORK **MUST** BE NEXT!

1. BECAUSE DECENT SOCIETY CANNOT CONTINUE "BUSINESS AS USUAL" IN THE NAME OF VANITY, PROFIT AND BRUTALITY.
2. BECAUSE THE WORLD LOOKS TO US AS A FASHION LEADER - AND WE MUST RESPOND WITHOUT HESITATION THAT NEW YORK CITY **IS** BANNING THE SALE OF FUR!!

I THANK THE CITY COUNCIL AGAIN FOR THEIR TIME AND CONSIDERATION. FOR OUR CITY, OUR CITIZENS AND THE ANIMALS

FOR THE RECORD

Testimony in Support of Intro 1476

Ritalynn Forman

Queens, NY

Council Member ~~Koslowski~~ Koslowitz

TO READ FOR
KIM IF NEEDED

Good afternoon. My name is Ritalynn Forman and I am a retired Humane Educator in the NYC Public Schools. I am also a constituent in Queens under council member Koslowski.

I am here today to speak on behalf of the Humane Education Committee for the United Federation of Teachers. We work with hundreds of teachers throughout the city to turnkey humane education into their classrooms and teach our youth to demonstrate empathy, compassion and kindness toward other people, animals and the environment we share.

Today, we have an opportunity to come together as global citizens and ban the unimaginably cruel act of the industrial scale killing of animals for their skin. Innocent animals endure intense pain and suffering that we would not wish on our worst enemies simply because people like the way their coat looks and feels.

Luckily, technological innovations have already provided us with so many alternatives to fur that are cruelty free. Many designers have already stopped using fur in their clothing lines. All of the people currently working in the fur industry have the skills that are so needed to create pieces with new textiles that technology and innovation have now made available. The fur sector has all it needs to reinvent itself and appeal to 21st century consumers. We only need to look to the dairy industry that has finally started to embrace non-dairy milk substitutes that are better for humans, animals and the environment due to consumer awareness, education and demand. Bloomberg reported this week that many large dairy companies are now reaping the rewards of going plant-based. The fur industry could follow suit, and focus on ways to grow these new innovations and create win-wins for everyone – humans, animals and the planet.

Our laws must model the values that we want our youth to emulate.

This is a crucial time for teaching kindness and compassion. The earth and all of its inhabitants are in crisis. The United Nations just released a summary report that

says human activity is threatening the existence of over a million plant and animal species—***more than ever before in human history***. We need to care for all the creatures of the earth, and respect their right to exist and tend to their wellbeing. Saving other animals saves humans too. All oppression is connected. Let us lead the way **here**, in our great city, in being kind to the earth and **ALL** of the beings that call it home. Today, you have the decision in your hands to help create a generation of kind, compassionate and empathic people. PLEASE choose wisely and be on the right side of history. Let us look to the future, and leave the relic of killing animals for their fur in the past. I implore you to use the power that you have been granted and educate people regarding how to think critically about this issue. Help humane educators model the mindset of compassion over oppression and exploitation of other living beings for profit. Help us follow the **state mandate of humane education laws** and support the end of cruel practices by supporting Intro Bill 1476 and a just, sustainable and equitable future for ALL animals - humans included.

Re: Intro 1476

Good afternoon

I come to you as a person who had a wonderful career as a buyer of women's clothing. My career spanned an amazing 40 years because I chose to adapt to changing times. And now these are times that call out for change. We live in a time when it is no longer possible to deny what is happening - we can't say we didn't know, we didn't see.

So I ask you with great respect to respect those who although they cannot speak with words or cast votes, they speak more importantly to our hearts. I ask the fur industry to not mistake my passion for ignorance. And I ask them to not insult us with talk of sustainability, humane slaughter or ethical fur. The truth is extremely different. Albert Schweitzer said "we have no right to inflict suffering and death on another living creature unless there is some unavoidable necessity for it."

So it is on that note that I ask you for the ones whose paws are crushed in steel traps, for the ones who are skinned alive, and for the ones who are finally electrocuted - why, if you have the power wouldn't you use it to save a life? If I may paraphrase - "Whoever destroys a soul, it is considered as if they destroyed an entire world. And whoever saves a life, it is considered as if they saved an entire world." You have been given a great, great gift. You have the opportunity to save the world. Thank you.

Linda Mann
600 West End Ave
NY, NY 10024

District 6. Helen Rosenthal

Testimony of:

FOR THE RECORD

Rebecca Wolf

522 Halsey Street

Brooklyn, NY 11233

Rebwolf8@gmail.com

Topic is Intro 1476

My councilman is Robert Cornegy

My name is Rebecca Wolf and I live in Brooklyn. Robert Cornegy is my councilman.

Given how people react to it, “change” appears to be one of the most terrifying words in our language, yet change is something we must all learn to accept and adapt to given that almost nothing in our lives or world remains the same, except perhaps shoddy human behavior.

Without New Yorkers who recognized immorality and the need for change, we would still live in a city that permitted such things as child labor, and where people wore not just mink, but cat and dog fur.

Today, our citizenry faces the question of whether or not we continue to say it is moral to torture animals simply so we can wear them. Does the status of buying new fur outweigh the ethical dilemma of how we obtain the skins of 100 million animals annually?

Just like the conditions enslaved humans throughout history have had to endure, animals on fur farms live in filth, overcrowding, and fear. They receive no medical care for wounds or disease, they go mad living in those tiny cages, ceaselessly circling with some actually gnawing off their limbs and killing their young. Envision slave ships and concentration camp destined containers – the conditions endured by those victims are exactly the conditions endured by these animals. 24/7 torture, with no relief in sight – not even through death.

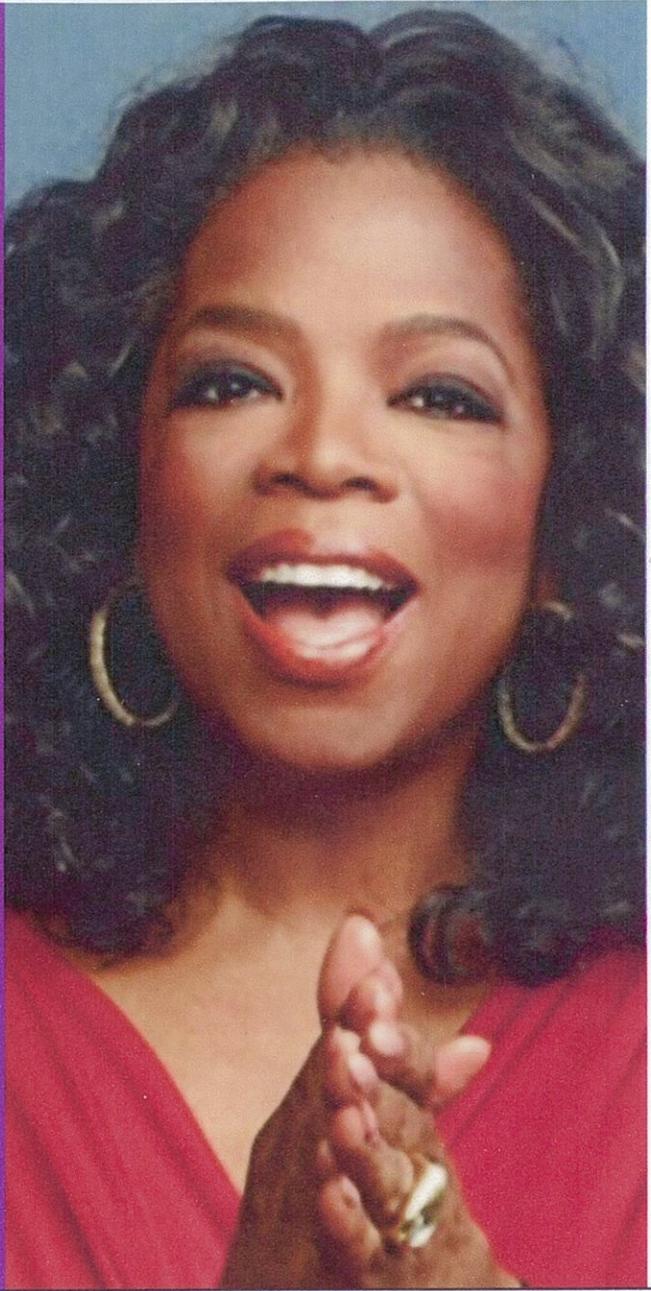
The industry standards for killing these sentient beings include poison, genital electrocution and stomping on their necks with no concern for the pain created by these means

of execution. I brought a cat who had been poisoned to the Animal Medical Center. He screamed in pain until he died. I never knew animals' screams sounded like ours - it was bone chilling and eye opening.

In 1866 Henry Bergh created the first humane organization in the Western Hemisphere after witnessing the brutalizing of a fallen cart horse in Russia. He came home to our city to create the ASPCA. We have a proud history of citizens who fight for the vulnerable. Animals are amongst those vulnerable and we are obligated morally to be their stewards. Despite the lies propagated by the fur lobby, no one is going to take away furs you already own, your right to purchase vintage furs in NYC or to buy new furs sold on line. However, we must make an ethical statement that we, as a city, and as those with the moral responsibility to protect the earth and all of its creatures, will no longer accept the selling of new goods from an industry that turns a blind eye to the suffering and torture of animals for profit, or the environmental damage it causes through the use of its chemicals. This industry needs to make a transformative change and we New Yorkers must stand up and say it starts today within these 5 boroughs. Perhaps we all ought to adopt the physician's motto of "Just Do No Harm".

“I gave away all my furs 20 years ago.”

Oprah



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11



**“We should
all try to
be comfortable
in our own
skin and
let animals
keep theirs.”**

Wendy Williams



11



Mink Fur Animal Cruelty

Sable
Animal

Animals Fur
Seal

Mink Fur
Pile

Sable
Fur Animal

Types
of Mink Fur

Vintage Mink Fur
Stoles Values

Snow
Mink Animal

Mink Fur
Handbags

Eye for
Animal Fur Mink Lshes

Animal Mink Fur
COA

Animal crüelty « FUR OUT THE CLOSET:

emynow.wordpress.com | 403 x 403 jpeg | Image may be subject to copyright.



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5/13/2019

Matthew Dominguez (@Matt_Dominguez) | Twitter



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Fur Commission USA: Oppose Int. 1476-2019

Dear Honorable Councilmembers:

My name is Michael Whelan and I am the Executive Director of Fur Commission USA, the national trade association representing the mink producers in the United States. I am writing to you to OPPOSE Bill 1476-2019, the proposal to ban the sale of fur in NYC.

Ranch-raised mink are some of the best cared for animals in all of animal agriculture. The health and well-being of the animal is the farmer's first priority and is critical to producing the finest fur possible in a highly competitive business. Any veterinarian will tell you that any abuse or neglect will show up in the quality of an animal's fur, so it makes sense for farmers to do everything possible to insure the animal's welfare. Animal rights campaigners would have you believe animals are tortured and abused, but that is just not the case, as such treatment would affect the quality of the pelt and the rancher would be out of business in short order.

Ranch-raised mink in the US are defined by the USDA as "domesticated livestock" and the pelts are defined as an agricultural commodity. Farms are regulated by each state's respective Departments of Agriculture. Additionally, as in all animal agricultural, farms must abide by all local, state and national environmental statutes.

In addition to gov't regulation, Fur Commission USA administers a humane certification program, requiring strict best practices in regards to animal welfare. These standards, *The Standard Guidelines for the Operation of Mink Farms in the United States*, were one of the first humane care standards implemented for animal agriculture in the U.S. Developed in the mid 1980's, they have been updated regularly as new welfare practices have emerged. Today over 90% of all mink produced in the US come from farms that have been certified under our program. The most recent edition of the standards is available to the public at www.furcommission.com/guidelines.

I watched the May 15 hearing on the proposed fur ban and was shocked that such a dignified body had been so manipulated by the animal rights lobby. I caution the members on depending on information provided to them, as PETA regularly circulates falsehoods, misinformation and racially offensive missives. The most egregious to us is the false claim that animals are skinned alive on farms. The video they continually reference was a staged production by Swiss Animal Rights in 2005 that has been proven fraudulent, ⁱⁱ yet they continue to spread this malicious lie (heard Dan Mathews say it at the hearing!). Furthermore, depending on the integrity of the animal rightists and passing this bill will set a dangerous precedent. PETA [et.al.](#) have already prepared their campaigns to ban the use of wool, leather and goose down. ⁱⁱⁱ

In closing, I would like to invite any or all of the councilors to tour a mink farm for a first-hand look at how mink are raised. I strongly believe that due diligence is required on such a far reaching bill that will ultimately affect thousands of retailers, craftsmen, designers, farmers, trappers and consumers worldwide.

Respectfully,

Michael Whelan

Executive Director
Fur Commission USA

^[i] Affidavits by the actors who reluctantly performed the skinning testify they were hired by the video producers. PETA continues to distribute the video, claiming it is genuine.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=z6joIOEk6JU

^[ii], <https://www.peta.org/issues/animals-used-for-clothing/animals-used-clothing-factsheets/silk-birds-insects-exploited-fabric/> <https://www.peta.org/issues/animals-used-for-clothing/wool-industry/>. PETA also campaigns against zoos, pet ownership, meat production and life-saving medical research.

--

Michael Whelan

*Executive Director,
Fur Commission USA
541.595.8568*

www.furcommission.com

Hello,

The following video from Taraji P. Henson is testimony on behalf of PETA at the hearing on Intro 1476-A.

Thank you.

<https://youtu.be/QfZDlOIEgUk>

Dan Mathews
Senior VP
PETA
917-403-4567

Dimitrios

FURS NYC, LLC

My family's history in the fur business dates back hundreds of years in Greece. They came to America in the early 1900s and continued their fur business in NYC. They became US citizens and through hard work and long hours they supported their families and contributed to their communities.

I have been working full time in the fur market since 1971 and have proudly continued my family's business. A fur ban will cause my workers to lose their jobs and shut down the businesses in the fur market.

Furs are environmentally friendly and as opposed to fake fur which is made up of materials which are not biodegradable. Minks are raised in farms where they are well cared for and killed in the most humane way possible.

People should be allowed to choose what they want to buy and wear. This is America!

Thank You,

Peter Liakos

Peter Liakos

May 15, 2019

Dear Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing:

On behalf of Friends of Animals 4,400 New York City members, we ask that you support Intro 1476, which bans the sales of fur and fur apparel.

Friends of Animals, incorporated in New York in 1957, is a nonprofit animal advocacy organization that works to cultivate a respectful view of nonhuman animals and free them from cruelty and institutional exploitation. It is exactly for these reasons that we support the fur ban in NYC. More than 90 million mink and foxes are killed for fur products each year. They live short, tortured lives at fur farms before being electrocuted, or gassed and skinned. Millions more are also clubbed or captured or drowned in sadistic limb-pinning or body crushing traps. Furriers contend their product is sustainable and regulated and that a fur ban would cost jobs and revenues to the city. What they never discuss is the morality of the slaughter necessary for the fashion items. That's because there is no argument that overrides that issue. Showing compassion for animals, and all sentient beings, is one of the purest expressions of our humanity. Morality cannot be set aside in this discussion about fur.

Furriers will also contend that faux fur harms the environment and a fur ban will put people out of work. What they don't note is that designers, including faux fur fashion houses, are making bank on environmentally friendly fabrics and textiles. Faux fur manufacturers such as ECOPEL launched a range of fur made from recycled plastics and House of Fluff in New York uses recycled polyester threads. Faux fur revenues have steadily increased with a predicted growth rate of 30 percent a year.

More than 850 retailers have gone fur free and as well as dozens of haute couture designers, such as Stella McCartney, Gucci and Versace. Major fashion houses in New York City including Chanel, Coach, Kors, Diane Von Furstenberg, DKNY, Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein, and Hugo Boss have spurned fur, and are doing just fine.

That's because society has moved on from fur. The signs that fur is over are everywhere. London Fashion Week went fur free, revenues from the sales of pelts from trappers have fallen and there's a growing number of vegan designers. The furrier industry in New York has shrunk significantly. Just 14 retail storefronts selling fur remain, where once there was hundreds.

Other cities that have banned fur have not suffered a loss in revenues. West Hollywood, the first to take the step, found strong demand for new fur-free retail businesses in the city.

No one wants anyone to lose their jobs, but clearly there is a way forward for furriers that doesn't involve industrial killing farms. New York can continue to be not only an innovative fashion mecca, but the ultimate compassion in fashion capitol of the world. By passing this legislation and joining cities such as Los Angeles and San Francisco that have also banned furs sales, NYC can embrace what most of society has come to understand – cruelty is not fashionable.

Sincerely,



Priscilla Feral,

President, Friends of Animals

Intro 1476

I am writing to voice support for Intro 1476, legislation that would ban the sale of fur in NY

Aron Shevis

I'm FOR BANNING the sale of fur. The fur industry sent me a robocall w/fake reasons to get me to call AGAINST the bill.



I'm a Manhattan resident and I vote. I am against the needless cruelty that is fur, and the sale of fur. Not long ago, the fur industry sent me a robocall, warning me that I was being told how to dress, and that next, my Ugg boots and leather jacket would be made illegal to wear. (I'd also gotten 3 large postcards with such rubbish.) This is nonsense. Then, I was offered the opportunity to be connected free of charge to my Council Member. So, the flurry of calls you may have gotten then were not spontaneous; people were being robocalled by fur manufacturers with deep pockets, and scared by lies.

Eleanor Forman
10th Ave
NY NY 10001

Support of bill 1476

PLEASE, BAN the sale of fur! Let's evolve to human beings who respect life and oppose the cruelty and the horrors of the fur business.

This cruelty must end!

Sincerely,

Maria Cecilia Deutsch

*Domenick Acocella
Valles Avenue
Bronx, NY 10471*

Dear Committee,

I thank you for taking the time out of your schedules to hear---or, in my case, read---us out. I wish I could be there in person.

My testimony is brief. I am urging you to support and especially Andrew Cohen, my representative, to co-sponsor Intro 1476 simply because it is the right thing to do. For too long, nonhuman animals have had to suffer for (almost always elite) human desires. Fur is not in any way needed for survival---not here in New York City and probably not anywhere else. We are not Inuits. We do not hold these animals with any regard that might be fall into the realm of the sacred. Fur is merely a sign of conspicuous consumption. And for those who say that we should be free to purchase what we wish, I say: indeed. We are saying you can go elsewhere to purchase your signs of murder. For those who talk about the warm of such fur, I say: nonsense. As the Inuit: the fur is supposed to be against the skin and not on the outside. But that's the point. Wearing fur is showing off. And such a statement of wealth also invites a response. And that is what I am testifying today. If it is a matter of keeping warm, there are many alternatives when exiting your chauffeured car to enter the three-Michelin-star restaurant. We have synthetics and we have other materials far warmer. The treatment of animals for their fur is unacceptable. Even if these animals were provided all the accoutrements for a "good" life, they would still be in captivity. They would still be hunted for nothing more than ornamentation. It is bad enough our species has done all it can to have its collective self booted off earth. We do not need to continue to harm others. And that is what fur is.

Ideally, we should stop abusing all animals in all the many ways we do. We abuse them when we raise them for food, which we do not need and indeed, harm ourselves and the planet in doing so. We do not need them for their strength. We abuse them for testing new products. We abuse them when we raise them to make ideal pets. We do not need to abuse animals anymore. Support this legislation. Do the right thing.

I thank you for reading me out.

Sincerely,

Domenick Acocella

Fur Free NYC/Fur Free world

Voicing my support!

Diana Johanson

Manager



 **ACRISURE** Agency Partner

501 Franklin Ave - Suite 218 | Garden City, NY 11530

P: 516.240.8875

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E: DJohanson@sbbinsure.com

www.SBBinsure.com

Intro 1476: ban the sale of fur in NYC!!!

75% of New Yorkers are in support of City Council Speaker Corey Johnson's bill to ban the sale of new fur in New York City, Intro 1476! This comes from a recently released citywide Mason-Dixon poll of NYC registered voters. Other US cities have led this effort, it's time for NYC to join them.

Anne Erreich, PhD
West End Avenue
New York, NY 10023

fur ban

please ban the sale of fur.

Richard Stoike

<richard.stoike@yahoo.com>

fur ban in NYC

Please lend your support for Intro 1476, the bill to ban the sale of fur in NYC.

Sincerely,
Valerie Vlasaty
NY NY 10128

Intro 1476

According to a recently released citywide Mason-Dixon poll of NYC registered voters, 75% of New Yorkers are in support of City Council Speaker Corey Johnson's bill to ban the sale of new fur in New York City, Intro 1476!

These polling results speak volumes about the fact that how we treat animals as a society and as a City is truly non-partisan. Even people at opposite ends of the political spectrum agree almost equally that the immense violence and cruelty to animals inherent in each piece of fur means that it should be unacceptable to sell the products of such torture in the year 2019 in New York City.

Over 100 million animals yearly, including dogs and cats, are electrocuted, gassed, poisoned, bludgeoned, captured in the wild by agonizing steel leg-hold traps and even skinned alive just for their skins every year. Then, toxic chemicals are necessary to treat the pelts, making the fur industry an environmental menace.

We have a chance to stop this! Please support Intro 1476 and ban the sale of fur in New York.

Thank you!

Joe Bongiorno

Founder and Editor

The Royal Publisher of Oz

Theroyalpublisherofoz.com

(516) 872-1522

Dear Speaker Johnson and Members of the City Council,

As a New Yorker and president of *People for the End of Animal Cruelty and Exploitation~ PEACE*, I am writing on behalf of all our New York members, who enthusiastically **support Intro 1476, the bill to ban the sale of fur in New York City**. It's time for the greatest city in the world, to be a leader and not a laggard, where the suffering of millions of innocent animals is concerned. As you already know, there are many countries and cities right here in the US and around the world, that have recognized the unspeakable cruelty inherent in the production of fur and have banned the sale and/or production of all fur items, since other warmer and equally attractive options exist, including faux fur.

This is no longer a question of "free choice", as opponents would have you believe. Societies evolve and advance as knowledge and information become available and customs, traditions and laws undergo change. We no longer allow human sacrifice, public hangings, children working in coal mines. It's long past time to put an end to the wanton cruelty involved in the trapping, and/or raising on fur "farms" of wild animals who are deprived of everything natural to them, and then brutally murdered for a vanity product. Fur coming to the US from countries like China, among other countries with little to no oversight on any matters concerning animals, represents the epitome of animal abuse and suffering for fur trim, trinkets, garments. This is a stain on the reputation of any modern, civilized society and one that New Yorkers will no longer accept. **I urge you and all City Council Members to do the right thing: Vote Yes on Intro 1476.**

Thank you for your compassion in bringing this forward.

Zelda Penzel, President

People for the End of Animal Cruelty and Exploitation ~ PEACE

145 4th Ave.

NY, NY 10003

TESTIMONY FOR HEINRICH KUNZ PRESIDENT OF FUROID LTD, CEO OF INVITROHAIR LTD, INVENTOR, BEACONSFIELD, THE UNITED KINGDOM TRADING AS FUROID™ LTD. 25 WOOD ROAD SOUTH HP1 9 EX BEACONSFIELD / UNITED KINGDOM WWW.FUROID.EU

New York City Council Hearing: The Committee on Consumer Affairs and Businesslicencing in regards to „A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to prohibiting the sale of fur apparel“ to be held on May 15, 2019.

Good afternoon, Mrs. Chairman, Mr. Chairman and Committee Members. My name is Heinrich Kunz and I am the President of Furoid Ltd, CEO of Invitrohair Ltd, and Inventor -of patents in direct relation and of significant importance for the proposed bill number 1476-A-, we are registered in Beaconsfield, the United Kingdom and with subsidiaries in the City of New York.

On behalf of our company and for the sake of more than [in 2018], 100 million killed [fur bearing] vertebrate species, I appreciate the opportunity to discuss New York City's efforts to prohibit the sales of fur apparel and [decorative] fur items. New York City has been described as the cultural, financial and media capital of the world and exerts a significant impact upon commerce, entertainment, research, technology, education, politics, tourism, art, fashion, and sports. The city's fast pace has inspired the term „ *Novum Caput Mundi* “. Home to the headquarters of the United Nations, New York is an important center for international diplomacy and a predestined place for such an innovative regulatory framework as proposed in the aforementioned bill.

In this testimony I wish to empathize on two major points;

1. the explanation of technology we've patented world wide, in order to stop fur [and wool] farming, with included anticounterfeit applications to prevent mislabeled and/or poached products to be introduced to the marketplace.
2. proposed amendments to the bill in regards to allow the sale, distribution and production of cellbased fur/hides/pelts/wool [crueltyfree] invitro obtained.

Chapter 1:

The overall concept is best described by our patent applications, which can be quite technical in places, so I lay it out in small, progressive installments:

We've used data from our patent, originally to grow human hair follicles in the petridish, to grow animal pelts, hides and wool in the petridish.

During the process, we attach inseparable cellular/DNA-based anti-counterfeit properties to the resulting product, in order to aid in determination of provenance and origin;of importance, since we want to supply clients/authorities with brand protection, but which also facilitates tracking possibilities to help disable the illegal fur/hide/wool trade.

Ultimately, our invention invigorates, to a groundbreaking degree, the --CRUELTY FREE-- bioengineering of animal pelts and hairfibers ; while with the added feature, and benefit, of anti-counterfeiting measures, in the form of inseparable molecular signatures, for the sake of all the imaginable reasons why that is desirable: authenticity; provenance; timestamping; etc.

Both in the marketplace, and in the cultural marketplace, there is a need for means and methods by which to derive bioengineered --CRUELTY FREE-- animal pelts that possess the desired mechanical properties; or biomaterial properties; or textile quality; or cellular composition and disposition; or tissular properties. Our application addresses this need and thus provides means and methods by which to derive ALL of those specifically desired traits.

Technically our patents are described as follows:

A cell when used herein may preferably be a vertebrata cell. A vertebrata (explanation: every species with a spine) cell may preferably be a cell from an antelope, antilopini, beaver, buffalo, caiman, caracal, cat, cheetah, chinchilla, cow, crocodile, deer, eland, elephant, ermine, faux, fisher, fox, genet, giraffe, goat, golden jackal, hedgehog, horse, leopard, lynx, lion, marten, mink, monkey, ape, nutria, otter, rabbit, rhinoceros, sable, serval, sheep, shrew, snake, stoat, swine, wolf, Australian brushtail possum, mouse or rat. A preferred vertebrata cell is a stem cell or induced pluripotent stem cell or adult stem cell or differentiated cell. The vertebrata cells shall be obtained from a healthy individual. The vertebrata cell may be from a cell line; e.g., a deposited cell line or a commonly available cell line.

Objections of the invention:

1. It is an objection to provide for means and methods to manufacture bioengineered pelts and hair fibers to be a source for textile industry and pelt industry.
2. It is an objection to provide for a system and method to derive bioengineered pelts and hair fibers that circumvent the need for conventional pelt and wool farming.
3. It is an objection to provide a bioengineered pelt and hair fibers with a unique pre-coded genetic signature combination that distinguishes it from other pelt and hair fibers/wool sources, including pelt/wool farming or poached pelts/hair fibers.

We believe with our inventions who are described in the attached patent abstracts, we contribute substantially to the prevention of animal cruelty and to the development of the field of cruelty free biomaterials with indistinguishable properties from the originally obtained animal tissues.

Abstracts of our relevant patents:

1. MEANS AND METHODS TO DERIVE BIOENGINEERED ANIMAL PELT WITH ANTI-COUNTERFEIT PROPERTIES

Abstract & technical field:

The present invention relates to the bioengineering of animal pelts and anti-counterfeit of prime bioengineered pelts and to bioengineered pelts with inseparable molecular signatures for authenticity, time stamping and provenance. The present invention relates to a bioengineering process to derive animal pelt from the in vitro disposition and differentiation of inter-follicular epidermis cells, fur follicle cells, fibroblast-like cells and extracellular matrix into a bioengineered pelt tissue. The present invention also relates to the process of cell specific enrichment, genetic engineering, differentiation and disposition of said cells in the manufactured tissue. The present invention further relates to pre-coding and use of a combination of genetic signature combinations as an anti-counterfeit mechanism and as proof of authenticity, timestamp and provenance.”

2. METHODS FOR DERIVING HAIR FOLLICLE CONTAINING SHEETS IN VITRO

Abstract & technical field:

The present invention relates to a bioengineering process to derive hair follicles in vitro from the in vitro disposition and differentiation of pluripotent stem cells and dermal papilla stem cells. The present invention also relates to a bioengineering process to derive hair follicle containing sheets in vitro from a biodegradable supportive grid and said in vitro derived hair follicles. The present invention also relates to the controlled asymmetry of the hair shaft on said hair follicle containing sheets. The present invention also relates to the field of cosmetic materials and method for reconstructing hair follicle containing materials in vitro.

3. MEANS AND METHODS TO DERIVE BIOENGINEERED VERTEBRATA EYELASHES FOR COSMETICS APPLICATIONS WITH INSEPARABLE ATTACHED ANTI-COUNTERFEIT PROPERTIES

Abstract & technical field:

The present invention relates to a bioengineering process to derive human and animal eyelashes from the in vitro disposition and differentiation of interfollicular epidermis cells, hair follicle cells, fibroblast-like cells and extracellular matrix into a bioengineered hair tissue. The present invention also relates to the process of cell specific enrichment, genetic engineering, differentiation and disposition of said cells in the manufactured tissue. The present invention further relates to pre-coding and use of a combination of genetic signature combinations as an anti-counterfeit mechanism and as proof of authenticity, timestamp and provenance.

4. METHODS AND MEANS TO DERIVE BIOENGINEERED ANIMAL HAIR, WOOL AND PELT WITH ATTACHED INSEPARABLE ANTI-COUNTERFEIT PROPERTIES FROM CAMELIDAE AND PANTHOLOPINAE SPECIES.

Abstract & technical field:

The present invention relates to a bioengineering process to derive animal hair, wool and pelt from the in vitro disposition and differentiation of interfollicular epidermis cells, fur/hair follicle cells, fibroblast-like cells and an extracellular matrix into a bioengineered hair, wool and pelt tissue. The present invention also relates to the process of cell specific enrichment, genetic engineering, differentiation and disposition of said cells in the manufactured tissue. The present invention further relates to pre-coding and to the use of a combination of genetic signature combinations as an anti-counterfeit mechanism as proof of authenticity, timestamp and provenance.

5. METHODS OF ENGINEERING IN VITRO MEAT FROM CAPRINAE AND THE SUBFAMILY OVIS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Abstract & technical field:

The present disclosure relates to a bioengineering process to derive animal myocyte cells *In vitro* from the *in vitro* disposition and differentiation of pluripotent stem cells and myocyte stem cells. The present disclosure also relates to a bioengineering process to derive muscle cell containing sheets *in vitro* from a biodegradable supportive grid and said *in vitro* muscle cells. The present disclosure also relates to the field of veterinary arteries and method for reconstructing myocyte containing materials *in vitro*.

I further recommend that the proposed bill contains certain, precise and predefined exemptions in regards to cellular agriculture technologies, in order to support the new field of cellular biofabrication and to transform New York City as a center of materials cellular agriculture or as we would define it „NOVUM CAPUT MUNDI AGRICOLATIO“!

Hence I've copied the original wording of the proposed bill, amended with the [in my opinion] necessary definitions **[bold letters]** in regards to the production and sales of IN VITRO OBTAINED MATERIALS INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM REGULARLY HARVESTED ANIMAL FUR, PELTS, HIDES OR WOOL, WITH MANDATORY INCLUDED INSEPARABLE ANTI COUNTERFEIT PROPERTIES TO PREVENT ANY ATTEMPTS TO CIRCUMVENT THE AFORMENTIONED BILL:

Chapter 2:

Text extract of the proposed bill with suggested amendments:

“SUBCHAPTER 13

FUR APPAREL

§ 20-699.10 Definitions

§ 20-699.11 Prohibited conduct

§ 20-699.12 Penalties

§ 20-699.13 Injunctive relief

§ 20-699.10 Definitions. For purposes of this subchapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

Commissioner. The term “commissioner” means the commissioner of consumer affairs.

Fur. The term “fur” means any animal skin, in whole or in part, with the hair, fleece or fur fibers attached.

[.....EXEMPTION: FUR OR PELT OBTAINED FROM THE BIOENGINEERED PROCESS TO DERIVE FUR OR ANIMAL BEARING CELLS, OR THEIR COMBINATION, FROM THE IN VITRO DISPOSITION OF CRUELTY FREE OBTAINED CELLS FROM A VERTEBRATE/ VERTEBRATA SPECIES.....]

Fur apparel. The term “fur apparel” means any article of clothing or fashion accessory, to be worn on any part of the body.

[.....OR HOME DECORATION ARTICLES LIKE BLANKETS, PLAIDS AND FURNITURE.....]

made of fur, in whole or in part.

Used fur apparel. The term “used fur apparel” means any fur apparel that a natural person has acquired for that person’s own use as an article of clothing or fashion accessory.

§ 20-699.11 Prohibited conduct. No person may sell or offer for sale any fur apparel except:

1. Used fur apparel or fur apparel made from fur sourced exclusively from used fur apparel; or

2. Fur apparel that is worn as a matter of religious custom.

§ 20-699.12 Penalties. a. Any person that violates section 20-699.11 on or after the first day of May next succeeding the effective date of the local law that added this subchapter shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for that person’s first violation and each additional violation occurring on the same day as the first violation, and not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,500 for each subsequent violation. Violations shall accrue on a daily basis for each item of prohibited fur apparel that is sold or offered for sale.

b. Any fur apparel offered for sale or any revenue generated from fur apparel sold in violation of section 20-699.11 shall be subject to forfeiture upon notice and judicial determination.

§ 20-699.13 Injunctive relief. In addition to any other relief available by law, the commissioner may seek any relief available under article 63 of the civil practice law and rules in a proceeding against any person alleged to be in violation of any provision of this subchapter.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 90 days after it becomes law, except that the commissioner of consumer affairs shall take such measures as are necessary for the implementation of this local law, including the promulgation of rules, before such date.

NC

LS #6888, 7184, 7773

4/22/19 “

There is no single “one size fits all” answer to the risks of fur/wool animal farming, because those risks are multiple and varied. That’s why the citizens of New York, represented thru this council, should take a multi-front approach to address this complex topic and confirm the proposed bill to end the animal exploitation and the financial gains which major players in this field obtained for decades and centuries.

Conclusions on environmental impact of mink farming :

For decades, fur production has been a hotly debated issue in many Western countries.

Anti-fur associations point to animal welfare issues, including poor-quality living conditions and have ethical objections to mink being kept for their fur.

The fur industry, for its part, considers fur production a ‘green’ agricultural activity, and cites the measures being taken to reduce CO2 emissions and water and energy consumption.

Fur is thus being positioned as an environmentally benign, ‘natural’ product.

Whereas the following subsequent production steps are performed:

Mink feed production:

The feed consists of chicken and fish offal, supplemented with wheat flour and additives.

Mink keeping:

Mink are bred for 7 to 8 months, after which they are pelted.

Pelting:

The pelt is removed from the carcass, cleaned and dried.

Auctions:

The majority of mink pelts are sold thru auctions for the scale of those auctions please see the following link: <http://furoid.eu/animal-welfare/fur-auction-results>

Fur treatment:

Processes to transform the stiff pelt to fur ready for further handling in the fashion industry.

Transportation:

Between all the various phases there is transportation.

The environmental impacts calculated in this, cited, study can thus be seen as minimum impacts; in all likelihood, the actual impacts will be greater.

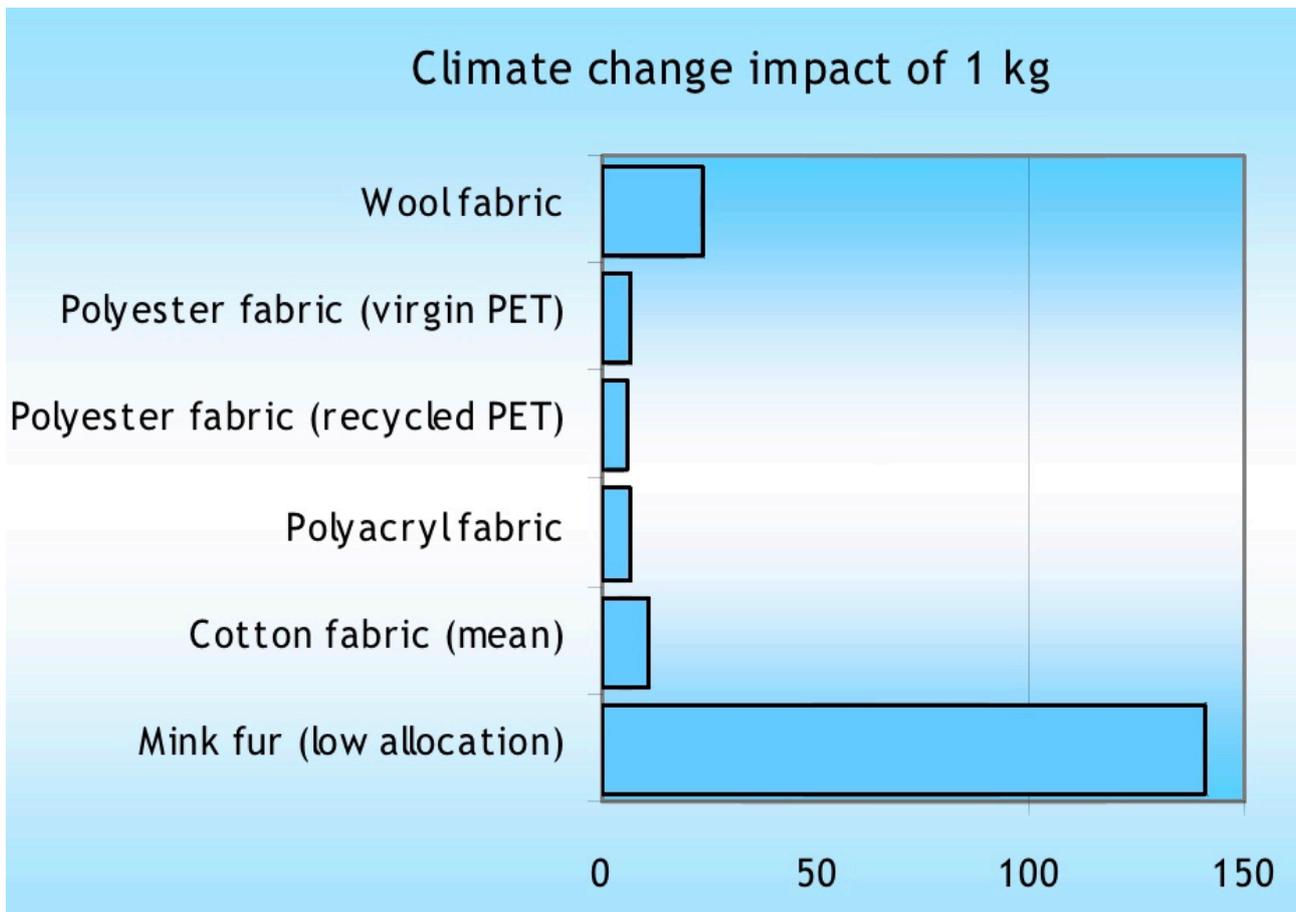
The environmental impact of mink fur production

feed, results can be considered relevant for other European mink fur production.

Results

The feed consists mainly of offal, which is of low economic value and is therefore only assigned a small share of the environmental load of chicken or fish; as the meat fit for human consumption has the highest value, it is allocated the bulk of the environmental impact.

Cultivation of the wheat also has an impact. Although the total environmental impact of 1 kg of mink feed is not particularly high, the 563 kilos required to produce 1 kg of fur knocks on considerably in the total environmental footprint of fur and for 14 of the 18 impacts studied feed is the predominant factor.



Compared with textiles, fur has a higher impact on 17 of the 18 environmental themes, including climate change, eutrophication and toxic emissions.

In many cases fur scores markedly worse than textiles, with impacts a factor 2 to 28 higher, even when lower-bound values are taken for various links in the production chain. The exception is water depletion: on this impact cotton scores highest.

Other factors making a sizeable contribution to the overall environmental impact of mink fur are emissions of N₂O (nitrous oxide) and NH₃ (ammonia) from the mink manure.

These emissions contribute mainly to acidification and particulate matter formation.

The climate change impact of 1 kg of mink fur is five times higher than that of the highest-scoring textile (wool).

This is due both to the feed and to the N₂O emissions from the mink manure.

Final remarks:

The invention, Furoid, has the potential to supplant/erase two parallel industries, neither of which are considered particularly savory.

It is a patented process, an ability, to grow living animal (or human) hair in a petri dish; grow living hair, such that it is indistinguishable from the hair of a trapped/killed animal.

Scaled up, for mass production, the gravity of this is the total erasure of the fur industry, and of the fur trapping industry. Of course, that is the key, the devil is in that detail, the regulatory frameworks supporting our inventions .. much as the speed of the inevitable tide of, say, solar energy, supplanting other forms of energy, is merely a question of "how soon" the cost-effective scaling up?

Also, everything that Furoid is capable of doing with fur, it is capable of doing with wool, as well, in terms of both production and provenance.

Additional to the process, is the ability to embed bio-marker provenance in the petri-grown hairs, (biologically parenthetical anti-counterfeit mechanisms), to make knock-offs of ALL fashion-house animal products impossible for knocker-offers to effectively achieve.

"Finally ... speaking for ourselves, we think we could base an bill on that, alone... we would title it "Petri-Chic!".

Thank you for the time and opportunity to articulate the councilsefforts, both in terms of reducing our contributions to it and preparing for its effects. My colleagues and I are happy to address any questions that you may have under my direct email address: hv@furoid.eu

H. Kunz

14-05-2019

Dear Council Member Margaret Chin,

Constant innovation is happening around us and industries would be foolish to become stagnant. The market for fur is ripe for disruption. It's old-fashioned, barbaric and incredibly unethical. Fashion brands are already creating products using superior materials that support conscious consumerism.

As a proud New Yorker and constituent of district 1, I'm urging you to please cosign Intro 1476. New York is a fashion capital and our stance on this issue will set the precedent across the world. High-profile brands are exiting the category and studies show consumers are shopping more ethically.

Supporting this bill means change is to be celebrated, not feared. Supporting this bill means 100 million animals aren't subjected to cruelties but instead protected and valued. Supporting this bill means New York leads with compassion and expects better from the fashion industry.

Your decision is a momentous one and I hope it's for a better future. Thank you so much for listening.

My best,
Amy Salazar
Resident of 1 West Street, NY NY 10004



WE LOVE ANIMALS AND WE VOTE!

May 15, 2019

Consumer Affairs Committee Hearing for Intro 1476

Testimony of Edita Birnkrant, Executive Director, NYCLASS

In favor of Intro 1476; Edita@nyclass.org

My name is Edita Birnkrant and I am the Executive Director of NYCLASS, (New Yorkers for Clean, Livable, and Safe Streets) an animal advocacy and political action non-profit organization based in New York City with supporters and activist chapters in all five boroughs and I am a resident of Queens. NYCLASS is strongly in support of Intro 1476, the bill that would prohibit the sale of new fur apparel in New York City retail stores. We applaud Speaker Corey Johnson for introducing this important bill.

A citywide Mason-Dixon poll of registered voters, conducted from May 7-May 9, found that an overwhelming majority of New Yorkers- 75 %- support the ban on new fur sales in our city. The breakdown of people polled was 74% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans and 79% of Independents all supported Intro 1476.

These polling results speak volumes about the fact that how we treat animals as a society and as a City is truly non-partisan. Even people at opposite ends of the political spectrum agree almost equally that the immense violence and cruelty to animals inherent in each piece of fur means that it should be unacceptable to sell the products of such torture in the year 2019 in New York City.

And I don't use the word "torture" lightly. Over 100 million animals yearly are electrocuted, gassed, poisoned, bludgeoned, captured in the wild by agonizing steel leg-hold traps and skinned just for their fur every year. Then, many toxic chemicals are necessary to treat the pelts, making the fur industry an environmental menace.

The agony these animals endure, including coyotes, foxes, wolves, rabbits, bobcats, mink, lynx, raccoons, dogs and cats, is undeniable. How can we continue to justify such cruelty for fur collars, coats or accessories, when ethical alternatives abound?

These are the reasons many top designers and retailers are shunning fur, and that consumer trends for fur have been declining.

Los Angeles, San Francisco and other cities have already passed bans on the sale of fur and others are working to do the same and several countries have banned fur farming entirely—it's time for New York to make fur history. Please vote yes for Intro 1476. Thank you, Committee members

May 15, 2019

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The production of fur relies upon inhumane methods of trapping and husbandry, which drastically compromise the health and welfare of the animals used. Millions of rabbits, mink, foxes and other wild animals are confined lifelong in cramped cages on factory fur farms, deprived of their abilities to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are typically killed via medically and ethically objectionable methods, such as gassing or electrocution.

Additionally, animals may be trapped in the wild for their pelts. Animals caught in crippling leghold or noose-style traps undergo immense physical compromise and suffering, which can include asphyxiation, hemorrhage, ulcerative wounds, psychological distress and self-trauma. These animals are often forced to spend days lingering without food or water. In addition, it remains a public health and environmental concern that these archaic traps may injure and kill unintended targets, including threatened species, pets or even children.

Consumer choices have for many years been trending away from fur products. We hope the New York City Council will take a firm lead on this issue. We strongly support Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur in New York.

Sincerely,

Irena Franchi
301 174 St.
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160-3240

Ilene Arce
210 174 St.
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160

Hello,

I would like to express my support for Bill 1476.
The barbaric fur industry has no place in a progressive city such
as New York.

Business does not trump morality.

Thank-you

Johanna Rustia
9th St, Long Island City, NY 11106
(Jimmy Van Bramer's District)

To Whom This May Concern:

I am, unfortunately, unable to attend the rally and hearing being held tomorrow, but I want to lend my support for this ban. It seems we are so behind the times, and it has taken eons longer than it ever should have to get on board with the fact IT NEVER WAS CHIC TO WEAR FUR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! It looks better, and always has, on the animal.

When I get on the "Other Side", I want to ask God why he EVER put animals here at our mercy. This was so wrong, OR He gave us one hell of a lot of credit we never deserved! It would be a much more horrible world than it already is; however, He didn't do them any favors. We are supposed be stewards of this earth and love, protect and nurture animals who are here, I guess, to teach us to be better individuals, but some of us, it seems the majority, are very slow learners, and I am appalled and ashamed to be a member of the human species!

I think anyone who sets leg-hold traps for animals, or any other trap, should first put their own legs into them!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! One good turn deserves another.

Very truly yours,

Rebecca Sand

Good day!

I'm sending you this email because I STRONGLY support the ban of selling fur in NYC!!!

I literally cannot believe in 2019 we are still having this conversation about selling fur.

Selling an animal's fur is one of the most DISTGUSTING things you can do. It is all for ***vanity***

There is absolutely no purpose or any need to murder these animals!!!

These animals are tortured on fur farms... only to have their fur ripped from their bodies.... so some heartless person can walk around in what was theirs?!?!?!?

It is disgusting!!!

It is ***inhumane***

It is obsolete!!!

It is outdated!!!

It is heartless and senseless and needs to stop NOW!!

Faux fur is widely available!!!

Animals suffer terribly on fur farms!!!! MURDERED AND TORTURED!!

Animals are sensitive...loving.... beings!!!

Anyone who thinks it's okay for animals to be kept in filthy cages....sick, ABUSED and terrified...only to be tortured and murdered for THEIR FUR should have their heads examined!!

Ban the selling of fur in NYC NOW!!!!!!

For the animals,

Alysha

I'm so excited that the City Council has an opportunity to help animals and make history by passing Intro 1476, legislation to prohibit the sale of fur in New York City. The fur industry is built on the suffering of helpless animals, some of whom spend short horrible lives cramped in tiny cages before a painful death, others of whom are crippled in traps, suffering incredible pain and deprivation, often dying a slow painful death by starvation or water deprivation.

We can't stop all the suffering, but we can start by making our city a little less cruel. Please be a part of a historic and humane movement: ban fur sales in New York City.

Thank you!

Linda Hayes
East 7th Street
new York, NY 10009

Bryan and Yaqi Grover
State Street, Brooklyn, NY

Councilman: Stephen Levin

Intro 1476

We support banning fur from NYC.

As a fashion capital the entire globe looks to when deciding what to add to their closets, New York City has a responsibility to make it clear that animal brutality is never in style. This long-overdue ban on fur sales will show the world that NYC remains a forward-thinking leader that other cities should aspire to emulate.

Thanks,

Bryan and Yaqi Grover

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Intro 1476, a bill to ban the sale of fur in New York City.

As a native New Yorker, I strongly support this bill: the production of fur is cruel. and is the cause of much animal suffering around the world. Fur is an unnecessary product, which due to technology has many superior substitutes, and New York City should not in any way be supporting or profiting off of this industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thomas Emmons
5th Avenue
NY NY 10029

Dear City Council,

Please pass Intro 1476 to enact a ban on sale of live fur products in New York City. Killing animals so that we can wear them is no longer necessary, and it is inhumane.

Thank you,

David Murphy
Central Park West

Hello,

I would like to express my support for Bill 1476.

The barbaric fur industry has no place in a progressive city such as New York.

Business does not trump morality.

thank-you

Tracey Lall
9th St, Long Island City, NY 11106
(Jimmy Van Bramer's District)

Dear Councilmembers, I am writing to ask you to support the proposed ban on NYC fur sales. The production of fur relies upon inhumane methods of trapping and husbandry, which drastically compromise the health and welfare of the animals used. Millions of rabbits, mink, foxes and other wild animals are confined lifelong in cramped cages on factory fur farms, deprived of their abilities to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are typically killed via medically and ethically objectionable methods, such as gassing or electrocution.

Additionally, animals may be trapped in the wild for their pelts. Animals caught in crippling leghold or noose-style traps undergo immense physical compromise and suffering, which can include asphyxiation, hemorrhage, ulcerative wounds, psychological distress and self-trauma. These animals are often forced to spend days lingering without food or water. In addition, it remains a public health and environmental concern that these archaic traps may injure and kill unintended targets, including threatened species, pets or even children.

Consumer choices have for many years been trending away from fur products. We hope the New York City Council will take a firm lead on this issue. I strongly support Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur in New York.

Sincerely,

Claudia Schaer
Seaman Ave
New York NY 10034

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Intro 1476, a bill to ban the sale of fur in New York City.

As a native New Yorker, I strongly support this bill as the production of fur is cruel and is the cause of much animal suffering around the world, fur is an unnecessary good, and New York City should not in any way be supporting or profiting off of this industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Emmons

We are great supporters of our local government, and we feel strongly that all our elected officials must act to BAN FUR in NYC.

The time is now.

Ban Fur in NYC.

Its the right thing to do, and also it will greatly enhance the city of NY.

Joan Victor

Dear Speaker Johnson and the City Council of New York:

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to submit testimony to you, in our absence.

The following is my statement:

In today's age of satellites and wrist watch computers, artificial intelligence and Alexa, there are dark parts of the world where caged and terrified animals - innocents, all of them - scream in pain on deaf ears. Whether for their fur or engorged livers, they are being sacrificed to feed our profligate tastes. A life for a coat. A life for a brief moment of gustatory pleasure. A life for anything we can take from you, commodified animal.

Jobs? The fur jobs are there in faux furs - the wave of the future. The furriers must move over to cruelty-free. They saw this coming, and did nothing about it.

The following designers have already dropped fur, some long ago:

John Galliano / Burberry / Versace / Gucci / Michael Kors / Armani / Tom / Ford / Stella McCartney / Vivienne Westwood / Tommy Hilfiger / Ralph Lauren / Calvin Klein / DKNY / Giorgino Armani / Coach / Chanel / Kate Spade / Lacoste / Hugo Boss / Bottega Veneta / and more...

For the foie gras workers, there is retraining.

Any business that feeds on violence and death to survive will eventually join the march towards oblivion. These are two of them.

We cannot claim to be a civilized society if we don't respect all life. We cannot teach our children right from wrong if we, ourselves, don't know the difference.

Please vote yes for Intros 1476 and 1378 to ban cruelty and violence. Show the world that this historic merchant town also believes in empathy and compassion towards nonhuman animals, for how we treat animals - the voiceless who cannot defend themselves - is a reflection on who we are.

Thank you to Speaker Johnson and council supporters for having the courage to do the right thing. We are with you!

Respectfully yours,

Jean Khatchadourian
East 48th St.
New York, NY 10017

--

"The animals of the world exist for their own reasons. They were not made for humans any more than black people were made for white, or women created for men."

Alice Walker - activist and Pulitzer-Prize-winning author

<http://www.earthlings.com>

<http://www.peta.org/living/food/free-vegan-starter-kit/>

**PLEASE BAN THE SALE OF FUR IN NYC AND
ULTIMATELY NATION WIDE.**

support for Intro 1476, the bill to ban the sale of fur in NYC

Please in the name of compassion and humanity, I urge you to pass the Intro 1476 bill to permanently ban the sale of all fur in NYC, in the name of the innocent.

Marcia Ditieri

BAN FUR IN NYC

The fur industry tortures and kills millions of fur-bearing animals each year. The tide is turning against this cruel industry: major fashion brands have committed to going fur-free; countries around the world have banned fur farms; and cities like San Francisco, West Hollywood, and Los Angeles have prohibited fur sales. Fur is a dying industry, and New York City is poised to become the largest city in the U.S. to ban the sale of fur! No doubt this will have a rippling effect across the entire country,

Please let this end with the most dynamic city in the world,
NYC!

Respectfully,
Cindy Lynch

Name: Scott Pool
Address: 85th Rd, Jamaica, NY 11435
Council Member: Rory I. Lancman

As a Queens, NY resident all my life, I would like to reach out, and show my **strong support** for Corey Johnson's proposed Fur Ban. The fur trade is unnecessary and cruel, and animal rights advocates for many years have protested against it, and will continue to do so in the city. New York should be the center of progress, and this ban would send even more shock waves throughout the industry that's already changing to reflect this cultural shift.

San Francisco and Los Angeles have banned fur apparel, and major luxury fashion brands such as Coach, Gucci, Armani, Stella McCartney, Ralph Lauren, Versace, Burberry, Coach Diane Furstenberg and DKNY have gone fur-free.

It is not freedom of choice, because the fur trade takes the *animal's* choice to live, away from them, all for the sake of a fashion statement. The same way that anyone would be appalled to see someone skin a dog and turn it into a scarf, so too would someone be appalled to see this happen to Minks, Foxes, Coyotes, and Rabbits.

Please vote in favor of this ban. I want to live in a city that promotes this kind of progress, and disowns this kind of animal cruelty.

Sincerely,
Scott Pool

To whom it may concern:

Please vote to ban the sale of fur. It's a cruel industry that is not essential to any human being. Furs are essential to only the animal that is born with it.

Thanks so much.

Barbara Glover 1320 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Ban fur because its CRUEL!!!

Save helpless animals- Ban fur because its CRUEL!!!

Page Baker Sale

Deborah Waters
27 Avenue
Flushing, NY 11354

Council Member Paul Vallone

I would like to see NYC ban the sales of fur and protect these innocent animals from the cruelty and torture they may endure.

Rally & City Council Hearing To Ban Sale Of Fur! (Intro 1476)

Dear New York City Council

cc: C Kelmar

Thank you for reading my email about the support of the Ban on Fur (Intro 1476) and the Rally this Wednesday at City Hall.

My investment in the quality of life for New York citizens includes those without a Voice....of which fur bearing animals have few if no rights. Please continue the progressive, humane and precedent setting policies of your beautiful city. There is no need in this day of quality alternatives to real fur for warmth or beauty....we can do better. The city has been the spot light and pioneer for so many human and animal rights legislation....please continue this legacy with Intro 1476.

My past and future has been associated with your city as a long term visitor and upcoming resident full time. My husband and I are donors of the Metropolitan Opera, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Mayor's Alliance for New York City Animals. So we invested in your city for the betterment of all which includes animals

Please make NYC a fur free forward community to join the many other countries and cities to end the suffering fur brings. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. New York is the greatest city in the world.

Rosemary Kenigsberg
Duluth, Minnesota

May 15, 2019

Dear Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing:

On behalf of Friends of Animals 4,400 New York City members, we ask that you support Intro 1476, which bans the sales of fur and fur apparel.

Friends of Animals, incorporated in New York in 1957, is a nonprofit animal advocacy organization that works to cultivate a respectful view of nonhuman animals and free them from cruelty and institutional exploitation. It is exactly for these reasons that we support the fur ban in NYC. More than 90 million mink and foxes are killed for fur products each year. They live short, tortured lives at fur farms before being electrocuted, or gassed and skinned. Millions more are also clubbed or captured or drowned in sadistic limb-pinning or body crushing traps. Furriers contend their product is sustainable and regulated and that a fur ban would cost jobs and revenues to the city. What they never discuss is the morality of the slaughter necessary for the fashion items. That's because there is no argument that overrides that issue. Showing compassion for animals, and all sentient beings, is one of the purest expressions of our humanity. Morality cannot be set aside in this discussion about fur.

Furriers will also contend that faux fur harms the environment and a fur ban will put people out of work. What they don't note is that designers, including faux fur fashion houses, are making bank on environmentally friendly fabrics and textiles. Faux fur manufacturers such as ECOPEL launched a range of fur made from recycled plastics and House of Fluff in New York uses recycled polyester threads. Faux fur revenues have steadily increased with a predicted growth rate of 30 percent a year.

More than 850 retailers have gone fur free and as well as dozens of haute couture designers, such as Stella McCartney, Gucci and Versace. Major fashion houses in New York City including Chanel, Coach, Kors, Diane Von Furstenberg, DKNY, Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein, and Hugo Boss have spurned fur, and are doing just fine.

That's because society has moved on from fur. The signs that fur is over are everywhere. London Fashion Week went fur free, revenues from the sales of pelts from trappers have fallen and there's a growing number of vegan designers. The furrier industry in New York has shrunk significantly. Just 14 retail storefronts selling fur remain, where once there was hundreds.

Other cities that have banned fur have not suffered a loss in revenues. West Hollywood, the first to take the step, found strong demand for new fur-free retail businesses in the city.

No one wants anyone to lose their jobs, but clearly there is a way forward for furriers that doesn't involve industrial killing farms. New York can continue to be not only an innovative fashion mecca, but the ultimate compassion in fashion capitol of the world. By passing this legislation and joining cities such as Los Angeles and San Francisco that have also banned furs sales, NYC can embrace what most of society has come to understand – cruelty is not fashionable.

Sincerely,



Priscilla Feral,

President, Friends of Animals

DON'T BAN THE SALE OF FUR IN NYC

Dear Keith,

My family has been in the fur business since 1927, it's how my parents make a living. Thousands of people will be out of work if this bill passes and NY will lose all of these jobs. The government shouldn't dictate what you wear or buy, it's the consumer's choice. Every person has the right to choose for themselves whether they want to wear fur or not. If you are against fur then don't wear it. The government shouldn't step in and tell you what to do. If this bill gets passed then the government will go after meat, leather, silk, and many other products. Where do we draw the line? Please take this into consideration as should be the consumer's choice.

Sincerely,
Josh Kersner

I was born and raised in Woodhaven, met my husband and we lived in Astoria. He worked in the fur district in the 1980's along with tens of thousands of other New Yorkers, making a decent living in the fur industry. As a result of short-sighted government policies at that time, the fur industry was decimated as jobs were lost to lower paid workers in China. Many of our friends lost their livelihood, their homes, while the lucky ones started over in their 30's as janitors, custodians, deli-workers, taxi drivers, etc. We had to move out of state for better opportunities. I miss New York every day.

Now there is a new threat to the thousand or so of those that persevered and rebuilt, mostly as retail stores, importers and specialty stores providing small scale trade for restyling, repairs and custom work.

I don't understand the economic elitism that allows the government to support the "anti-fur" group. Why is the same pressure not applied to the leather industry, where at least 10x the number of animals is involved?

And why is it necessary for the government to put the remaining thousand or so of decent, hard-working tax-paying citizens out of business to support the few who don't like fur? Let them protest with their pocketbook...you don't approve, don't buy furs, leather or suede!

Or look deeper into the issues facing the world today - cotton production and the groundwater pollution associated with that industry. Or the petroleum based alternatives (faux fur and nylon products) that are not biodegradable and are perhaps even carcinogenic.

Smoking kills people...but the government doesn't stop companies/people from producing or selling tobacco products!

This is not right. This is not how the government in a Democratic country operates. If you don't like or want fur, don't buy it. And don't be hypocritical, by penalizing a small luxury segment of the market using animal products.

Carol Demetrios
443-722-4047
cdemet58@gmail.com

NYC Fur Ban (Intro 1476)

Dear Council Members,

As I will be unable to personally attend the hearing tomorrow on the proposed fur ban in NYC, I wanted to voice my strong support in favor of Intro 1476, and my council member Corey Johnson. I am a native New Yorker and have lived here nearly all of my 65 years. This would make me so proud of my city. One only has to look around at the enormous amount of people (mostly younger) wearing these awful fur-trimmed coats to know how important this is. The coats are a product of suffering, cruelty and killing. People need a wake up call that their personal tastes and actions matter, whether it is the use of plastic killing the planet or your fashion killing the animals.

Thank you,

Teresa D'Amico

W 57 Street

New York, NY 10019

Intro 1476, the bill to ban the sale of fur in NYC.

Maurice Grefe
Roosevelt Avenue
Corona, NY 11368

Dear Sirs,

I am sending you this email to urge you to please pass Intro 1476, the bill to ban the sale of fur in New York City. I don't wear fur, never have worn fur, and don't intend to wear fur in the future. Animals go through torture just for the pleasure of humans and for profit. Barbaric leg hold traps are often used to capture animals for the fur industry as well. As a constituent of district 21, Corona, Queens, I urge you to pass Intro 1476, the bill to ban the sale of fur. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maurice Grefe

Please ban the sale of real fur in NYC

Hello,

My name is Manuela and unfortunately I won't be able to make to the hearing and rally against the sale of fur in New York tomorrow but am here to write my testimony to speak against this horrible practice. I'm against because I believe every being non animal or animal deserve the rights to live without suffering.

I'm against the use and sale of real fur in nyc because electrocuting fur-bearing animals anally and genitally is an agonizing slaughter method used frequently in order to limit damage to the fur and New York is the first state to have banned this inhumane method so it should also banned the sale and not support this industry completely.

I'm against the use and sale of real fur in nyc, because eighty-five percent of the fur industry's skins come from animals who were held captive on fur factory farms, where they were crammed into severely crowded, filthy wire cages. Many were later beaten or electrocuted—and sometimes even skinned alive.

I'm against the use and sale of real fur in nyc because there are no penalties for people who abuse animals on fur farms in China, which is the world's largest fur exporter, supplying millions of dollars' worth of finished garments to the U.S.

Im against the use and sale of real fur in nyc because one billion rabbits are killed each year so that their fur can be used in clothing or for lures in fly fishing or trim on craft items.

I'm against the use or sale of real fur in nyc because In China, there's a thriving cat- and dog-fur industry. Cats and dogs are bludgeoned, hanged, and sometimes even skinned alive for their fur. Their fur is often mislabeled and exported from China to unsuspecting consumers around the world.

I'm against the use and sale of real fur in nyc because fur farms harm the environment. Millions of pounds of feces are produced annually by U.S. mink farms alone. One dangerous component of this waste is nearly 1,000 tons of phosphorus, which pollutes nearby rivers and streams.

I'm against the use and sale of real fur in nyc because there are no federal laws to protect animals on fur farms in the U.S.

I'm against the use and sale of real fur in nyc because after an animal has been slaughtered, his or her skin is treated with toxic chemicals to keep it from rotting and decomposing in the buyer's closet. According to The World Bank, the hazardous process of fur dressing is so problematic that the fur industry is now ranked as one of the world's five worst industries for toxic-metal pollution.

I'm against the use and sale of real fur in nyc because although most animals killed for their fur are raised on fur farms, millions of raccoons, coyotes, bobcats, beavers, and other fur-bearing animals are killed every year by trappers. The steel-jaw trap, which the American Veterinary Medical Association calls inhumane, is the most widely used trap. It's been banned by the European Union and a growing number of U.S. states.

I'm against the use and sale of real fur in nyc because NYC is the biggest and most inspiring place to be. NYC is evolved, is modern and ahead of the game in many ways. NYC as a role model to many places and people should also be against and not support such cruel and backwards practice with so many other alternative to it.

Please, let's all together make it illegal and wrong the continuous abuse of innocent beings for their skin. They're don't deserve such a miserable life. They're here with us and not for us.

Thank you,

Manuela Kondo.

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to voice my support for Intro 1476, introduced by Council Member Corey Johnson. The large majority of New Yorkers no longer approve of fur coats and products being sold in our city. I have been involved in this issue since the 1980s, and it is time that New York City reflects the viewpoint of its citizens and join the many cities and countries that have adopted a no-fur policy.

Regards,

Larry Trepel

As a New Yorker who has worked in the luxury fashion market for over 25 years, I can assure you that fur is NOT necessary.

The horror that these innocent animals face is unconscionable. We, as humans, have no right to do this. The animals have no choice and no voice so we must speak for them.

Please ban fur sales in NYC. We can start the change for a greater good.

Most sincerely,
Heidi Meissner

Please Pass Fur Ban Bill

to whom it may concern,

concerning the hearing tomorrow on the proposed legislation to ban the sale of fur in NYC, i urge you to support that bill. it is not simply about the violence, suffering and loss of life of the (non-human) animals, but it is also about the loss of our own consciences, compassion and respect for all life, no matter the species, gender, nationality, ethnicity, abilities (or disabilities), age or whatever.

let us celebrate our humanity with a vote of compassion.

thank you,

nancy

420 east 119th street
new york, ny 10035
district 8
councilwoman diana ayala

ROAR! (Reaching Out for Animal Rights!)

ROAR24.org

working towards a sustainable, peaceful, healthy, just,
egalitarian, communally shared, vegan, loving planet

Intro 1476

Statement from Woodstock Farm Sanctuary on Intro 1476:

A ban on fur sales would demonstrate that New Yorkers are truly committed to a compassionate New York City. The production of fur is sanctioned torture imposed on sentient beings like coyotes, rabbits, and yes sometimes cats and dogs. These are beings who are just as worthy of consideration as the animals you share your home with. At Woodstock Farm Sanctuary we care for 400 animals who have families, wants, dislikes, and deserve life and autonomy. Every day we have visitors from NYC who are looking to lead more compassionate lives. We see this bill as a crucial step toward making New York City a leader in animal protection just as it leads with environmental and human rights legislation. New Yorkers pride themselves on being modern and aware citizens but in 2019, the selling of fur is an outmoded and truly brutal business that should have been left in the last century. In 2019, wearing the bodies of tortured animals has no place in our city.

Rachel McCrystal

Executive Director

Woodstock Farm Sanctuary

Office: 845-247-5700 x110

Cell: 215-407-9234

2 Rescue Road, High Falls, NY 12440

woodstocksanctuary.org

May 14, 2019

To the city council,

My name is Chelsea Brownridge and I am the CEO of DogSpot. My council member is Laurie Cumbo, District 35. I'm writing to express my full support for Introduction No. 1476, a bill that will prohibit the sale of fur in NYC.

The production of fur tortures, harms, and kills innocent animals for the pleasure of humans. Animals are physically hurt by capture techniques, cruelly confined in cages, and killed in horrendous, inhumane ways. Animals deserve better than this -- and with Intro 1476 we have the opportunity to do better.

There's no hiding from the horrendous facts and photos. New York needs to do the right thing, and be a leader for other cities. Polls show the majority of New Yorkers, your constituents, support banning the sale of fur in NYC. It's that simple.

I urge the Council to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ChB', with a stylized, cursive script.

Chelsea Brownridge
Vanderbilt Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11238



ANIMAL HOPE IN LEGISLATION

Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of Intro 1476

My name is Marc Ching, I am the founder of Animal Hope in Legislation and Animal Hope and Wellness. Part of our history and what are known for is our undercover investigations into slaughterhouses and fur farms - in an attempt to document what really happens, and the abuse these animals suffer through.

Personally I have gone undercover into fur farms across the world. Documenting in Canada, the United States, Finland, and China. One of the largest fur farms I have been to was in Heibai China, where 100,000 foxes are raised and killed solely for their skin. I have been to Finland, a country that claims to have welfare standards in place, but where animals were subject to the same killing methods and inhumane living conditions.

I have seen foxes screaming as they are electrically stunned. Oftentimes the stunning does not kill them, but only leaves them temporarily immobile. I have seen these foxes strung up and skinned alive, heard their screams as their pelts are ripped from their bodies. The opposition will tell you this is old or staged footage. I can attest that it is reality.

Even at its best, there is no humane way for the fur industry to operate. These are *wild* animals confined to small cages for their entire lives, only to be killed for an unnecessary industry. This is why so many European countries are beginning to ban fur farming, why cities such as San Francisco and Los Angeles have banned fur sales. It is why countless brands have gone fur-free. No level of regulation or standardization will resolve the cruelty inherent in this industry.

We hope you take this as an opportunity to support the humane treatment of animals and to support a future based on innovation and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Marc Ching
Founder
Animal Hope in Legislation
747-998-5568



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

CITY HALL
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WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA
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(323) 848-6496

CITY COUNCIL

JOHN D'AMICO
Mayor

LINDSEY P. HORVATH
Mayor Pro Tempore

JOHN J. DURAN
Councilmember

JOHN HEILMAN
Councilmember

LAUREN MEISTER
Councilmember

May 14, 2019

The Honorable Rafael L. Espinal Jr., Chair
New York City Council
Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing
250 Broadway, Suite 1754
New York, NY 10007

Email: hearings@council.nyc.gov

Dear Chair Espinal:

RE: Proposed Int. No. 1476-A (A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to prohibiting the sale of fur apparel)

The City of West Hollywood supports the proposed amendment to the City of New York's local administrative code to prohibit the sale of fur apparel.

In 1989, the West Hollywood City Council adopted Resolution 558, which proclaimed the City to be a cruelty-free zone for animals. Continuing its humane policies and animal welfare advocacy, in 2011 the City Council approved an ordinance to prohibit the sale of fur apparel products which became effective in 2013. The City's ordinance was the first of its kind in the United States.

The City of West Hollywood believes that eliminating the sale of fur apparel products not only protects animals, but also promotes community awareness of animal welfare and, in turn, fosters a consciousness about the way we live in the world.

Since the elimination of the sale of fur products in the City of West Hollywood, we have seen a number of other cities in California adopt similar legislation, including San Francisco and Los Angeles. Additionally, there is legislation pending this year that would eliminate the sale of fur products statewide in California.

It is also important to point out that the City of West Hollywood continues to be an economically vibrant City, and we have not experienced any economic repercussions from the elimination of fur sales in the City. At the time the City was considering approving the ordinance, we undertook an economic impact analysis of the elimination of fur products, and though some impact was projected the actual resulting loss of sales tax revenue did not materialize. In fact our city's sales tax revenue and our brand have never been stronger.

We encourage the City of New York to follow other cities and multiple international fashion houses and adopt this humane policy to protect animals and promote community awareness of animal welfare.





The City of West Hollywood urges the adoption of Proposed Int. No. 1476-A (A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to prohibiting the sale of fur apparel).

Respectfully,

John D'Amico
MAYOR

Cc: ***Members, New York City Council, Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing***

Hon Justin Brannan, Councilmember (43rd District)
Hon Margaret Chin, Councilmember (1st District)
Hon Peter Koo, Councilmember (20th District)
Hon Karen Koslowitz, Councilmember (29th District)
Hon Brad Lander, Councilmember (39th District)
Hon Keith Powers, Councilmember (4th District)

Authors of Proposed Int. No. 1476-A

Hon Corey Johnson, Speaker of the New York City Council
Hon Mark Levine, Councilmember (7th District)
Hon Fernando Cabrera, Councilmember (14th District)
Hon Justin Brannan, Councilmember (43rd District)
Hon Helen Rosenthal, Councilmember (6th District)
Hon Robert Holden, Councilmember (30th District)
Hon Antonio Reynoso, Councilmember (34th District)
Hon Brad Lander, Councilmember (39th District)
Hon Daniel Dromm, Councilmember (25th District)



Wildlife Watch, POB 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE NYC COUNCIL:

On behalf of thousands of our New York City members, we urge you to pass Intro 1476 into law.

The bill will ban the sale of fur in NYC.

Knowing the degree of cruelty inflicted on “furbearers” (animals trapped for their fur), the only fashion statement being made by those who wear fur is: “I am heartless.”

Thank you,

Anne Muller

Wildlife Watch

My family has been in the fur business since 1927 and my family has owned a small shop in Brooklyn for generations. Every American should be able to purchase whatever item of apparel they want. Government should not dictate what the consumer can purchase. It's a free market and if this bill passes, thousands of people will be out of work with no alternative. If people don't want to purchase fur because they don't agree it, that's fine by me. That's their opinion and they are entitled to it. Just don't make it your mission to shut down an entire industry and to ruin others peoples lives just because you don't agree with it. With all that's going on the world, it's inexcusable for this to be at the forefront of government policy! What's next? You can't eat meat? You can't wear leather? Its interesting to me that they are not going after the leather or meat industry. They are picking the low man on the totem pole as they say and it's a joke. It's gone too far and the buck needs to stop here.

Thank you for all your help and please make sure this gets read at tomorrow's hearing.

Brian Kersner

Thank you NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson for proposing Intro 1476.

I have pondered for a substantial amount of time regarding which topic I thought would be the most impactful towards convincing the committee to pass the ban of fur sales in NYC. Do I include a thought-provoking quote, perhaps from Mahatma Ghandhi who stated “the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated. I hold that the more helpless a creature, the more entitled it is to protection by man from the cruelty of humankind”, then discuss in detail the various forms of animal cruelty that occur on fur farms, such as anal/genital electrocution or standing on a trapped animal to crush their neck or lungs. Do I depict how these defenseless animals are kept in captivity that consists of rows of desolate cages and the mental/physical trauma this confinement results in?

Perhaps examine the link between climate change and the lack of sustainability fur farms perpetuate? For example, exploring the damage that is done to the surrounding environment from toxic runoff (animal waste) which contain high levels of phosphorous and nitrogen. Should I elaborate on the use of petrochemical dyes, preservatives and other toxic chemicals that are used to prevent decay? Air and water pollution are other major concern, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, hydrochloric acid, formaldehyde, alkylphenol ethoxylates, azo dyes and chlorinated phenols are only some of the harmful chemicals that are released when disposing of carcasses via incineration or tanning. The green new deal has brought national attention to our destructive reliance on fossil fuels (one of the major factors of man made climate change), which according to The Pew Charitable Trusts and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (2018) fur farms are “almost entirely dependent on fossil fuels.” Shouldn’t the fact that there is a reliance on fossil fuels be a major reason to ban fur farms globally?

Should I focus my entire testimony on providing counter arguments from the fur industry regarding loss of employment that would result if a ban were to go into effect? First, I would like to refer to my initial point which focused on ethics. Historically there have been many professions that today would be considered unethical and inhumane; the fur industry is not exempt from this criticism. Just because something is legal does not make it moral or justifiable. We must seek to eliminate all forms of oppression both to our fellow man and our furry cousins. As culture and technology advance, we are obligated to develop materials that are eco-friendly and cruelty-free thus allowing those who currently work in the field to remain employed by applying their skills using alternative materials. By creating opportunities for innovation within the fashion industry more, not less jobs will be created in NYC.

Please show your support for animals, the environment and our health, pass Intro 1476 and together lets make NYC the cruelty-free fashion capital of the world!

Vanna Haniff

Fur Ban Testimony for 5/15 Hearing

Hello!

My name is Amy Salazar and I am a constituent of District 1. This upcoming Wednesday is the City Council Hearing to Ban the Sale of Fur. I, unfortunately, can't attend due to work constraints so I'm emailing my testimony in the hopes that it's read aloud for Council Member Chin.

I've attached it below. Greatly appreciate your help. Have a great rest of your week! I'll be anxiously awaiting the outcome.

P.S. - If there's anything more I can do to show my support for this bill and urge Council Member Chin, please let me know.

Thank you!

Amy

--

Amy Salazar

1476 NYC Fur Sale Ban

I Support the proposal to ban the sale of fur in New York City. The industry is cruel and unethical. Wearing animal fur is barbaric and unnecessary. The council should ban the sale of fur and show the rest of the world that NYC is of a higher state of enlightenment.

THANK YOU,

ANNETTE REHM Member of Paul Vallone's district
171 place
Flushing N.Y. 11358

My name is Victoria Moran and I live in Bill Perkins' district in Harlem. I started my career in fashion and then turned to journalism and publishing, and I am the author of thirteen books.

When I was a senior in high school, my father gave me a fur and leather coat. Wearing it made me feel important -- until I slipped a sheet of ice and fell into a colossal pile of dog manure. Lying there with the fur soiled beyond redemption, it hit me: To boost my ego on the suffering of innocent animals was, in the vernacular, crap.

That was over fifty years ago. In the intervening decades, I have seen one injustice after another confronted and changed. People put their lives on the line for these issues, and some even lost their lives. Each change brought a shift, a displacement, and discomfort. People felt they were giving up status or the comfort of "the way things have always been," but with the abandonment of each oppression, we were all made better. This is one of those issues.

The fur trade is part of the history of this country. It moved us forward economically. So did human slavery, child labor, and sweatshops. Those who came before us saw that the benefits derived from these evils could not outweigh their injustice. The evils were left behind, and the economy has soared to unprecedented heights without them. Fur is next to go. Because of access to images and information online, the brutality of sourcing fur is widely known. Its use has already been abandoned by the most influential fashion houses on earth. Seeing someone wearing fur, once the object of envy, is now like seeing someone huddle next to a building to smoke a cigarette. We think: "People still do that?"

Philosophically, I'm not a great fan of banning anything. I like to think that human moral evolution will proceed so intently in its upward progression that barbaric practices such as trapping and farming our fellow mammals, denying them life, liberty and happiness, and executing them via the sadistic methods of anal or vaginal electrocution will fall away of their own accord. But tradition dies hard. Sometimes society and government have to step in and lift up a system mired in denial about the suffering and attached to the familiarity of the status quo.

New York City is known for taking every opportunity to lead. If we're not the first to take a step that evidences tremendous good sense, we're not far behind. This is one of those opportunities. This is a chance to stand for decency over convention, courage over complacency, and an emerging future over a dying past.

New fabrics and fibers, effortlessly elegant and environmentally unassailable, are available now and more are coming every day. The NYC fashion industry is poised to be at the forefront of all this. As the undisputed center of American fashion, we can stand as a city and say "No!" to the unspeakable cruelties of creating luxury garments from the bodies of living, breathing, feeling animals, and a resounding "Yes!" to being both fashion forward and ethically in step with the progress that has to come. We can do this now, in joy and celebration, or be dragged along later. Let's take our place at the forefront and ban fur in this singular, stunning city.

--

Victoria Moran, HHC, AADP, VLCE, www.mainstreetvegan.net
Author, *Main Street Vegan*, *The Love-Powered Diet*, *Creating a Charmed Life . . .*
Host, [Main Street Vegan Radio Show/Podcast](#)
Director, [Main Street Vegan Academy](#)
Producer, [A Prayer for Compassion](#)
Ofc. 212-289-1808. Mobile 646-734-6167

To the members of the City Council:

At the present time, you are offered a great opportunity.

You are in a position to let the people of this city know where you stand on an issue of gratuitous violence, brutality, and slaughter of innocent animals.

Where is your heart? What are your ethics? What is your sense of justice? What ability do you have to feel compassion?

New Yorkers want to know who you are.

The fur industry tortures and kills animals for a profit. That is their purpose.

Animals used by the fur industry are not recognized for who they are--their intelligence, feelings, family bonds, and capacity to suffer are not seen. The fur industry views them as commodities.

On a street corner many years ago, I saw an anti-fur protest where video was shown of fur animals being electrocuted anally and genitally for the purpose of preserving their fur. I have never forgotten--and comments from people passing by indicated similar reactions--the screams of those animals. Another video showed caged foxes pacing and pacing and pacing in their extreme confinement. These are animals used to roaming huge distances every day.

During the hearings, it is important to recognize the deceptive language of the fur industry.

On the television news channel, NY 1, a fur industry representative spoke this morning, Wednesday, May 15. He stated that the fur industry is humane. Really? As far as I know, torture is torture and killing is killing. Imagine if someone said slavery is humane, anti-semitism is humane, rape is humane, killing is humane. Language loses meaning when one speaks this way.

This speaker went on to say that a bill to ban fur would cost jobs. Slavery was lucrative. Nazi concentration camp workers made money. Stealing brings in money. Bernie Madoff thought his behavior was fine. Only a sociopathic industry would attempt to justify its horrendous behavior by saying it provided jobs. People working in the fur industry can find other work that does not involve hurting and killing living beings who do not want to be hurt and killed.

Sincerely,
Irene Muschel
Park Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Hello,

My name is Elizabeth Marchetti and I am a constituent of Costa Constantinides. I reside at 32nd Street Astoria, NY.

I am writing today, because we have a huge opportunity to turn around one of the most archaic industries out there, the fur trade. New York City is supposed to be one of the fashion capitals of the world, and yet we have fallen behind. Huge fashion houses such as Gucci, Chanel, Burberry, Michael Kors, and many others have already banned fur from their lines due to the unethical, inhumane treatment placed upon animals for the sake of "fashion". The entire city of Los Angeles has recently banned fur, and the whole state of California is looking to do the same. The fact that New York, a cold climate state has come this far in recognizing that animals are more than decoration is groundbreaking. Let's pass this bill for all of those animals who are tortured and treated inhumanely.

The fur industry wants to push that it is environmentally friendly to use the skins of animals. This is nothing but a lie. The dead bodies of these animals are disposed of through incinerators, which causes significant air pollution. Thousands of animals are crammed one on top of another, and their toxic waste is not cleaned up, causing runoffs polluting the environment.

We owe it to these animals, AND our future generations to make this change real. Let us today stand on the right side of history and end the deadly, cruel, and horrific fur trade.

Thank you for your time,
Elizabeth Marchetti

BAN FUR - it's time!

The time has come to ban the cruel and horrific sale of the skin and fur of innocent beings trapped, captive, tortured, and slain. They do not belong to the human being. Fur belongs on innocent beings that want to live their lives in peace.

Please ban fur in NYC and show your compassion. Peace starts with creatures that have no voice and moves to peace between humans and the planet.

Thank you.

Susan Adriansen

INTRO 1476 - I SUPPORT A BAN ON FUR SALES

My name is Elizabeth Forel and I am a long time NYC resident. I have been opposed to wearing fur since the early 1980s when I became aware of the hideous cruelty involved. The last fur items I had at that time were a goatskin and sheepskin rug. I could not in good conscience keep them so I sent the goatskin rug to PETA to use in their anti-fur demonstrations and I cut up the sheepskin rug and gave it to cat rescuers to keep kittens warm. I saw fur in a new light. I was keenly aware of the suffering.

I support Intro 1476 and am so pleased Speaker Corey Johnson has made this an issue. My Council Member is Andrew Cohen who is on the Health Committee where the bill is being considered.

Fur is the product of much cruelty and it is immoral to still allow it to be sold in NYC. Surely we can do better. We need to remember that the animals who were forced to give up their skins so uncaring and insensitive people could wear them wanted to live too. But instead, they were often raised in small cramped cages and then anally and vaginally electrocuted so they could be skinned.

As often happens, cruel industries being targeted put out many false statements. The fur industry is no different trying to confuse people into thinking the government will tell them what they can wear. This is blatantly untrue, but they expect their targets will not read the bill. The bill is very clear on what it will do. People will still be allowed to wear fur - whether coats, jackets or Ugg boots. There are religious exemptions. If people want to buy fur, they can do so - but outside of NYC. At least NYC will no longer have blood on its hands.

The NYC fur industry can transition to producing faux fur garments and easily become the world fashion center of a new, exciting and burgeoning industry.

This is from Friends of Animals' website in response to the question" **Why has this ban been proposed?**

"About 100 million mink and foxes are killed for fur worldwide each year and trappers kill millions of coyotes, raccoons, muskrats and others as well for fashion. The animals live short, tortured lives at fur farms before being electrocuted, or gassed and skinned. They have their necks broken, or are

clubbed and are also captured and drowned in sadistic limb-pinning or body crushing traps. Eliminating the use of fur products within NYC will follow in the tradition of the city being a progressive leader in animal protection and end the unnecessary market of fur only made possible by cruelty and killings."

This is a comment by Stella McCartney, fashion designer and daughter of singer, Paul McCartney

"I think that the fashion industry can get away with a lot and it is getting away with murder. Fur is the most unnecessary thing in the world. Those animals are not eaten, if they try to pretend that the fur industry products are by-products they are not. Those animals are bred to be turned into coats." – Stella McCartney, 2016, Broadly

Let's follow Los Angeles and San Francisco, which have already banned fur.

Elizabeth Forel

--

Elizabeth Forel / President

[Coalition to Ban Horse-Drawn Carriages](#)

[Horses Without Carriages International](#)

[No Walk in the Park](#) - Facebook

[BanHDCarriages](#) - Twitter

you can't defeat an idea whose time has come



Alliance for Downtown New York, Inc.
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New York, NY 10271
212.566.6700
DowntownNY.com

Testimony of the Alliance for Downtown New York

Committee on Consumer Affairs and Licensing

Hon. Rafael Espinal, Jr, Chair

Int. 1476

May 15th, 2019

The Alliance for Downtown New York operates one of the largest business improvement district in New York City. Our district covers Manhattan south of City Hall and is home to approximately 90 million square feet of commercial space and over a quarter million private sector jobs.

Given the Council's stated interest in protecting locally owned retail, I would like to point out that our neighborhood's more than 1,200 diverse retailers are a vital part of the community. Retailers in Lower Manhattan are facing the same pressures as other small businesses throughout the city. Increased competition from online competitors and the ever increasing costs of doing business in New York have taken their toll. The proposed ban on the sale of fur items would only add to the challenges facing our small businesses while doing little to address animal welfare issues.

Dozens of retailers in Lower Manhattan, including locally owned businesses like Century 21, currently sell items that would be prohibited under Int.1476's broad definition of fur. Consumers wishing to purchase fur apparel would be able to purchase these items online or from retailers in easily accessible neighboring jurisdictions. Rather than promoting animal welfare the proposed legislation would simply transfer revenues from New York City small businesses to online retailer giants.

The fashion industry is also an important employer in New York City. Several major fashion brands including Gucci and Hugo Boss are located in Lower Manhattan, as is the Hudson's Bay Company, a leading department store operator. It is unclear how this proposed legislation may impact the operations of these global businesses.

The presence in our city of so many leading fashion designers, retailers and influencers offers the City Council an unparalleled opportunity to work with the fashion industry to promote higher standards of animal welfare. We believe that partnering with the industry to improve standards and help consumers make educated choices would be a far better way to promote animal welfare than the current proposal which would serve only to punish already struggling businesses and their employees.

I am a voter and resident of Brooklyn and supporter of Born Free USA. I emailing you because I urge you to support Intro 1476, the proposed ban on fur sales in New York City. Not only is this bill compassionate to animals, it is forward-thinking and would confirm New York's position as a fashion and thought leader.

We now have the ability to create a luxe aesthetic using non-animal fur. We don't have to kill animals to make fashion. Fashion has evolved. Designers are finding it increasingly easy to be creative without being destructive. Hundreds of fabrics have been developed that are more eco-friendly and animal-friendly. Gucci CEO Marco Bizzarri announced, "Technology is now available that means you don't need to use fur. The alternatives are luxurious. There is just no need." Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, Armani and Chanel have enacted fur-free policies, as have dozens of mass-market brands like H&M, Zara, Gap, Nine West and The North Face.

Now, it's time to safeguard all the other animals from such gratuitous violence by supporting New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson's bill to ban fur sales in New York City, as lawmakers have already done in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Let's embrace fabrics that don't bleed. Please support Intro 1476!

Sincerely,
Ilona Struzik

Hello;

Please accept this as my formal testimony.

Fur is completely unnecessary in today's society. We are not walking around naked like our ancestors once did. Today a fur coat is considered a status symbol and/or fashion statement. And let's start calling it what it really is - it is a skin coat because the fur rests upon the animal off which it was torn. Most of the time this happens while the animal is still awake and conscious and completely aware of what just happened. Its bleeding, helpless body is then thrown into a pile with other skinned animals, some still conscious, where they lay in excruciating pain, until they eventually expire.

This is the material of horror movies - it should not exist in a civilized society. Many top designers and retailers have already realized this and gone fur free and technologies exist to produce eco friendly faux fur.

We stand before you today, asking you to finally put an end to this brutal, outdated atrocity by passing Intro 1476. Send it into the past, where it belongs.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Loula COLUMBUS

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NYC COUNCIL,
THANK YOU FOR THE OPPURTUNITY TO
TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF THE LEATHER
INDUSTRY . DUE TO A RECENT SURGICAL
PROCEDURE I AM UNABLE TO TRAVEL AND
APPEAR BEFORE YOU IN PERSON BEFORE
YOU.

My name is Jay Myers, I am a principal of a
tannery in Brazil, where we tan cow and horse.
Additionally, I am a partner of a garment
manufacturing factory In Pakistan along with a
sheep and goat tannery.

First, I would ike to state my support for
expanded regulation of the fur industry. The
slaughter of farmed animals just for their skin on
a personal level I find abhorrent. With this said,
the propesed bill in it's current form has serious
flaws. In the cow, sheep, goat and horse industry
there are many organizations overseeing the
slaughtering technique with strict controls. The
leather industry and the meat industry adhere to
strict guidelines encompassing environmental
protection and cruelty to animals. I am proud to
say that the tannery I am affiliate with in Brazil
received a gold rating from the British Leather
Chemists association, a leading oversite

organization within the industry. In Pakistan we received a high rating from the BSCI, Business Social Compliance Initiative a governing body within the Mid-East and Orient.

The proposed bill as submitted enjoins the cow, horse, sheep and goat “hair on” products coupled with Double Face (Shearling) sheep to the Fur industry. Frankly, other than coming from animals there is no relationship between the two. A massive miscalculation by one certainly unfamiliar with the meat industry by-products. To be specific none of animals listed are slaughtered for their hides or pelts. To give a better insight allow me the moment to further explain.

Taking a 1,200 to 1,400-pound steer brought to slaughter only 50%-55% of the bovine or equine is used for meat. Cows provide Olio stock and Olio oil for margarine and shortening. Olio is also used for chewing gum and candies. From bones and hoves, comes gelatin for medicinal capsules and desserts such as Jell-O, plus buttons, bone China, piano keys, a wide variety of glues and fertilizer. What would a cookout be without roasted marshmallows or marshmallows in hot chocolate, ice cream, canned meats. The intestines provide natural sausage casings, catgut for surgical procedures in addition to which the stringing of the best tennis rackets. The hide, aside from producing leather, is also used in felt in textiles and is the basis for numerous applications.

For example it is the binder for plaster and asphalt, the base for insulation material to cool and heat our homes. Our particular tannery also makes what is commonly referred to as "pigskin" for the football industry. The simple fact is it is heavyweight cowhide that all leather footballs are made from.

Lipstick, hand and face cream, as well as many makeup bases. Many types of soap. Ingredients are used in the explosives industry, which are produced from the inedible fat of beef. Fatty acids are used in the production of chemicals as biodegradable detergents, pesticides, and fluoridation agents. In fact, one fatty acid in particular is used to make automobile tires run cooler and last longer.

We get violin string from the intestines. The finest bows for our beloved musical instruments, from the tails and manes of horses.

In the medical field more than 100 different drugs which help in childbirth, help with an upset stomach, Pepto Bismal, blood clots, anemia, hay fever, asthma. Helping in the digestion of milk, and perhaps one of the most important of beef by-products, Insulin, may be the best-known of all. In the United States we have some 6 million Diabetics, approximately 20% must use insulin on a daily basis. It takes the pancreas from 26 cattle to

produce enough insulin to keep one diabetic person alive a year.

By comparison the luxury fur industry offers nothing but warm clothing. From an environmental standpoint the processing uses 20-25% more energy than any of the products mentioned above

I grant the Double Face or Shearling portion of the overall leather garment industry is not particularly large in the United States, neither in dollars nor in units produced. However, one of the processes in the production of the sheepskins you wish to ban has a unique use. In the tanning and finishing process the flesh side of the sheep we are able to spray a specifically formulated top coat to protect the wearer from oil and gasoline spills in severe cold climates during the refueling of planes and vehicles. Currently there is no alternative to this product There are a few locally approved garment manufacturers who supply the United States military. In addition many long haul military flights still cover the seat with sheepskins for the comfort of the flight crew

What concerns me, are the supporters of this bill..... Organizations including PETA have not taken these facts into account. We have the meat and leather industry for the production of necessary products including insulin. When their cars ride over asphalt on good tires, clean their homes, glue their children's school projects, wear their Jimmy Chou,

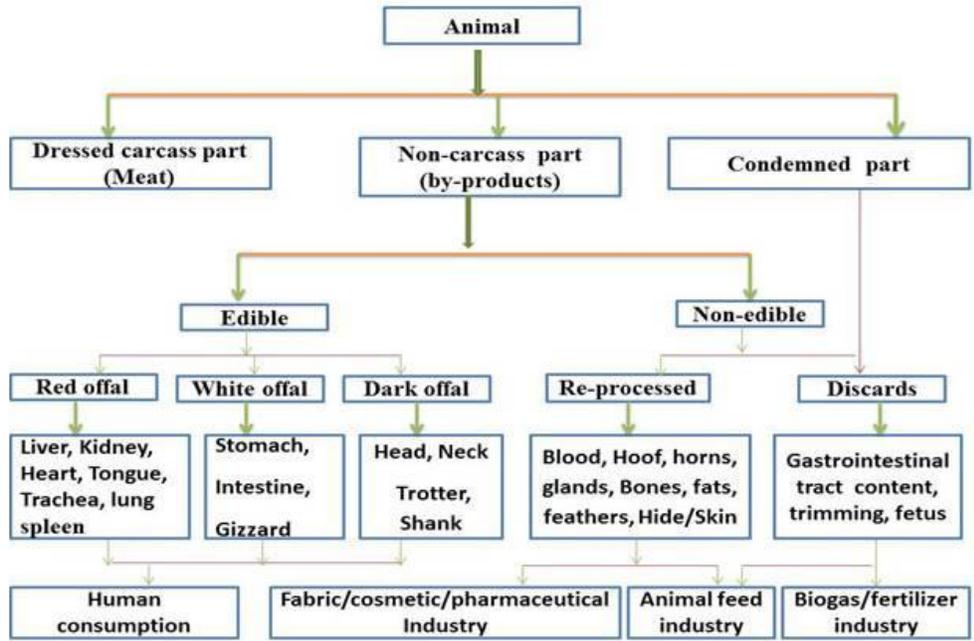
Rockport, Nike, or Stuart Weitzman shoes, they are using by-products of the leather industry specific to cow, sheep, goat, and horse, and nothing from the Fur Industry

Wearing leather apparel may not be suited for everyone whether it be due to ethical positions taken or personal preference in style. But to decimate an industry with misinformed decisions is not what this august body should do. I feel strongly that the bill should be either rewritten or completely withdrawn.

In closing, the hair on cow, hair on horse, and double face (Shearling) sheep products have no relationship with the Fur industry.

Thank you for your time

and non-meat products (LEBPs) as shown in Figure 1.



Beef Market Central May 10, 2019

Cattle Empire LLC June 2018

Beef By-Products

From BONES, HORNS & HOOVES

Combs & Toothbrushes
Collagen Cold Cream
Bone Meal Fertilizer
Dog Biscuits
Pet Food Ingredients
Buttons
Piano Keys
Cellophane Wrap
Cellophane Tape
Bandage Strips
Emery Boards & Cloth
Neatsfoot Oil
Marshmallow
Glycerine
Bone Charcoal Pencils
Ice Cream
Bone China
Abrasives
Steel Ball Bearings
Phonograph Records
Gelatin Desserts
Crochet Needles
Adhesives
Dice
Syringes, Adhesive Tape
Shampoo & Conditioner
Collagen & Bone for Plastic Surgery
Rose Food
Wallpaper & Wall Paper Paste
Photographic Film
Gelatin Capsules

From HIDE & HAIR

Sports Equipment
Clothing
Saddles
Insulation
Hide Glue
Textiles
Paint & Plaster Binder
Asphalt Binder
Luggage
Rug Pads
Footwear
Artist's Brushes
Ointment Base
Upholstery
Felt
Rouge Base

From FATS & FATTY ACIDS

Explosives
Chewing Gum
Make-Up
Paints
Saddle Soap
Solvents
Industrial Oil & Lubricants
OLEO Margarine
Shoe Creme
Ceramics
Hand Soap
Medicines
Creams & Lotions
Dish Soap
Mink oil
Antifreeze
Tallow for Tanning
OLEO Shortening
Chemicals
Rubber Products
Crayons
Insecticide
Floor Wax
Cosmetics
Paraffin
Herbicides
Shaving Cream
Biodegradable Detergents
Protein Dog Food
Protein Hair Conditioner & Shampoo
Tires
Canoles
Dog Food
Chicken Feed

From INTESTINES

Sausage Casings
Instrument Strings
Surgical Sutures
Tennis Racquet Strings

From MANURE

Methane Gas
Fertilizer

Table 1. Common uses of animal by-products.

Animal By-Products	Reprocessed Products	Major Uses
Hides and Skin	Cured hides & skin. Leather & Textiles	Leather clothes, belts, car and household upholsteries, bags, footwear, drums, luggage, wallets, sports goods, gelatine etc.
Hoof and horns	Hoof & horn meal Gelatin and keratin extraction	Combs, buttons, plates, souvenirs, Fertilizer, Collagen, glue, gelled food products, foaming in fire extinguishers
Bone	Extraction of collagen Bone meal	Cutlery handles, Shortening, bone gelatine, bone meal, Collagen
Blood	Pharmaceutical products Blood meal	Catgut, tennis strips, blood sausages or pudding, fertilisers, animal feeds, emulsifier and stabilizer
Intestine	Sausage casings Surgical sutures Musical instruments	Sports guts, musical strings, prosthetic materials, collagen sheets, burn dressing, strings for musical instruments, sausage casings, human food, pet food, meat meal, tallow, casings
Organs & Glands	Pharmaceuticals Medicinal Xenotransplantation	Heart stimulant, heparin, corticotrophins, enzymes, steroids, oestrogen, progesterone, insulin, trypsin, parathyroid hormone
Hair/Wool	Textiles Extraction of keratin	Cloths or woven fabrics, mattress, keratin, carpets, knitted apparels, insulators

Tannery Direct, Inc.

40 West 37th Street. Suite 802

New York, NY 10018

+1 212 465 1503 office

Members of the New York City Council, I am grateful for this opportunity to stand before you and speak about Shearling and Hair-on Goat, Cow and others in this category.

My name is Anne Sampson and I represent tanneries and factories from Italy, India, Spain and Turkey.

My purpose is to ask for your kind consideration to **Carve out Shearling and Hair-on skins** from the **Bill to Ban Fur**. **Shearling is NOT FUR** and should not be in this bill.

Clearly, there is a misunderstanding with by-products from the meat industry.

City Council member, Cory Johnson and colleagues, you have proposed a bill banning FUR from New York. While it is not my intention to argue about your decision regarding **FUR**, because I am not knowledgeable about this category, I am presenting argument regarding **SHEARLING and other Hair-on articles which, by fact, are not fur**.

It is not my intention to ramble on with facts on the impact of banning shearling however instead, to give you some information on **SHEARLING** that would prompt you to **Carve Out** this category from the Bill.

From a tannery perspective, we are in Compliance with Sustainability, Environmental Audits and Traceability. We thrive each day to implement new systems to make leather, suede and shearling eco-friendly. Our tanneries are highly compromised with the environment and the well-being of future generations. This commitment is demonstrated in our daily activities, not only in the manufacturing of our products but also in all the industrial processes that are involved. We believe that our activity has a significant environmental role, **because we can manage a by-product of the food-processing industry intended for destruction and transform it into a product with a high added value such as SHEARLING AND OTHER HAIR ON ARTICLES, LEATHER AND SUEDE**. In this process of transforming the lambskin into a usable material, we also apply eco-friendly techniques. Apart from our regular tanning, we do a chrome-free tanning process which avoids certain chemicals and industrial products that are particularly harmful to our environment. These green practices are also extended to all our processes. In fact, we follow a conscientious environmental policy that comprises waste, atmospheric emissions and noise issues. To comply with this policy, we have among our facilities:

1. Plants that generate electric power through solar light.
2. Wastewater treatment plant that ensures that our wastes comply with all current regulations and standards.
3. Generator plants that produce electric power for self-consumption

My tanneries participate and have certificates of many international projects and associations on which most of the top world brands and their suppliers take part.

Please see below details of the most important ones and some links for more information:

The Leather Working Group: see attached audited certificate and link: - <https://www.leatherworkinggroup.com>

PROJECT 2020 ZDHC – Road Map to Zero – <https://www.roadmaptozero.com>

We **and** our raw material suppliers pass many different audits every year and we have also passed the INTERTEK auditing regarding social sustainability and labour risk.

It is important to clarify that we currently get traceability by lots/groups of lambs and not for each individual animal (this could be achieved maybe in the future but now it is impossible). However, we have full traceability from the three steps that precede the tannage so, FARM-BREADER-SLAUGHTERHOUSE, which is essential for us to control the quality of the skins from the animal, to the finish product.

The impact that a ban on Shearling and Hair-on Articles would have on New York, the national and global Economy is impossible to quantify without conducting a major study however, here are some points to consider and hopefully broaden your understanding of Shearling.

SHEARLING:

- Is a by-product. Sheep & Lambs are raised for the meat and instead of throwing away the skins, they are processed for many products to include Shearling.
- **If Shearling is banned**, the cost of meat will increase tremendously because the sale of the skins helps to off-set the price of the meat.
- **If shearling is banned**, most of the population, which is middle class and poor, will not be able to afford this meat which is high in protein.
- **If shearling is banned**, what would be the impact on cosmetics. The emollient from the wool provides lanolin that is a key ingredient in soap, lotions, lipsticks and many other cosmetic items. Will you indirectly ban cosmetics?
- **If shearling is banned**, do you intend to tell UGG that their footwear are no longer welcomed in our New York stores and on the feet of our population. UGG sells millions of pairs of footwear in New York. Have you considered the trickle-down impact you will create? Farmers will be forced into bankruptcy, airlines, trucking and ocean transportation will lose a tremendous amount of money from UGG alone not to mention the numerous other of our own giant customers that would lose because of this bill.
- **If shearling is banned**, we will also ban every item made from Merino Wool. Yes, we are talking about banning Sweaters, Coats, Gloves, Jackets that keep us warm in the winter. Can you image the impact?
- **If shearling is banned**, are you aware of how many American designers will have tremendous losses – lets see, how about Theory, Helmut Lang, Ralph Lauren, The Row, Coach, Schott just to mention a few.
- **If shearling is banned, then I assume leather will be banned since it comes from the same skin and** from a tannery point of view, these are some articles that will be affected: **Leather and Suede made for** Clothing, Footwear, Leather goods(belts, wallets etc), Lining for the insides of your shoes, Furniture, interior decorating to name a few.

Dear City Council member, I urge you to CARVE-OUT shearling and other Hair-on Products from this bill. **Thank you for your kind consideration.**



**THE LEAGUE
OF
HUMANE VOTERS®
OF NEW YORK**

POLITICAL ACTION FOR ANIMALS

WWW.LOHV.ORG

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT FOR INTRO 1476

A local law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to prohibiting the sale of fur apparel

This bill would prohibit the sale or offer for sale of fur apparel. Violations would be punished by a civil penalty of no more than \$500 for the first violation, and no less than \$500, but no more than \$1,500 for subsequent violations. Fur apparel sold or offered for sale would be subject to seizure and forfeiture.

The Humane Society estimates that more than 100 million animals are killed each year for their fur. San Francisco and Los Angeles have banned fur apparel, and major luxury fashion brands such as Coach, Gucci, Armani, Stella McCartney, Ralph Lauren, Versace, Burberry, Diane von Furstenberg and DKNY have gone fur-free.

Millions of animals including coyotes, foxes, rabbits and even cats and dogs suffer in anguish, caught in excruciating steel leg-hold traps, bludgeoned to death or killed and skinned on fur farms, for the sole purpose of someone wearing a fur coat. They spend their entire lives sitting and lying on wire cage floors. Eco-friendly faux-fur is widely produced and purchased. There is simply no excuse to buy real fur in a city as progressive as New York, which is taking steps to protect animals. Additionally, New York would become the largest U.S. city to outlaw fur sales if City Council Speaker Johnson's bill passes.

THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS® OF NEW YORK STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS BILL.

Sincerely,

Jeffery Termini

Legislative Director
The League of Humane Voters® of New York State
(716) 380-7667
Jeffery@lohv-ny.org
www.lohv-ny.org

Cc: Council Member Espinal
Council Member Chin
Council Member Lander
Council Member Koslowitz
Council Member Powers
Council Member Koo
Council Member Brannan

The Mission of the League of Humane Voters® (LOHV) is to create, unite, and strengthen local political action committees, which work to enact animal-friendly legislation and elect candidates for public office who will use their votes and influence for animal protection.

Mayra Bermeo
91 street
Jackson Heights, NY 11372
mayrabrm24@gmail.com

NYC council member: Daniel Dromm (District 25)

Hello, my name is Mayra Bermeo. I live in Jackson Heights in Council Member Daniel Dromm's district. As an animal welfare activist, female, and ethnic minority, I strongly support the fur ban Intro 1476. There exist parallels between animal exploitation and women exploitation. How? Because animal suffering is gendered. Animals are forced to reproduce to supply eggs, milk, skin, etc. for people.

I know fur symbolizes elegance, power, rebelliousness, sensuality and social upbringing. But part of that symbolism was falsely advertised by an unregulated fur industry using exploitation and bullying. A woman wearing fur is exotic prey, a trophy to be conquered. An animal bred for their fur is kept in miserable conditions and is lucky to be dead before being skinned.

I also want to be clear that to be anti-fur is not only a White people's issue. This is everybody's movement. I care about another's misery especially because I know what oppression, injustice, suffering, and malice looks like.

Feminism and other social justice movements should be deeply concerned about how animals are treated. Because animal rights is a social justice issue.

As a lifelong resident of Manhattan, i urge you to support bill
1076, banning the sale of new fur.

Thank you.

Pamela Perkins
East 51 St.
NY NY 10022

Ban the sale of fur

I am an animal rights activist in CT. I whole heartedly stand for the ban of the sale of fur in NYC. NYC needs to be fashion forward and follow suit with Los Angeles and San Francisco!

Thank you and do the right thing!

Amy Mallardi
Oxford, CT

Please make NYC fur free

Please make the compassionate decision to ban the cruel sale of fur. This would be a momentous decision animals who are needlessly tortured for profit. Let's make a decision that makes the world a better place.

Joel Bartlett
W 43rd St
New York, NY 10036

Support for Speaker Corey Johnson's proposal to ban the sale of fur

To the Members of the City Council:

I fully support Speaker Corey Johnson's proposal to ban the sale of fur, and, as a resident of Riverdale/Spuyten Duyvil, I urge Council Member Andrew Cohen to support this bill.

Thank you,

Victoria Matus
Netherland Avenue
Bronx NY 10463

Support of Intro 1476 - fur ban in NYC

To whom it may concern:

I am writing today to express my very strong support of Intro 1476, the bill proposed by Council Speaker Corey Johnson to ban the sale of fur in NYC. I have been a resident of Brooklyn since 2012 and am immensely proud to live in NYC, in a large part due to the city's promotion of equality and basic human rights to all of its residents. I was very pleased to see the proposal of Intro 1476, which I believe will extend some of the justice and rights I take such pride in to our animal companions.

I am a longtime supporter of animal rights. In particular, I see the fur industry as a horrendously cruel and simply unwarranted method of clothing product. Animals raised for fur are kept in absolutely appalling conditions, and are often quite literally skinned alive to produce clothing. Sadder still, millions of these animals are rabbits--precious, gentle animals who are sensitive, loving, and make excellent pets for responsible adults. I volunteer with a local group called Rabbit Rescue and Rehab, and have had the pleasure of introducing rabbits to countless New Yorkers, many of whom have gone on to adopt a rabbit as a companion animal. Rabbits of all breeds, shapes, and sizes deserve far better than the pain and bitter end to which the fur industry subjects them.

Furthermore, I can personally attest to how unnecessary fur is as a textile. There are many more effective and sustainable materials for winter coats, blankets, and similar garments. In fact, my vegan winter coat (made by a local vendor called Vaute) is made of fur-free Polartec, and it is quite literally the warmest item of clothing I have ever owned.

I am very much looking forward to hopefully seeing the fur ban pass.

Very best wishes,

Megan Hilands
Brooklyn, NY 11209

Hon. Council Members:

Please enter my statements as testimony for the record regarding Intro. Bill 1476:

Yes — fur coats are so nice to touch and so warm to wear, and the industry does provide employment to New Yorkers —.

However:

The bottom line is there is no rationalizing the torture of living, sentient beings: it is unconscionable, no Ifs, Ands, or Buts. As for displaced workers — Let's help them too - to transition, segue, sustain themselves during the transition. But as a civilized, progressive, ever-evolving, compassionate culture, society, and City, banning the torture of animals must trump other economic issues, just as economic benefits never justified slavery.

Sincerely,

Cindy Kaplan
E. 66th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11234

I am writing to register my strong support for the ban on fur sales in New York City. I believe that fur is unnecessary, cruel, and inhumane. And I believe the inherent cruelty of fur makes it unjustifiable in modern society. I respectfully urge the city council to help make New York a more humane city by banning fur sales.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Amy Kauffman
W 169th St
New York, NY 10032

Good afternoon my name is Maria Reich and I am the ceo or reich furs and er fur trading, a vertically integrated fur and shearling fashion company. We have been manufacturing in nyc for over 20 years and I am proud of that .

My husband was a 3rd generation furrier who passed away 2 years ago in a car accident and I have continued on my family business while raising 4 children as a single mother.

I have a diverse team of employees, some of whom are immigrants that have worked in the fur business for over 40 years. This is the only trade they know. They have families to support , food to put on their tables and children to raise and some to put through college.

Their livelihood will be taken away . Every day since this ban has been proposed I have been approached by my employees about if there jobs will be taken away and what they will do to support their lives,pay their bills and feed their children . they are in tears daily , they are afraid of what is to come.

This fur ban would be devastating , sad, and people would loose greatly.

How do I tell my children we no longer have a business and their mother who worked in a highly regulated trade , supplied jobs to New York City residents , will have to significantly change their lives and do so quickly.

A fur ban to nyc would be catastrophic, it would destroy many lives of hardworking people.

What has happened to freedom of choice?

I've been a vegetarian since the age of 8 years old. That was my choice , I have been a fur designer and manufacturer for over 20 years and that also has been my choice. The government should not be able to tell us what to eat or what to wear, it should be our choice . If you don't like fur, simply don't wear it .

If we loose our jobs , how will the thousands of New Yorkers support themselves. .?

Will you be providing us with jobs?

our employees who have been in this trade for over 40 years: will you be providing support to them or additional training in other vocations ?

This is about job loss ,this could be devastating.

Pls reconsider this proposal and protect our jobs and our livlihoods .

Maria Reich
CEO
ER Fur Trading Corp
Oscar De La Renta Furs
Reich Furs
(T) 917.470.8086
(E) maria@odlrfur.com

To Members of City Council Consumer Affairs Committee:

My name is Sarah Adelson, CEO of Sally LaPointe, a women's designer ready to wear collection based in New York City.

My company is located right down the street. I have built this company from just myself and the creative director, Sally LaPointe, to a team of 11 hard working women. We strive every day to design and produce products that we believe in. We take pride in the fact that we are based in New York City. Our clothing is worn by many women of influence and power and sold globally at numerous retailers.

If you pass this bill you will be taking away our freedom of choice of materials thereby effecting our ability to provide to our customers the products they know and expect from us.

If you pass this bill you will be starting down a path to which you cannot predict the end. This could very well open the door to a chain reaction leading to discriminating against the use of other natural materials also effecting how we design and produce our products.

If you pass this bill it will have a detrimental impact on our business by limiting the type of products we are able to sell to our retailers and customers.

If you pass this bill New York will cease to be a leader of a multi-billion-dollar international industry and make the company my team and I have built and the many other companies we support via our business less relevant in the global industry.

I am asking you not to pass this bill. I am asking you to support freedom of choice. I am asking you to support New York City business owners.

Sincerely,

Sarah Adelson, CEO

SALLY LAPOINTE

Sarah Adelson

CEO

120 WALKER STREET 3RD FLOOR

NEW YORK, NY 10013

WWW.SALLYLAPOINTE.COM

212-226-7277

My name is Samantha Ortiz and I am a resident of Astoria queens and live in Costa Constantinedes district. I am President of my family's fur business, which has been around for 4 generations. The business started in the 1950's after my great grandfather and family fled Poland and came to the US for freedom. After fighting for our country in WW2 my great grandfather returned home to NYC to start his own fur trading company in the garment district, one that continues to operate today. This legal, highly regulated and sustainable, tax paying NYC operated business has supported our family for generations, and today – in 2019 I stand here fighting for the freedom to continue operating in NYC on behalf of my family, our employees and myself. A ban on fur sales in NYC would be detrimental not only to the 150 small businesses. Our employees would be out of jobs, irreplaceable niche jobs that they have a lifetime of experience in. Jobs that cannot be simply replaced by moving to another textile factory. These are proudly skilled artisans in the craft of fur and shearling and they cannot turn around and sew a silk dress or something of similar nature. To suggest so without fully understanding construction is ridiculous. This proposed ban would eradicate an entire industry. It would cause manufacturing to be obsolete here. Proposed bills like this are the attacks that destroy jobs and small business. The kind of attacks that destroy lives of taxpaying NY residents and wipe out a consumers right to choose what they can and cannot purchase. This is a slippery slope, first it's fur , shearling - then it's leather, wool, silk, eggs and meat. Let's not kid ourselves. Government needs to regulate our streets, not our closets and rights to consumer choices. My own family relies on my income to survive, without my income we are finished. This bill would force my family and I out of NYC. The job loss would be devastating, I would lose my home. My family would have no where to go. Our employees who have relied on us would be on the street with no hope and no jobs to turn too. The emotional loss of our family heritage would be equally devastating.

As a resident of NYC, I see firsthand the issues that need your attention. I have called NYC my home for over a decade, and over the past few years the rise in homelessness , failing infrastructure and rodents infestations is appalling. Our city should be focusing on fixing these issues , fighting for the people they represent – not against us. Fight for the humans living on the street in filth, fight for the children and adults involved in school and street shootings each week that we have become so numb too. We need you to tackle gun violence, the rising cost of living, the crumbling public housing system, unemployment, pollution and the list goes on. I urge you to attack these issues head on, not to attack our tax paying small businesses and livelihood. I urge you to vote no to intro 1476-2019.

Best

Samantha Ortiz

My name is youjin seo and my council member is Ben kallos

I came here in 2007 as a college student and attended Parsons. After graduating it was really hard to find a job as a foreign student for a while but my company gave me a chance and hired me as a assistant designer. They gave me an opportunity, trained me and sponsored me to be a good fur designer. This company made a fashion student who only had abdream into a well trained highly skilled fashion designer, specialized in fur.

Fur is a part of fashion industry, like leather, fabric, embroidery or any other material which create beautiful wclothes. Fur making is traditional garment craftsmanship and the art of fur work is beautiful and only highly skilled people can do it. It is truely couture work and needs a lot of respect like other craft in fashion industry.

I have so much respect for the people in this industry and so greatful that they gave me a chance. This company sponsored my Visa and greencard. Without this company I wouldn't be able to stay in USA and have my dream come true to be a fashion designer.

But if this fur sales ban go through, we will no longer have income, no manufacturing and no industry after all. My skills that I spend so much time and effort to be a good designer will go astray and I won't be able to design anymore because my skills are applieable only in fur design. After so many years of trying to make my dream come true, this has to stop because of the fur ban? I won't be able to have a job and won't be able to stay in USA. What do I do after all these years of spending time and effort here?

I am Dr. Kimberly Spanjol and I am here today to speak on behalf of the Humane Education Committee for the United Federation of Teachers. We work with hundreds of teachers throughout the city to turnkey humane education into their classrooms and teach our youth to demonstrate empathy, compassion and kindness toward other people, animals and the environment we share.

Today, we have an opportunity to come together as global citizens and ban the unimaginably cruel act of the industrial scale killing of animals for their skin. Animals suffer immense pain and torture for humans to wear them. These innocent animals endure horrors that we would not wish on our worst enemies, simply because people like the way their coat looks and feels.

Luckily, technological innovations have already provided us with so many alternatives to fur that are cruelty free. Many designers have already stopped using fur in their clothing lines. All of the people currently working in the fur industry have the skills that are so needed to create pieces with new textiles that technology and innovation have now made available. The fur sector has all it needs to reinvent itself and appeal to 21st century consumers. We only need to look to the dairy industry that has finally started to embrace non-dairy milk substitutes that are better for humans, animals and the environment due to consumer awareness, education and demand. [Bloomberg](#) reported this week that many large dairy companies are now reaping the rewards of going plant-based. The fur industry could follow suit, and focus on ways to grow these new innovations and create win-wins for everyone – humans, animals and the planet.

Humane Educators work hard to teach our youth to be caring and considerate of all sentient beings. How can we do this effectively when our laws support industries that ask youth to dampen their empathy and be consumers of harmful products, like those offered by the fur industry? Our laws must model the values that we want our youth to emulate.

This is a crucial time for teaching kindness and compassion. The earth and all of its inhabitants are in crisis. The United Nations just released a summary report that says human activity is threatening the existence of over a million plant and animal species—***more than ever before in human history***. We need to care for all the creatures of the earth, and respect their right to exist and tend to their wellbeing. Saving other animals saves humans too. All oppression is connected. Let us lead

the way here ,in our great city, in being kind to the earth and **ALL** of the beings that call it home. Today, you have the decision in your hands to help create a generation of kind, compassionate and empathic people. PLEASE choose wisely and be on the right side of history. Let us look to the future, and leave the relic of killing animals for their fur in the past. I implore you to use the power that you have been granted and educate people regarding how to think critically about this issue. Help humane educators model the mindset of compassion over oppression and exploitation of other living beings for profit. Help us follow the **state mandate of humane education laws** and support the end of cruel practices by supporting Intro Bill 1476 and a just, sustainable and equitable future for ALL animals - humans included.

I would also like to add in written testimony that it deeply saddens me that some people have been misled by fur industry marketing into believing that the ability to show status is connected to wearing their cruel products. Owning slaves was also once seen as a status symbol for wealthy white landowners at one time in this country. Thankfully humans evolved. They evolved because anti-slavery activists and abolitionists taught us to know better and then do better. They changed hearts and minds - and the laws that allowed this cruelty to flourish. We still have a long way to go to reduce and eventually eliminate cruel oppression of people, animals and the environment. Councilmembers, that is exactly what I am begging you to do today. There are many other benevolent ways to show status than through the exploitation and cruelty of other sentient beings. Let's show status and power by focusing on building true equality for all life. By increasing opportunities for meaningful economic gains that can be invested in futures of families and communities - and NOT on material goods that only serve to make the producers of those goods wealthy. This is a cruel and misguided ploy to keep us all consumers of "luxury" items to show an illusion of status and wealth that actually make us poorer, both in our pockets and in our souls.

Hello,

My name is April Lang and I live in Tribeca, Council Member Margaret Chin's district. I am urging her to support Intro. 1476.

This hearing and this issue are being framed as one of choice, in that all of us have the right to decide for ourselves what is best for ourselves. Generally speaking, I wholeheartedly agree with this statement. I should be able to choose things like my political party, favorite restaurants, the person I want to spend my life with, and what color to paint my living room walls. What these choices all have in common is that regardless of my decision, no harm is being caused to any living being.

Every epoch, every society, has its day of reckoning – the moment when the leaders and the populace must look into both their hearts and minds and decide what their principles are and stand up for them. The decision to begin adhering to one's principles may necessitate a rethinking of long cherished ideas and practices. But many are reluctant to begin the change process, even when faced with the brutal truth that some of their choices are not aligned with their values. While there can be several reasons for this hesitation two of the most common are: 1) our species' belief that freedom of choice is sacrosanct, and 2) entrenched familial and societal traditions that keep us from accepting and acting on new ideas and information. Indeed, having the freedom and the right to choose how one lives his/her life is a major benefit of living in a democracy and must be preserved, unless, of course, what we are choosing causes harm to another being. A prime example of this type of choice would be supporting the fur trade, a so-called "luxury" industry, which profits from torturing and killing animals.

Fur apparel, especially coats, has long been a symbol of wealth, glamour, and status. Movie stars of years gone by were photographed out in public donning their minks, chinchillas, and sable coats, while on screen, most female characters swooned at the thought of their husband or lover draping their shoulders in a fur. In the 1920's and 1930's, raccoon coats were all the rage for men. Print ads displayed celebrities wearing fur coats had tag lines, which read, "What becomes a legend most?" "Defining Style," and "A woman can be overdressed but never over elegant." Over time, fur became more accessible to the masses; even if someone couldn't afford a fur coat or jacket, they could get a coat trimmed with fox, or a hat made of rabbit. What was the process for turning these animals into these "luxury" garments? Nobody seemed curious enough to find out and nobody in the trade was talking. Over time, that changed and many people went undercover, often risking their lives, to document exactly what that process entailed. And it wasn't a pretty picture.

To acquire fur, animals are either trapped or bred. The former method necessitates using barbaric devices such as the steel-jaw leg hold, Conibear, or snare traps. These are outlawed in some places but it's anyone's guess how many inspectors are actually trekking into woods and outbacks to monitor compliance. Without going into graphic details, suffice it to say these traps cause horrific pain to these animals. If the traps don't kill them on the spot, they will often linger for days in extreme heat, cold, rain, or snow waiting for the trapper to return and finish the "job." Many of these animals have been known to chew off a paw in a futile attempt to escape. The animals that are bred are raised in tiny cages on fur farms. Some of these farms keep the cages outside so again, these animals are exposed to extreme weather conditions. In a desperate attempt to escape, many injure themselves on the rusty cage bars and when their cage mates die,

live with the decaying bodies. Death for these animals is torturous. Because the fur trades wants “pristine” pelts, the animals will be anally electrocuted or clubbed. Because there are so many animals to kill and time is money, those doing the killing are not “wasting” time to ensure the animal is dead before fur removal begins.

As more and more people continue to learn about this brutal industry, many are now refuting the idea that fur is synonymous with glamour. A good many of those who finally have altered their views about fur are household names in the fashion industry. These include: Coach, Diane Von Furstenberg, Versace, Michael Kors, Donna Karan, Burberry, Armani, Vivienne Westwood, Gucci, Calvin Klein, and Tommy Hilfiger. And while these designers have given up selling apparel made of fur, there are lots of new designers who are manufacturing beautiful faux-fur garments. These include: PawJ, Charly Calder, Pelush, Adolfo Dominguez, Only Me, Donna Salyers, Christopher Raeburn, and Shrimps. Clearly, for those who wish to look stylish and glamorous, there is no shortage of cruelty-free options.

Those who have ceased producing garments made of fur, as well as those who never did, understand the cruelty endemic to this industry. The fur trade, however, is now employing the euphemism, “sustainable fur farming” to justify their business practices and create the impression that fur is actually an eco-friendly fabric. Actually fur is not a fabric – it is a part of an animal’s body and as important to him/her as our skin is to us.

The last several decades have produced a preponderance of evidence that non-human animals are intelligent beings with rich emotional lives and are capable of experiencing fear and pain. However, it is an unfortunate but true fact that most consumers don’t bother to fully research an industry before making a purchase. Therefore, it is up to our elected officials to educate themselves on matters like this so they can provide leadership and guidance to their constituents. That might mean going against the grain of what some citizens want but lest we forget – the 13th amendment passed without every single Southerner being on board. And yet the South lives on!

I believe New York’s day of reckoning is upon us. Our city can either continue with the status quo of sanctioning the fur trade or stand up and say, we no longer want to be defined as a city and people that ignores the suffering of fur-bearing animals. This hearing is not only about whether an industry should survive, but whether these sentient beings should survive. A famous quote by Gandhi says, “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated. My fervent hope is that NYC becomes a beacon of enlightened thinking, making us a shining example of moral progress in action.

Dear Council Members,

On behalf of Long Island Orchestrating for Nature (LION) and our hundreds of supporters throughout the five boroughs, I urge you to support Intro 1476.

Millions of animals around the world are beaten, electrocuted, and skinned for fur garments every single year, taking dozens of lives slaughtered to make a single fur coat. Whether the fur comes from China where there are no laws preventing animal abuse on fur farms, or Sweden where minks have been documented living with open head wounds and severe infections, or the United States where foxes are gassed or electrocuted, fur means cruelty to animals. As an anthrozoologist, I know that this callousness toward animals breeds callousness toward all life, cats, dogs, and humans included. As a licensed Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator in the state of New York, I can tell you that animals trapped for their fur suffer no less here than they do in China. I've seen raccoon femurs snap as easily as a pencil in a steeljawed trap and would never use such a cruel device on any animal.

Everyone involved in this cruel industry would be jailed on felony cruelty-to-animals charges if dogs or cats in the United States were abused in the same ways as animals who are killed for their fur. Just this morning, it was announced that authorities are searching for a suspect trapping cats with steeljawed traps on Long Island right now.

New York has been at the forefront of fashion for decades, so as top designers, like Coach, Giorgio Armani, Michael Kors, Donna Karan, and more now reject the cruelty of fur, it is only fitting New York City does as well. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
John Di Leonardo
Executive Director & Anthrozoologist
Long Island Orchestrating for Nature (LION)
www.humanelongisland.org

Dear City Council,

I support Intro 1476, the bill to enact a ban on sale of live fur products in New York City. Killing animals so that we can wear them is no longer necessary, and it is inhumane.

Thank you,

David Murphy
370 Central Park West

Dear Council,

My name is **Emilie Nguyen** and I live in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn in Council member **Laurie Cumbo's** district. I urge her to support this bill.

When I walk down the street of NYC and see people wearing fur or their Canada Goose jacket I immediately feel exasperated by the **lack of empathy** toward the animals who had to suffer and be tortured. **Fur is a constant reminder of pain, suffering and death.** I don't want to be reminded of our own lack of humanity when I walk down the street but most importantly this barbaric practice has no place in our modern society. With all the **technological advances** we can now make fake fur that is more economical and sustainable for our environment.

Millions of baby (usually 6 months to 3 years old) **foxes, minks, rabbits, even dogs and cats** are caught in traps or bred in misery in those tiny cages. They live in terror, fear, stress and are prone to diseases and **psychological/physiological distress** (anxiety-induced psychosis).

Animals are **sentient beings** which means they can feel a wide range of emotions from pain to happiness. Darwin wrote "there is no fundamental difference between man and animals in their ability to feel pleasure and pain, happiness and misery." Animals exhibit qualities connected with **social instincts**; they are social animals like we are.

If people knew where their fur is coming from they might think differently and decide not to purchase it. Consumers have the right to know what animals had to die to provide the fur. Change comes with awareness. This is a moral imperative. You can help save millions of innocent lives, please **support Intro 1476** and make fur part of our history.

Thank you for your attention,

Emilie
Lefferts Pl
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Hi!

I was not able to make it to city hall today. Banning fur from the city lets everyone know that New York does not stand for animal cruelty. It is SUCH a great stride towards a more compassionate future, where future generations can learn that it's not acceptable to use animals for a fashion statement. There are many alternatives out there for people to pick from, that will keep them warm and look just as good. I support the fur ban! The fur industry is a cruel, torture fueled industry that profits off of terrified, innocent beings. Please show our children a compassionate, respectful future by supporting the ban too. Thank you so much.

Thank you,
Victoria White

Greetings!

I would like to state that I am in favor of Intro 1476 to ban the sale of Fur in NYC. There should be no business in the greatest city in the world, a modern world, that specializes in selling real fur. This is a barbaric practice that only promotes animal cruelty and murder. It is sadistic to do this to any sentient living creature.

The right to bodily autonomy should not only be limited to humans, but should also include non-human animals. For NYC to ban this business practice would demonstrate to the whole world that our civilization can make advancements without doing so at the expense of animals and their environment.

It is of the utmost importance for our humanity to support Intro 1476. The fur industry is partaking in nothing more than disturbing mass extermination to beautiful innocent creatures that did not deserve such torture fall upon them.

Thank you, very much.

Sincerely,

Edward Oporto

Adelia Honeywood Harrison

honeywood5@yahoo.com

Testimony on Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur in NYC

May 15, 2019

Compassion is better business than cruelty. People around the world are demanding products that do not involve cruelty towards people or animals. Those businesses that understand this will outperform businesses that are stuck in obsolete forms of commerce that traffic in suffering and exploitation. New York City has the opportunity to be a leader in compassion and in worldwide consumer and fashion trends by passing Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur in NYC.

I am a long-time resident of New York City, vegetarian, animal rescuer, and member of the general public who is watching this bill closely.

Animals that are raised or hunted for fur suffer terribly. They either spend short unhappy lives of suffering and fear in a fur farm, or they suffer hideous pain and fear in leghold or snare traps that are among the cruellest devices ever devised by humankind. And for what? For the trim on a Canada Goose coat? For a coat or wallet? Fur is a vanity item that has no utility in contemporary society. Furthermore, fur is treated with all kinds of toxic chemicals that pollute our environment. And some animals that end up as fur coats are threatened or endangered.

Nobody wants people to lose livelihoods, but there are alternatives and ways to diversify into products that do not involve cruelty and that ordinary people will actually want. Please pass Intro 1476 for a humane and innovative New York City.

Worldwide, over 100 million animals are abused and killed for their *fur* every year. Whether raised on fur-farms or trapped from the wild, fur-bearing animals including: foxes, coyotes, wolves, bobcats, beavers, otters, dogs, cats, and raccoon dogs, have unimaginable cruelty inflicted upon them by the fur industry.

As consumers become more aware of how animals are violently abused and killed for their *fur*, they are seeking to buy clothing, shoes, and accessories that are as ethically produced as they are functional and stylish. That is why designers, retailers, cities, and countries around the world are joining together in banning the sale of *fur* and shutting down *fur* farms. In the past 18 months, Chanel, Phillip Lim, Jean Paul Gaultier, Coach, Burberry, Gucci, Michael Kors, and more, have all banned *fur*. Here in the US, the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco have recently banned the sale and manufacturing of *fur*, while cities and countries across Europe and Asia are doing the same.

It's clear that *fur* is cruel and a relic of the past.

PLEASE, let's make New York City the next city to become fur free TODAY! Thank you Stacey Gross

Hello nyc council,

My name is john paredes, my address is 64th St Woodside, ny. My council representative is jimmy van Bramer.

I vehemently encourage you as the leaders of nyc that you are to take an ethical stand and support and pass Intro 1476 to ban fur sales. The fur industry is inhuman, and antiquated. There is no need for fur in fashion and clothing making. Please have the moral clarity to speak for those that cannot speak for themselves. Please pass Intro 1476 today!!!

-regards

John paredes

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Workers Transport Cooperative

Bikeshare maintenance & services

My name is Jessica Zafonte. I am an attorney residing at W 116 St, New York, NY 10026. My council member is Bill Perkins. I could not attend today's hearing on Intro 1476 today, which I strongly support, because I am traveling for work. The fur industry is one of the cruelest in existence today, and there is no justification for this cruelty. Clothing made with fur are luxury products, not something that anyone needs. The standard methods in the industry for raising, skinning and killing these animals are egregious in their brutal and inhumane nature and the suffering of the animals, no different from the dogs we keep as pets, is unimaginable. As a society, we must continue to progress and put such barbaric and inhumane practices behind us, despite the fact that they may have been considered acceptable in the past. New York City should join other progressive cities in banning the sale of fur. It is the right thing for a civilized society to do.

>

> Jessica Zafonte

Councilman

To let you know, my family entered the fur business immediately after my father returned from world war two. We continue today with the fourth generation of our family in this business.

We are a proud and hard working industry and our business is one of the first ones in the history of the United States. NYC , once the proud fashion and fur center of the world. All of the people in the Fur business follow proper animal husbandry and care of animals. The industry has very strict guidelines and certification that has been followed for many years.

Sir; We believe in freedom of choice.

It is beyond my understanding and comprehension that you would try to remove an entire industry and over 7500 jobs from wonderful people that really do not know any other work.

And where will you go next, meat, fowl, leather etc.

We ask you to concentrate on human issues :

Homeless people living on our streets

Hunger

Mental health (current program a disaster) Public housing is full of mold and lead pain and no heat.

Public transportation

Education system is terrible

Etc etc

Please rescind this unfair bill

Richard Reich, retired

ER Fur Tradings corp.



OFFICIAL STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF INTRO 476

As a national nonprofit organization supported by leading rabbis from across the denominational spectrum, Jewish Veg supports legislation to ban the sale of fur for one simple reason:

Judaism mandates that we treat animals with exquisite and sensitive compassion, and the practices of the fur industry grotesquely violate this mandate.

The Bible, or what we call the Torah, speaks emphatically and repeatedly about how we're supposed to treat animals. In Judaism, these teachings are collectively known as *tza'ar baalei chayim*.

Actually, these are more than teachings. In the Jewish religion, *tza'ar baalei chayim* is a Torah mandate. We are forbidden from causing or abetting unnecessary animal suffering.

In the fur industry, the suffering is profound, even excruciating. Whether the animals are raised in captivity or caught in the wild, the practices are unfathomably cruel.

Minks and other animals raised in captivity for their fur are typically kept in small wire cages. In these cages, the animals are deprived of the ability to engage in their most basic natural behaviors, such as running and climbing.

About 40 percent of mink apparel comes China, where animal-welfare standards are non-existent.

In the wild, leghold traps are common in the U.S. fur industry, even though more than 85 countries have banned these cruel, inhumane devices.

Frightened animals pinned by a leghold trap are left for days without food, water, or protection from the weather until the hunter comes back to the trap, at which point they're either shot at point blank range, clubbed to death, or choked.

All of these practices are not only abhorrent to any sensitive person, they specifically constitute egregious violations of Jewish ethics.

We acknowledge that Jewish law takes into account our need to earn a living. And we're confident that implementation of this legislation will include some form of economic mitigation so that owners of fur stores and their employees can transition to other business ventures.

We also acknowledge that a small subset of Orthodox Jewish men wear fur hats, called *shtreimels*. It must be emphasized that this is a cultural custom, not a part of the Jewish religion. This is why the vast majority of Jews do not wear or own *shtreimels*. As a cultural custom, it is improper to buy or wear a fur *shtreimel*, as their production violates a Torah mandate, which takes precedence.

Faux-fur versions of these hats are available, especially in Israel. But even if that weren't the case, the proposed legislation does not seek to ban the wearing of furs, only the sale of furs.

So this legislation leaves freedom of religious expression untouched and intact.

Actually, when it comes to Judaism, this legislation is itself an expression of our religious values, and thus we look forward to its passage. No civilized society, whether governed by religious or secular values, should blind itself to such suffering. Together, we will create a more compassionate world and a fur-free city.

Councilman

My name is Larry Marchfeld. I have worked in the fur industry for over 30 years. I presently work for Reich Furs a family run business who employees over 10 workers. Through the 30 years of employment in the fur industry I have established myself as a professional and a businessman. I have been able to help put my 2 children through school and also help them pay their student loans as well as give them financial support. My dad passed away roughly 3 years ago and I am lucky enough to still have my mother who is 82. I help support her so she can continue to live a enjoyable life. If this fur ban goes into effect my livelihood will be in jeopardy. I will no longer be able to help pay my children's student loans which will then put them in a hardship situation. I will not be able to help support my 82 year old mother who depends on my financial assistance. I will not be able to pay my own mortgage, I will not be able to afford health care and at 61 years old I will be forced to seek employment. The many employees that work in the company that I am employed for will also lose there jobs and will not be able to pay there bills. Everyday these workers walk around our office with fear and uncertainty in their faces of what may happen to them if this ban goes into effect. Please vote No on this fur ban and save our workforce, our industry, our livelihoods and most importantly our families.

Best Regards

Larry Marchfeld

Visit www.shoppersrights.org to protect consumer freedoms in NYC

Dear Council member,

As a native New Yorker and human who cares about not only just other humans, but non humans as well. I urge you to please pass the fur ban.

Worldwide, over 100 million animals are abused and killed for their fur every year. Whether raised on fur-farms in tiny wire cages or trapped from the wild with cruel leg-hold traps, fur-bearing animals -- including foxes, coyotes, wolves, otters, dogs, cats, and raccoon dogs -- have unimaginable cruelty inflicted upon them. Designers, retailers, and cities around the world are joining together in banning the sale of fur and shutting down fur farms due to the cruelties involved. In the past 18 months, Chanel, Phillip Lim, Jean Paul Gaultier, Coach, Burberry, Gucci, Michael Kors, and more, have all banned fur. Here in the US, the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco have recently banned the sale and manufacturing of fur, while cities and countries across Europe and Asia are seeking to do the same.

An overwhelming majority of residents support banning the sale of fur apparel in the city, [a new poll](#) released Friday shows. These poll numbers confirm the public overwhelmingly supports laws that protect animals and that New Yorkers would like to progress and move forward away from this archaic industry.

I hope you will take the above information into consideration during the hearing today.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gina Volpe

Brooklyn, NY

Testimony in Support of Intro 1476

My name is Dilara Alemdar and I am a American/Turkish citizen living in the East village in Carlina Rivera's district. I urge her to support the Bill to Ban Sale of Fur in NYC because I believe that it is unacceptable to turn a blind eye to the pain and suffering that the fur industry is causing. I want to be proud of the city that I am living in and believe that this bill will be a great step in making NYC a city that respects animal rights. I have been volunteering in dog rescues for years and believe that the poor animals who spend their lives in mesh cages are no different than our dogs and cats and they have every right to a proper life. I am also Junior at NYU double majoring in Politics and Comparative Literature and I study animal ethics and philosophies and know that the fur industry and practice is becoming outdated. I have talked to many students at NYU and I can confidently say that the majority of the people who buy fur do not know that the fur they are wearing is real. I am hoping that NYC will be on the right side of history and show the world that it is a city that respects animal rights. We are all capable of compassion and we can definitely do better and do everything we can to stop the suffering, pain and fear of these innocent beings.

Thank you for your time.

Testimony in Favor of Intro 1476A - Bill to Ban Sale of Fur in NYC

My name is Michal Klein, my address is 264 6th Avenue, New York, NY 10014, and my council member is Corey Johnson, sponsor of Intro 1476A which would ban the sale of fur in New York City. I am emailing to voice my support of this legislation. This cruel industry does not have a place in our current society.

The methods in which animals are bred or trapped and kept in small cages in the fur industry are horrific. These animals are meant to run around free. Long periods in a small cage drives them insane, much like would happen to a confined human. These animals will pace or sway back and forth in the cage, gnaw at their legs, or attack another animal in the same cage. When their fur is stolen from them, they are anally electrocuted which causes extreme suffering and pain. They don't always die from this process, which is the intention without destroying their fur, and are often skinned alive and left in a pile to die a slow, painful death.

In a modern society, humans should be better than this. The fur industry can only be called one thing, unethical. New Yorkers and most humans are compassionate and don't want to unnecessarily hurt animals. There is no functional reason to torture and kill animals for fur. There are many faux fur textile materials to replicate the look of fur. To keep hurting animals for vanity is simply immoral at this point and wrong. It is also unsustainable.

I do understand that those who make their living in the fur industry are concerned about their jobs and being able to earn a living. Throughout history, many industries have become obsolete and died out, causing people to have to adjust and find another way to earn money. This is not a reason to keep doing the wrong thing. I do feel that if the fur industry is banned in New York City, there should be funding to help those currently working in the industry to be trained in another industry, or to work with other materials within the fashion industry that doesn't involve hurting animals. The goal is not to harm the humans who work in the fur industry. The goal is to save animals from being tortured and killed like so many before them.

Thank you for your time in reading my statement.

Sincerely,

Michal Klein

Peace begins on your plate

www.VeganOutreach.org/whyvegan

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Elena Natale. I am a resident of Brooklyn, New York and a constituent of Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene. I write to you today in strong support of Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur in New York City. New York City has long been a symbol of modernity and forward-thinking. But how can we claim to be truly progressive if we continue to condone the torture and killing of the most innocent and defenseless among us?

I ask you to please think of your beloved pets with whom you share your home and your life. Animals that are trapped, skinned, anally electrocuted and mercilessly killed for fur are just as capable of feeling love and joy and despair and terror as our companion animals. Would you ever want them subjected to that which animals experience at the hands of the fur industry?

There are those who will present flimsy arguments in opposition to the ban, saying, for instance, that real fur is environmentally friendly; it's not. (Toxic runoff from the waste of animals kept on fur farms pollutes the environment. Petrochemical dyes, finishes, preservatives and other volatile compounds are regularly used to "beautify" and prevent rot and infestation, harming the environment and consumers in the process.) Or they may say that banning fur will mean a huge loss of jobs; it won't. (New York City, the fashion capital of the world, is home to 180,000 fashion industry workers, accounting for 6% of the city's workforce. Fur jobs represent just 0.5% of these jobs. More importantly, skills are universal. Fur is simply a material input. Superior inputs can be used without a loss of design and manufacturing jobs. Therefore, the skills, from designing to patterning, cutting, and sewing that furriers have are still very valuable and can be applied across NYC's growing sustainable design and manufacturing sector. There are NYC funds, initiatives & accelerators designed to help the fashion industry thrive in NYC.)

Increasingly, consumers are demanding an alternative to fur. A recent poll conducted by Mason-Dixon found that 74% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans and 79% of Independents support a ban on the sale of fur. And the fashion industry is following suit. Recent companies to stop using

fur include Chanel, Phillip Lim, Jean Paul Gaultier, Coach, Burberry, Gucci, Michael Kors, and more. And other cities are getting the idea, too (Los Angeles and San Francisco recently approved similar fur bans). New York is not a city that follows; New York leads.

We live in a time where the strong get away with bullying the weak. Let's change this. Let's send a very powerful message that profit and allegiance to the almighty dollar are not what matters most. Compassion and respect are most important, and their day is here. Please do what is right. Please support Intro 1476.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Elena Natale

Constituent of Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene

Beverley Rd.

Brooklyn, NY 11226

Hello

I would like to submit my testimony, asking you to support Intro 1476, the Sales ban on Fur Apparel.

100 million animals are brutally killed worldwide for fur. The production of fur relies upon inhumane practices. Some animals are skinned alive. Some are electrocuted or gassed. Some are trapped in painful traps, resulting in immense physical trauma, spending days trapped without food or water. These traps may also injure and kill pets and children inadvertently. All farmed animals are kept in such small cages throughout their shortened lives, that they literally go crazy.

Fewer people are buying fur, now that they realize the brutality behind it. It's time that we remove the brutality to animals where we can.

Why wouldn't anyone not support the ban, given the horrors of production?

Some say it's all because of money. However, as society progresses, some businesses always get impacted. That doesn't stop us from progressing though. Society will be losing many more jobs from automation than from banning fur sales. And no one is stopping automation from continuing.

Please support Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur in New York.

Thank you,

Dahlia Benaroya

158 Street

Flushing, NY 11358

Council Member Paul Vallone District 19

Hello,

My name is Kelsey Sikon, I currently live at 43rd Street, Astoria, NY, 11103 and my city council member is Jimmy Van Bramer.

I am emailing today to show my support of Intro 1476, a bill which would effectively ban the sale of fur in New York City. The fur industry is incredibly horrific, impractical, inefficient, and downright cruel, and there is really no place for it in our modern society.

There is no reason to wear fur and many fashion moguls have already taken a hard stance against it. Gucci, Versace, Burberry, Michael Kors, Coach, Chanel, and H&M are just a few designers that support banning fur. Likewise the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco have already successfully banned fur. It is time for NYC to be the best major city to step up to the plate and do the morally and ethically right thing to do by taking a stance against animal cruelty in fashion!

In a citywide survey conducted by Mason-Dixon, 74% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans, and 79% of Independents support banning fur. These statistics prove that this issue is universally supported across all political lines, because regardless of political standing the majority of people can agree that fur is cruel and completely unnecessary and would like to see our city support that.

Please help our city become a more progressive and compassionate one. It is what most voters support and would be a huge step forward!

Best,

Kelsey Sikon

Emmanuel Reyes
Knickerbocker Ave
Brooklyn , NY, 11207

Council member : Rafael L. Espinal Jr.

To whom it may concern,

I am in full support of new york city's intro 1476 to prohibit the sale of fur. The fur industry is cruel and inhumane to animals all around the globe. New York should join Los ángeles and San Francisco in their compassionate choice to prohibit the sale of fur in their respective cities.

--

-Reyes

Hello,

My name is Corinne van den Heuvel, I live at W 87th Street in New York, NY 10024 and my council member is Helen Rosenthal.

I wholeheartedly support Intro 1476 to ban fur sales, just like 74% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans and 79% of independents support the sales prohibition, according to a citywide survey conducted by Mason-Dixon.

Please use your voices wisely and for those without voices, who've been needlessly bred, tortured and killed for far too long. Please make the coming New York winters more pleasant by taking the vile, constant reminders of this animal abuse off the streets.

Many thanks,

Corinne van den Heuvel

furfreenyc.com/blog

I was unable to attend the hearing today about Intro 1476 - the bill which would ban fur products in NYC, but I wholeheartedly support this proposed ban.

Fur clothing and other products are senseless results of a life of cruelty and brutal death to innocent animals. These products are losing popularity because social media and other exposure is revealing the horror that is behind them.

NYC is a great city that sets an example for places around the world, and it would be wonderful to send a message of kindness over cruelty.

Please ban fur products from NYC.

Thank you,
Lori Klugman

Sheila M. Richardson

61st Street

Woodside, NY 11377

Councilmember: Jimmy VanBramer

Re: Intro 1476

There are numerous negative aspects of the fur industry. It's not sustainable, it's not natural. It pollutes. Fur isn't "green"; but it *is* mean. Among the nasty facts that the fur industry doesn't want you to know, or care about, is how the animals are killed for fur products, from a full coat to fur trim, to cat toys.

This is a sampling of the brutal techniques used to kill the animal without harming its fur:

Minks are gassed or electrocuted, either anally or vaginally. There are 120 minks in one coat.

Beavers are drowned in underwater traps. It takes a long time for a beaver to drown. There are nine beavers in one coat.

Wild foxes are stomped as their paws are in the grips of a leghold trap. There are 10 to 24 foxes for one coat

Persian lamb, a/k/a "broadtail" - pregnant sheep are beaten with a stick to induce labor and then the fetal lambs are skinned alive. This is to keep the kink in the fur. There are 30 karakul lambs in one coat.

The fur industry constitutes a tiny part of the fashion industry but is responsible for an outsize amount of pain. There are many alternative careers in fashion that don't involve cruelty.

We aren't living in 2019 B.C. A recent poll shows 75% of NYC respondents, Democrats and Republicans, support a ban. Fashion designers are increasingly abandoning the use of fur in their designs. This is not a fringe issue. Please vote YES on Intro 1476. Thank you.

Sheila M. Richardson

Good evening, council members and Speaker Johnson. Today I witnessed testimony from 1pm to 6pm, but was not called to present so please take a moment to read what I had prepared to say during today's hearing.

My name is Lester Wasserman and I am the fourth generation in my family shoe business. Tip Top Shoes has been in existence since 1940 and the proposed ban on shearling shoes and accessories is another nail in the coffin of retail here in New York City. As a small business owner, we have had to contend with a variety of issues that make doing business here in New York City more difficult than ever. Rising rents, a new minimum wage of \$15 per hour, rising healthcare costs and a drastic shift towards Amazon and online shopping are just a few of the hurdles we have managed to clear over the recent years. As retailers, we carry the products our consumers demand. If there is no demand, we don't carry them. It's just that simple. Government intervention here is simply wrong, and in addition where does it go from here? What is next? Are you going to regulate what food we eat? This might sound like a joke, but it's no laughing matter.

Sheepskin - like leather - is a byproduct of the food industry and should be exempted from the proposed legislation.

As small business, we are overtaxed and overregulated already and now you want to tell us what items we can or can not sell? That's simply outrageous. Additionally, this unfairly targets middle and lower income people who work in these businesses. From stock people, cashiers, sales people and managers, we would have to make significant changes to our staff. We are a union store and many of our staff members have worked for us for decades. They are like family, but if stripped of the ability to sell shearling, these changes would be inevitable in our quest to survive. Local 1102, the union affiliated with retail, wholesale and department store employees would also take a hit here as without the ability to sell these big ticket items, these jobs would disappear. This proposed ban will send shockwaves through retail here in NYC and it would be irresponsible of you to pass such legislation

Thank you

-Lester Wasserman

Tip Top Shoes

155 West 72nd Street

NY,NY 10023

<https://tiptopshoes.com>

My name is Patricia Licea Guerrero and I'm one of Ms. Diana Ayala's constituents. I would like for Ms. Diana Ayala to support Intro 1476. I'm originally from Los Angeles but moved to the east coast for college and have now (to the dismay of my poor mother) stayed for work.

I'm sure you'll hear a variety of statistics and facts today explaining why the fur industry has no place in New York so I'd like to instead bring your attention to a more personal perspective.

I had my first interaction with "fur" when I was about 8 or 9 years old. My mom gifted me a gorgeous black fur coat. I loved it and wore it proudly for the first time on my way to a family party. An aunt approached me and asked me if I knew the coat could have been from a dog. I, a mere 8 or 9 year old, was horrified and admonished myself for not having considered that earlier. The coat immediately lost its allure for me for it couldn't be beautiful on anyone other than the original animal who bore the fur.

I now realize there was no way a \$20 coat from JCPenney could have been made from real fur, but my reaction was real. This story is emblematic of the changing times. If I, as a young child, turned away from this non-necessity by a passing mention of the manufacturing process, how could you all not be swayed with even more facts?

In sum, this California girl has remained warm and survived the raging northeastern winters without needing to wear fur. My generation, unlike the previous, doesn't view fur as glamorous and it WILL become a thing of the past.

--

Patricia Licea Guerrero

Ban fur

Please ban fur from all NYC.

Katty Aybar <katty_aybar@yahoo.es>

Hello my name is Amanda Ardelean. I am from Council Member Stephen Levin's district.

I am here today because I feel a moral obligation to voice my concern for the victims of the fur industry and to urge the city council to support Intro 1476. Harmful industries must be disrupted and the City Council is taking a very important and admirable step to disrupt this vile one.

Listening to testimonies today, it seems that opponents of this introduction are fighting against it because continuing with their current business practices is the easy way out. Well-developed and logical reasons for why they can't transition to cruelty-free alternatives have not been provided.

But I don't believe this bill is meant to be pro-animals and anti-New York furriers. I believe we as a city will be able to think creatively to support the current fur-dependent businesses as they transition away from fur. With the significant decline in the demand for this product since the 20th century, their businesses will continue to be surpassed by modern, ethical brands, and this is the reality they will need to face. They just need a push from our City Council to get them started in the right direction.

When I think of fur, I think of cruelty, of torture, of unnatural confinement, of mutilation, of agony, and of slaughter. I think of innocent creatures who have no idea why they are being treated as they are. I think of horror movies and how they can't ever be effective in eliciting fear because the worse that happens in those is the standard reality for millions of animals.

And then I think it can't get worse, but it does when you realize none of it is necessary and cannot be justified.

There is no need for animal fur products in New York City. Thank you.

**Testimony of Tom Garcia
Senior Vice President & General Counsel
Deckers Brands**

Before the

**New York City Council
Committee on Consumer Affairs & Business Licensing**

Regarding

Int. 1476-A – Prohibiting the sale of fur

Good afternoon. My name is Tom Garcia and I serve as the Senior Vice President and General Counsel at Deckers Brands. I would like to thank Speaker Johnson, Chairman Espinal, as well as members of the committee for the opportunity to testify before you today. Founded in 1973, Deckers Brands began as a simple sandal company in Southern California. Since then, we have grown into a global, multi-brand company that includes footwear brands such as UGG®, Teva®, and HOKA ONE ONE®.

In New York City, we have 70 full time employees working in corporate as well our 4 retail locations with many more during the holiday season. In addition, we have more than 150 wholesale accounts throughout the five boroughs that account for approximately 200 store fronts, many of whom, are small business owners.

I am here today to testify in regards Int. 1476-A, which prohibits the sale or offer for sale of fur apparel, except for used fur apparel and fur apparel that is worn as a matter of religious custom. The current definition of “fur” in the bill means any animal skin, in whole or in part, with the hair, fleece or fur fibers attached. This definition would prohibit the sale of certain UGG® Brand products, including our iconic UGG® classic boot, that contain sheepskin. It is important to distinguish UGG® Brand sheepskin products from luxury fur products such as fox, lynx, and mink that this legislation is seeking to ban.

Sheepskin, like leather, is a by-product of food production and is fundamentally different from luxury fur products and should be exempted. On May 8th, Speaker Johnson framed the byproduct argument in explaining the current exemption for leather “Leather is a co-product of meat. So right now, if you're killing a mink, or a chinchilla, or a coyote for fur, you're not eating their meat.” Sheepskin should be included as a byproduct exemption in this legislation – just like leather.

While foxes and other animals are raised expressly and exclusively for their skins, sheep are primarily raised for their meat, not for the sheepskin. If sheepskin is not utilized, it is often considered waste and is burned or discarded as trash.



Approximately 95% of the sheep's value to the farmer is derived from selling the meat, while less than 5% is derived from the sheepskin. By utilizing sheepskin in our products, Deckers Brands is making the food industry more sustainable.

Many other jurisdictions such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, and the City of Berkeley that have implemented fur bans have exempted sheepskin from the definition of "fur" in their legislation. It is important to point out that there is also a bill in the NYS Assembly sponsored by Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal that bans the sale of fur but includes an exemption for sheepskin in the definition of "fur." Fashion icon Tim Gunn was recently quoted in a *City & State* op-ed praising Los Angeles and San Francisco for their fur bans, which include sheepskin exemptions.

Deckers Brands sources sheepskin from countries with stringent food industry and animal welfare regulations such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. We are committed to sourcing our material in a sustainable way as evidenced by our ethical sourcing and animal welfare policy. We respect the City Council's efforts to stop the practice of raising animals to be killed for their fur but want to distinguish sheepskin products from this category of products.

We urge the Council to amend the legislation to include an exemption for sheepskin products from the definition of "fur" so that Deckers Brands along with the hundreds of small businesses can continue to do business in New York City.

We look forward to working with the Council on this issue.



Ethical Sourcing and Animal Welfare Policy

I. INTRODUCTION

At Deckers Brands (“Deckers”), we want to bring transparency to our supply chain. We want consumers to know about the materials and craftsmanship used to create our unique brands. This policy is a statement of our commitment to Ethical Sourcing and Animal Welfare. It guides Deckers, as well as our suppliers and manufacturers (collectively, “business partners”), to act responsibly when sourcing materials on behalf of Deckers.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all suppliers who source materials on behalf of Deckers Brands including UGG[®], Teva[®], Sanuk[®], Hoka One One[®], Koolaburra[®].

III. PERMITTED/PROHIBITED ANIMAL HIDES

A. Permitted Animal Hides

Deckers ONLY accepts Animal Hides that are a byproduct of the meat industry and are not raised exclusively for their pelts. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Cow (leather + hair-on hides)
- Sheep (leather + hair-on hides)
- Pig
- Goat
- Water Buffalo

B. Prohibited Animal Hides

Animal Hides must NOT be any of the following species:

- Any species of domesticated or feral dog or cat
- Raccoon Dog
- Angora or rabbit hair (*this restriction shall apply to Products manufactured after the Fall 2014 season*)
- Astrakhan/Karakul

Date Adopted: November 1, 2018
Department Responsible: Materials Purchasing
Approved by: Senior Vice President of Supply Chain

- Seal, Polar bear, leopard, ocelot, tiger, cheetah, jaguar, sable antelope, wolf (*Canis lupus*), zebra, whale, cobra, python, sea turtle, colobus monkey, kangaroo, vicuna, sea otter, free-roaming feral horse, dolphin or porpoise (*Delphinidae*), Spanish lynx, or elephant
- Crocodile, alligator or caiman
- Endangered species, based on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) (see www.cites.org for a list of species) or the IUCN red list as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable (www.redlist.org).

IV. SOUND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND MULESING

A. Sound Animal Husbandry

Suppliers must source animal hides from processors which use sound animal husbandry, humane animal treatment, and slaughtering practices. Deckers does not accept hides from animals that have been slaughtered exclusively for their pelts or skinned alive. We define sound husbandry as the internationally recognized Five Freedoms¹.

- a. Freedom from hunger or thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor;
- b. Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area;
- c. Freedom from pain, injury or disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment;
- d. Freedom to express (most) normal behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind; and
- e. Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

B. Mulesing: Deckers does not support the practice of mulesing. Sheepskin and Wool suppliers must certify that they do not supply any materials or products to Deckers from sheep which have been mulesed. Further, Deckers will accept Merino wool from Australia *only* from certified non-mulesed or ceased-mulesed wool sources. The UGG[®] Animal Welfare FAQ details Deckers' sheepskin sourcing practices and can be found at the following link: <https://www.ugg.com/animal-welfare-faq.html>.

V. RESPONSIBLE COTTON

Deckers Brands is a member of the Better Cotton Initiative and understands the importance of sourcing cotton produced in a way that is better for the people who produce it and the environment in which it grows. We do not support forced labor, in

¹ "The Five Freedoms", Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, accessed December 2, 2015. <https://www.rspca.org.uk/servlet/Satellite?blobcol=urlblob&blobheader=application/pdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=RSPCABlob&blobwhere=1210683196122>

any form, which is why we do not source cotton originating from Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan given the practice of forced labor in these countries for cotton production. Our business partners are also prohibited from sourcing cotton from Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan.

VI. RESPONSIBLE DOWN

All down used in Deckers branded products is certified in accordance with the Responsible Down Standard: <http://responsibledown.org/>. Deckers believes that the welfare of the birds should be respected at all times. As such, Deckers strictly prohibits the practice of live-plucking or force feeding.

VII. DEFORESTATION

All tanneries supplying finished leather (cattle hides) to Deckers Brands originating from Brazil are required to have a Leather Working Group certification and a level “A” rating in traceability. This ensures that the hides sourced are not originating from farms involved in illegal deforestation.

VIII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF DECKERS BUSINESS PARTNERS

- A. Annual Certification:** On an annual basis, Deckers business partners must certify their compliance with all applicable policies (*including this Animal Welfare Policy*).
- B. Source Origin and Traceability:** Suppliers must be able to trace raw hides back to its country of origin and provide source origin documentation upon request. Deckers does not accept sheepskin sourced from countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Deckers does not support the practice of transporting live animals overseas.
- C. Labeling:** All Animal Hides must adhere to product labeling requirements including, but not limited to, the Fur Products Labeling Act and the Wool Products Labeling Act.
- D. Legislation:** Suppliers must comply with all applicable global legislation which applies to animal hides.
- E. Trade Regulation:** Suppliers must comply with country specific import/trade regulations which apply to animal hides. Where applicable, products made with animal hides will be accompanied by the appropriate export certificate.

IX. DECKERS ETHICAL SOURCING AND ANIMAL WELFARE GOVERNANCE

Deckers Materials Purchasing department is responsible for ensuring our business partners and our employees are fully compliant with this Policy.

X. INDUSTRY COLLABORATION**A. United Nations Global Compact**

Deckers has been a member of the United Nations Global Compact (“UNGC”) since 2016. The UNGC is the world’s largest voluntary corporate citizenship initiative with over 8,000 participating companies.

B. Textile Exchange’s Kickstart Program

Deckers joined the Textile Exchange’s Kickstart Program in FY18 in order to bring smaller farm operations into the Responsible Wool Standard initiative and increase the availability of certified wool in supply chains.

C. Responsible Wool Standard International Working Group, Textile Exchange Working Group

Deckers is a founding member of the Responsible Wool Standard International Working Group. In 2015, Deckers joined other brands, animal welfare groups, farmers and supply chain members and the Textile Exchange to develop the forthcoming Responsible Wool Standard – a global standard that will protect animal welfare, influence best practices, ensure traceability, and ultimately give consumers clear and trustworthy information which can help guide their buying preferences.

D. Leather Working Group

Deckers is a member of the Leather Working Group (“LWG”), an industry organization that developed and maintains a rating system and certification program for environmental performance in tanneries. Approximately 100% of all leather used in Deckers products is sourced from a LWG certified tannery.

E. Leather Working Group’s Animal Welfare Group

The primary objective of the Animal Welfare group is the education of the leather value chain on the long and short of animal welfare. This group prioritizes their efforts around traceability, slaughter protocols, assurance schemes and risk mapping.

F. Better Cotton Initiative

Deckers joined the Better Cotton initiative in 2018. The Better Cotton Initiative is a non-profit organization that promotes better standards in cotton farming and practices.

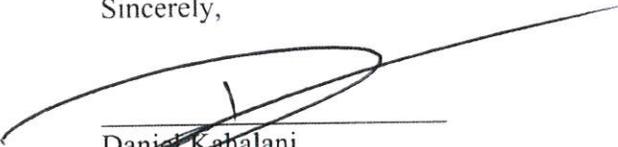
5-10-19

Dear Council Member,

I am a retailer of UGG® Brand products in the New York City Area with a store located at 273 Lafayette Street in SOHO. UGG Brand products containing sheepskin are an essential part of the products I sell in my store and I rely on their sales during important shopping periods of the year. Passing Int. 1476-A would prohibit me from selling a very popular product line that my customers come back year after year to purchase. It is important to distinguish UGG Brand sheepskin products from fur as they are a byproduct of the meat industry and sheep are not raised for their skin. UGG is committed to sourcing their material in a sustainable way, adhering to various animal welfare guidelines.

At a time when small businesses are already struggling with rising rents and overregulation, passing a ban on the sale of sheepskin products such as UGG Brand products would strike yet another blow at small business owners like me. Please consider including an exemption in the definition of "fur" for sheepskin products so that my business can continue stocking and selling these popular UGG Brand items.

Sincerely,



Daniel Kahalani
Store Owner
DNA Footwear

5-10-19

Dear Council Member,

I am a retailer of UGG® Brand products in the New York City Area with a store located at 452 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. UGG Brand products containing sheepskin are an essential part of the products I sell in my store and I rely on their sales during important shopping periods of the year. Passing Int. 1476-A would prohibit me from selling a very popular product line that my customers come back year after year to purchase. It is important to distinguish UGG Brand sheepskin products from fur as they are a byproduct of the meat industry and sheep are not raised for their skin. UGG is committed to sourcing their material in a sustainable way, adhering to various animal welfare guidelines.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ali Saab', written over a horizontal line.

Ali Saab
Store Owner
Blue City, Inc.



5-10-19

Dear Council Member,

I am a retailer of UGG® Brand products in the New York City Area with a store located at 782 Lexington Avenue, New York NY 10065. UGG Brand products containing sheepskin are an essential part of the products I sell in my store and I rely on their sales during important shopping periods of the year. Passing Int. 1476-A would prohibit me from selling a very popular product line that my customers come back year after year to purchase. It is important to distinguish UGG Brand sheepskin products from fur as they are a byproduct of the meat industry and sheep are not raised for their skin. UGG is committed to sourcing their material in a sustainable way, adhering to various animal welfare guidelines.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eliot Aizer', written over a horizontal line.

Eliot Aizer
Store Owner
ORVA

88 Pine Street · 26th Floor · New York, NY 10005
212-369-5717
www.soles.com

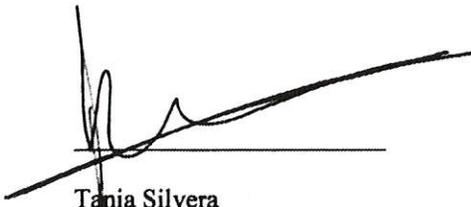
5-10-19

Dear Council Member,

I am a retailer of UGG® Brand products in the New York City Area with a store located at 690 Tremont Avenue, Bronx NY. UGG Brand products containing sheepskin are an essential part of the products I sell in my store and I rely on their sales during important shopping periods of the year. Passing Int. 1476-A would prohibit me from selling a very popular product line that my customers come back year after year to purchase. It is important to distinguish UGG Brand sheepskin products from fur as they are a byproduct of the meat industry and sheep are not raised for their skin. UGG is committed to sourcing their material in a sustainable way, adhering to various animal welfare guidelines.

At a time when small businesses are already struggling with rising rents and overregulation, passing a ban on the sale of sheepskin products such as UGG Brand products would strike yet another blow at small business owners like me. Please consider including an exemption in the definition of "fur" for sheepskin products so that my business can continue stocking and selling these popular UGG Brand items.

Sincerely,



Tania Silvera

Store Owner
City Jeans

Tannery Direct, Inc.

40 West 37th Street. Suite 802

New York, NY 10018

+1 212 465 1503 office

Members of the New York City Council, I am grateful for this opportunity to stand before you and speak about Shearling and Hair-on Goat, Cow and others in this category.

My name is Anne Sampson and I represent tanneries and factories from Spain, Italy and Turkey.

My purpose is to ask for your kind consideration to **Carve out Shearling and Hair-on skins** from the Bill to Ban Fur. **Shearling is NOT FUR** and should not be in this bill.

Clearly, there is a misunderstanding with by-products from the meat industry. reason Shearling and Hair-on articles fall under the category of fur in your estimation.

City Council member, Cory Johnson and colleagues, you have proposed a bill banning FUR from New York. While it is not my intention to argue about your decision regarding **FUR**, because I am not knowledgeable about this category, I am presenting argument regarding **SHEARLING and other Hair-on article which, by fact, are not fur.**

It is not my intention to ramble on with facts on the impact of banning shearling however instead, to give you some information on **SHEARLING** that would prompt you to **Carve Out** this category from the Bill.

From a tannery perspective, we are in Compliance with Sustainability, Environmental Audits and Traceability. We thrive each day to implement new systems to make leather, suede and shearling eco-friendly. Our tanneries are highly compromised with the environment and the well-being of future generations. This commitment is demonstrated in our daily activities, not only in the manufacturing of our products but also in all the industrial processes that are involved. We believe that our activity has a significant environmental role, **because we can manage a by-product of the food-processing industry intended for destruction and transforming it into a product with a high added value.**

In this process of transforming the lambskin into a usable material, we also apply eco-friendly techniques. Apart from our regular tanning, we do a chrome-free tanning process which avoids certain chemicals and industrial products that are particularly harmful to our environment. These green practices are also extended to all our processes. In fact, we follow a conscientious environmental policy that comprises waste, atmospheric emissions and noise issues. To comply with this policy, we have among our facilities:

1. Photovoltaic plants that generate electric power through solar light.
2. Wastewater treatment plant that ensures that our wastes comply with all current regulations and standards.
3. **Generator plant of gas that produces electric power for self-consumption**

My tanneries participate and have certificates of many international projects and associations on which most of the top world brands and their suppliers take part.

Please see below details of the most important ones and some links for more information:

The Leather Working Group: see attached audited certificate and link: -

<https://www.leatherworkinggroup.com>

PROJECT 2020 ZDHC – Road Map to Zero – <https://www.roadmaptozero.com>

We and our raw material supplier pass many different audits every year and we have also passed the INTERTEK auditing regarding social sustainability and labour risk, see attached certificate.

It is important to clarify that we currently get traceability by lots/groups of lambs and not for each individual animal (this could be achieved maybe in the future but now it is impossible). However, we have full traceability from the three steps that precede the tannage so, FARM-BREADER-SLAUGHTERHOUSE, which is essential for us to have totally controlled the quality of the skins from the animal, to the finish product.

The impact that a ban on Shearling would have on New York and the national and global Economy is impossible to quantify without conducting a major study however, here are some points to consider and hopefully broaden your understanding of Shearling.

SHEARLING:

- A by-product. Sheep & Lambs are raised for the meat and instead of throwing away the skins, they are processed for many products to include Shearling.
- **If Shearling is banned**, the cost of meat will increase tremendously because the sale of the skins helps to off-set the price of the meat.
- **If shearling is banned**, most of the population, which is middle class and poor, will not be able to afford this meat which is high in protein.
- **If shearling is banned**, what would be the impact on cosmetics. The emollient from the wool provides lanolin that is a key ingredient in soap, lotions, lipsticks and many other cosmetic items. Will you indirectly ban cosmetics?
- **If shearling is banned**, do you intend to tell UGG that their footwear are no longer welcomed in our New York stores and on the feet of our population. UGG sells millions of pairs of footwear in New York. Have you considered the trickle-down impact you will create? Farmers will be forced in bankruptcy, airlines, trucking and ocean transportation will lose a tremendous amount of money from UGG alone not to mention the numerous other of our own giant customers that would lose because of this bill.
- **If shearling is banned**, we will also ban every item made from Merino Wool. Yes, we are talking about banning Sweaters, Coats, Gloves, Jackets that keep us warm in the winter. Can you image the impact?
- **If shearling is banned**, are you aware of how many American designers will have tremendous loss – lets see, how about Theory, Helmut Lang, Ralph Lauren, The Row, Coach just to mention a few.
- **If shearling is banned, then I assume leather will be banned since it comes from the same skin and** from a tannery point of view, these are some articles that will be affected: **Leather and Suede made for** Clothing, Footwear, Leather goods(belts, wallets etc), Lining for the insides of your shoes, Furniture, interior decorating to name a few.

Dear City Council member, I urge you to CARVE-OUT shearling and other Hair-on Products from this bill.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

New York City Council
Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing
City Hall
City Hall Park
New York, NY 10007
Re: (Intro. 1476-2019 – Opposition to Proposed Fur Ban)

Dear Chair Rafael L. Espinal Jr. and City Council Committee:

My name is Matt Peek. I'm a professional wildlife biologist for the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and I oversee the wild furbearer management program for the state of Kansas. As a wildlife biologist, I have trapped beaver, coyote, otter and various other species for research, reintroduction programs, and damage control, and I have extensive experience with traps and trapping.

I'm here today representing the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). All 50 state wildlife agencies support regulated trapping as a necessary part of modern wildlife management, and we have serious concerns about the implications of the bill to wildlife conservation.

This ban is being promoted as pro-animal welfare. In fact, trapping today is managed through science-based regulations that already address animal welfare. These regulations are put in place by wildlife biologists like myself who care deeply about animals, and have dedicated our lives to their conservation.

The U.S. and Canada have spent over \$50 million in recent decades conducting trap research and promoting the best and most humane traps in existence. And this effort has been effective. Recent trapper surveys indicate the vast majority of the target animals captured by trappers in the U.S., are captured in traps that pass international humane trapping standards.

In addition, the same traps used today by fur trappers are also used by biologists for research and reintroductions. This is only possible because these traps usually cause minimal or no injury to captured animals.

Recognizing this, the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians has a position statement recognizing foothold traps, "when used properly, are humane, safe and practical."

It's also worth noting that the species that are trapped today are abundant, in fact some like coyote and raccoon are more abundant than they've ever been in history, and they have the

potential to damage property and other, more vulnerable species like sea turtles and ground nesting birds.

Without the fur trade, the harvested animal will be disposed of and wasted, rather than producing a durable, environmentally-friendly product that can be used by people. The fur trade is responsible use of wildlife.

In closing, a ban on the sale of fur in New York City will have significant, negative impacts on both wildlife and people. I'm asking you today to trust the judgement of wildlife professionals and ~~your~~ state wildlife management ~~agency~~ [agencies on this issue](#) ~~and oppose this bill~~.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and FurNYC

Matt Peek
Wildlife Research Biologist
620-342-0658
matt.peek@ks.gov
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)

Please ban fur

It's cruel and inhumane and kills billions of innocent animals every year.

Thank you,

Mahesh K <mkvizag@gmail.com>

Testimony for Intro 1476: Fur Ban

My name is Rachel Wechsler and my Council Member is Margaret Chin (my address is Mercer St. New York, NY 10012). I would like to express my strong support for Intro 1476 because the production of fur for fashion products is extremely cruel to animals. It is necessary for New York City to take a stand against this brutal industry that tortures and painfully kills animals solely for the purpose of fashion. We currently have warmer fabrics than fur and therefore there is no reason why anyone would need fur items to keep them warm in the winter. Just as we have evolved on so many other issues, we have evolved as a society to recognize that raising and killing animals for fur is morally repugnant. By passing Intro 1476, NYC can join other cities in doing the right thing for innocent, vulnerable animals who are unable to protect themselves against the cruel fur industry.

Hearing to ban fur in NY Intro 1476

Hello my name is Toni Favia and on behalf of the millions of animals brutally murdered I am asking you to put an end to these horrible travesties. I have been involved in educating people for 7 years about the suffering animals endure for vanity. I ask that you please take the right side of history and do the right thing and make NY FUR FREE.

There is absolutely no reason that we need to have fur. This belongs to the animal it was forcible taking from. Please do the right thing and let us have a more kind compassionate NY.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

[] My name is Vanessa Soldano. I was born and raised in Staten Island, NY. I currently live in district 49, and my designated councilmember is Deborah Rose.

[] Unnecessary animal cruelty is all around us. However, it is more apparent and undeniable in certain industries than it is in others. The fur industry is one of the many animal abusing industries that is completely unnecessary in New York City. Not only are there superior cruelty free and eco-friendly alternatives to fur, but there is an entire nonviolent, growing industry that focuses on creating compassionate fabrics, and making compassionate fashion and beauty choices. Choices that don't rely on anally electrocuting, leg trapping, drowning, neck breaking, skinning, and ultimately killing harmless innocent animals who deserve respect. The cruelty free fashion industry is one of great opportunity for those of you concerned about your money, despite the fact that there should be more prevalent concerns on your minds.

[] If you are here because you're concerned about money, please be reminded that fur industry money is filthy. Fur industry money is blood money. Fur industry money exists thanks to people in this room paying other people to deliberately torture and kill nonhuman animals just like the pets we see walking the streets of New York. Just like the pets a lot of us take care of and protect at home. What do you buy your families with the money made off of this torture? Would you want your child to bring videos of anal electricution to show and tell? What kind of world are we continuing to create for our children? How can we teach them that hurting a domesticated dog or cat is wrong and illegal, and wearing the fur of another animal is beautiful and legal. In America, freedom of choice is questioned when there are victims involved, and I am not the only person with these questions. I am not the only person who wants to create a more compassionate world. A recent poll shows that 75% of New Yorkers support Intro 1476. Furthermore, Los Angeles and San Francisco have recently banned the sale and manufacturing of fur, while cities and countries across Europe and Asia are seeking to do the same. Because people are starting to learn the truth- that humans don't need to wear or use other animals to survive and thrive.

[] This isn't an issue of humane treatment. In fact, adopting a humane strategy would only put furriers in a deeper black hole of false advertisement than they are already in because there is no humane way to kill someone who doesn't want to die. "Regulated" is just a word. "Humane" is just a word. The best option is NO KILLING. Humans are creative. Technology is phenomenal. We have already found other options. Not supporting this bill would be taking giant leaps backward. Thank you.

Intro 1476

I am a resident of Ridgewood, Queens and am a 14 yr employee of The Dept of Sanitation in NYC. I listened to a lot of the testimony today and after hearing how absurd the fur supporters sounded in their defense of their horrific industry, I am even more in favor of the Ban than before the day started. It as horrifying and embarrassing to listen to them. Please support Intro 1476 and end this cruelty.

Michael Fremgen

My name is Kirsten Berger, I am a life-long resident of New York City, a volunteer for All About Rabbits Rescue in Queens, and I have taken part in a number of fur protests. I live in Flushing, in Council Member Paul Vallone's district. I strongly urge him to support Intro 1476.

Fur is barbaric and has no place in modern society. Animals caught in leg hold traps suffer for days and have chewed off their own limbs to escape. Coyotes, foxes, and wild cats aren't the only victims. Dogs, cats, and other wild animals like owls get caught in these traps too. On fur factory farms, animals suffer their entire lives in small cages with wire bottom floors before being gassed or electrocuted to death. In some cases, they are even skinned alive.

Many animals killed for fur are closely related to our family pets. Dogs and coyotes are so close genetically, that they are capable of producing fertile offspring. The rabbits and chinchillas many of us love and share our homes with are the same types of rabbits and chinchillas killed for fur. Did you know rabbits are capable of being litter-box trained just like cats are? Rabbits are social animals that seek out, and show affection towards their human families.

But the fur industry doesn't care about any of this. They needlessly kill millions of animals each year for nothing more than a jacket, a piece of trim, or some other accessory. Animal lives matter more than unnecessary luxury products.

The city council has previously shown compassion for rabbits three years ago by banning the sale of rabbits in pet shops. As a volunteer with a rabbit rescue, and adoptive owner of a rabbit, I thank you for this. I ask that you please again show rabbits, in addition to other animals, compassion now by banning the sale of fur.

The opposition is concerned about a loss of jobs, and I feel for them. I don't want to see people lose their jobs, but they should have seen this coming and prepared themselves. Gucci, Michael Kors, Versace, and other top designers have stopped using fur in recent years. Japan and numerous European nations have banned fur farms. Los Angeles and San Francisco have passed their own fur bans. Business owners could have diversified their products and transitioned to faux fur, or other eco-friendly plant-derived textiles. Modern society is moving away from fur. New York City needs to follow suit.

I support the fur ban...intro 1476.

It's 2019...fur has no place in a civilized city. It's a relic of a time when people were uninformed and blind to the cruelty of the industry.

Darby Charvat
West 71st St.

DEBORAH THOMAS TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF INTRO 1476

(THE BILL TO BAN THE SALE OF FUR)

May 15, 2019

Although I am sorry that I cannot attend the NY City Council hearing on Intro 1476 in person today, I would like to submit my written comments IN SUPPORT OF INTRO 1476 to Chairman Espinal and the Committee.

I am animal lover and advocate, and a humane New York City voter. Being an animal lover, I do not wear fur, but have always taken a "live and let live" approach regarding the buying, selling and wearing of fur. However, after becoming educated about the inhumane methods often used in the mass production of fur garments, I feel that no innocent animal should have to endure such cruelty and die so horrifically for human vanity.

I have seen pictures of people clubbing beautiful Canadian seals to death in order to make seal coats, and the whole idea makes me sick! There is no reason for this in 2019!! Many methods now exist to produce "fake fur" garments, as well as garments made of other synthetic materials, that are just as stylish and warm as real fur, without the cruelty. After the Fur Ban, I would hope that the current fur manufacturers and sellers would find business opportunities in those fields instead. In doing so, they will have crossed over to the right side of history, and many humane New Yorkers, as well as fur-bearing animals, will be extremely grateful.

Thank you.

Deborah Thomas

Dear Council Members,

I am strongly in favor of the proposed NYC Fur Ban initiative! I believe that where there is torture and victims involved for an unnecessary, outdated luxury used by the wealthy to flaunt their status it is despicable!

It is our responsibility as a community to regard sentience and evolve to a higher standard of acceptance regarding atrocities imposed on other beings for glamour. The Fur industry is also responsible for detrimental environmental devastation from the treatment process of their “product”.

Please reflect deep into your heart and soul if you truly believe that we can justify these atrocities in the year 2019 where there are many other options. Any industry that exists to profit off the exploitation and enslavement of others will eventually need to fold just as they have in the past. Any person who is ok making a living off of others' suffering will attempt to elicit empathy for the loss of their livelihood. Please make the right choice and choose justice and righteousness over profits! Thank you for your consideration in this extremely important matter.

Kindly, Heidi Cohen

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NYC COUNCIL I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF THE LEATHER AND SHEEPSKIN INDUSTRY OF WHICH I HAVE BEEN PART OF SINCE 1975. MY NAME IS JACKY CLYMAN, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, OF COCKPIT USA, A NY BASED COMPANY THAT HAS BEEN KEEPING ALIVE ICONIC LEATHER, TEXTILE AND SHEEPSKIN APPAREL MADE FAMOUS BY OUR MILITARY. WE HAVE BEEN SUPPLYING THE MILITARY WITH LEATHER JACKETS SINCE THE 1980S.

THE FACT THAT SOME PEOPLE MAY HAVE ETHICAL REASONS TO WANT TO BAN FUR AND INHUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS IS LAUDIBLE BUT TO ALSO INADVERTENTLY INCLUDE LEATHER AND SHEEPSKIN PRODUCTS SEEMS TO ME TO BE A METHOD TO ENFORCE ONE GROUP'S MORALITY OVER THE GENERAL POPULATION WITHOUT GIVING PEOPLE A CHANCE TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS AND THREATENS THE LIVELIHOOD OF MORE THAN JUST FUR STORES AND MANUFACTURERS.

WE LIVE IN A COUNTRY THAT HAS SUPPORTED FREE CHOICE AND THESE KINDS OF BANS DETER FROM THAT CONCEPT.

IF YOU EDUCATE PEOPLE AND THEN THEY DECIDE THEY STILL WANT TO WEAR LEATHER AND OR SHEEPSKIN PRODUCTS WHICH ARE A BY PRODUCT OF THE MEAT THOSE ANIMALS PROVIDE, I DO NOT SEE HOW ANY LEGISLATION SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO STOP "FREE WILL". I ALSO DON'T BELIEVE WE SHOULD DICTATE THE NON WEARING OF FUR BUT I AM HERE TO ASK THAT LAW 1476 EXEMPT ALL LEATHER AND SHEEPSKIN INCLUDING SHEEP, LAMB, HORSE AND CALF.

THAT LAWS MAKING SLAUGHTERING MORE HUMANE MIGHT NEED TO BE ENFORCED IS A CONCEPT THAT IS TOTALLY SEPARATE FROM THE BAN THAT IS BEING PROPOSED.

I HAVE BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS SINCE 1975. I CURRENTLY AM A SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYING ABOUT 25-27 PEOPLE IN THE NY TRI STATE AREA. IN ADDITION, WE GIVE WORK TO SMALL FACTORIES THAT IN TURN EMPLOY 25-75 MORE PEOPLE. WE BUY COMPONENTS FROM OTHER COMPANIES SO THOSE COMPANIES WILL BE AT RISK NOT TO MENTION ALL THE COMPANIES THAT RESELL OUR PRODUCTS. WE ALSO DO A LOT OF EXPORTING TO OTHER COUNTRIES AND THAT WILL DISAPPEAR SO WHAT IS THE POINT OF ENCOURAGING COMPANIES TO MANUFACTURE IN THE NY TRISTATE AREA IF MORE AND MORE REGULATIONS STOP US FROM DOING SO. WHY WOULD I CONTINUE TO WORK AND LIVE IN NEW YORK? YOU ALREADY ARE SEEING COMPANIES LEAVING NEW YORK DUE TO

REGULATIONS AND SUPER HIGH TAXES. THIS WILL ONLY ACCELERATE THE PROCESS AND CERTAINLY WILL IMPACT ON MY DECISIONS.

IN ADDITION, A BAN SUCH AS THIS ENCOURAGES MORE PRODUCTION OF PRODUCTS THAT GO INTO MAKING TEXTILES THAT UTILIZE PETROLEUM BY PRODUCTS AND HAVE MUCH MORE DAMAGING EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT. MANY TEXTILES, BY THE WAY, ARE CANCER CAUSING IF WORN AGAINST THE BODY WHICH NO ONE TALKS ABOUT. SHOULD WE BAN THOSE TOO?

THE TANNING INDUSTRY WAS DECIMATED IN THIS COUNTRY WHEN LAWS CAME INTO EFFECT THAT WERE SO STRINGENT NO ONE COULD ADHERE TO THEM INSTEAD OF WORKING TO HELP THOSE BUSINESSES MOVE TOWARDS MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE METHODS. LAWS NEED TO EDUCATE AND WORK WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO MAKE SURE ALL REALMS OF SOCIETY ARE HELPED NOT JUST A MINORITY.

BASICALLY MY COMPANY FEELS THIS BAN IS A TRAVESTY MEANT TO DISCOURAGE FREE CHOICE AND BUSINESSES THAT PROVIDE PRODUCTS THAT HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE CAVEMEN DAYS. MY CUSTOMERS WILL TELL YOU THEY FEEL BETTER WEARING A SHEARLING COAT WHICH IS "ORGANIC" AND COSY VERSUS A POLYESTER OR DOWN FILLED PUFFER.

I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT THE LAW EXEMPT ALL THE CATEGORIES INADVERTENTLY -I HOPE-INCLUDED IN THE WIDE DEFINITION OF "FUR".

THANK YOU

Roberta Wein

Ascan Ave

Forest Hills,N.Y.

11375

Rawein1@aol.com

Dear Councilwoman Koslowitz,

As your constituent, I urge you to support the Ban on Fur Sales, (intro 1476). The savage violence we force upon our animal population are atrocious. In particular the killing of over 100 million animals per year, for their fur. These animal victims are confined to wire cages for their short miserable lives, or trapped, drowned, genitally electrocuted, skinned live.

How can we, stand by and let this happen, like Nazi War criminals? Please I beg of you, do not look the other way, you have the power to change this. I think the general population is unaware of the barbarism of this industry.

In addition, it contributes to the demise of our environment: it is intensely polluting , energy intensive and wreaks havoc on our ecosystem. If you do not have sentiment for the animal population, you may have concern for our environment, and your duty to prevent further damage to it.

I thank you for supporting bills 1378 and Reso 798, so please do the right thing again, and support 1476.

Sincerely,

Roberta Wein

Roberta Wein

Ascan Ave

Forest Hills, N.Y.

11375

Rawein1@aol.com

To you, our elected officials, in this year 2019, what has become of us as human beings. Where is it sanctioned that we can allow this brutal , savage, unthinkable behavior toward these beautiful animals?

It is only a mentality of viscous , sick violence, that can perform this torture, and the robbing of life to these animals, their offspring, and our ecosystem.

You have the power and position of leadership to educate your constituents, and end the tortures that we as a human race impose on these beautiful animals, that have as much right to this planet as humans.

I do not see the difference between this torture of animals from tortures of war, prisoners, slaves, or any other criminally violent behavior.

Support for Intro 1476 Testimony

My name is Brandi Wagner, I am a clinical psychology graduate student at Columbia University. I live in Harlem in Council Member Bill Perkin's district. I would like to first thank him for reading my reasons for asking him to support Intro 1476 and for responding in support.

Throughout hearing from the opposition, it has been made known that these people working in and around the fur business have little insight into the conditions these animals are kept in. They say canned statements about the "humane" treatment or killing, which is an oxymoronic term to begin with, but when asked to expound any further, they are repeatedly unable to do so. The people in this business are speaking only to the final product of fur, not to the production itself. Inviting council members to visit the manufacturer is one thing, but how many would invite you to the factory farm, where wild animals are experiencing stereotypy and living amongst their dead family members in a cage far too small, or to visit an animal who was in search of food for her cubs when she got caught in one of these horrific traps? How many of them have visited these farms and trapping sites themselves? It would seem clear that they stay out of this area because 1. I do not believe they could continue to speak with such pride and defense if they saw this ugly reality they were directly supporting and 2. As mentioned before, they are unable to speak intelligibly to the conditions these animals are living in prior to being electrocuted, gassed, or bludgeoned.

We now know that the "fur is biodegradable" argument does not hold up since it is treated with chemicals and preservatives that interrupt this process. But more specifically, the majority of this testimony is coming from people ONLY dealing with the finished product of fur. They are not speaking to the very important and unavoidable production process, which involves factory farming that causes air and water pollution and relies on fossil fuels. What good is a "sustainable" product if the way it is made causes considerable environmental damage?

Additionally, these furriers have highly transferrable skills and can easily swap materials for a more humane, sustainable alternative. In fact, there are initiatives and funds in NYC specifically to help the fashion industry thrive through change and progress. This ban could actually promote job growth and allow room for increased innovation by leading this wave of new material design and production.

Fear, comfortability, or tradition are never justifiable reasons to support an inhumane practice. In an effort to protect vulnerable populations, I ask you, not to side with the fur industry who relies on public ignorance in how their products are made, but to support this bill that would end our unnecessary invasion into the homes, systems, and family lives of these animals for a material that 75% of New Yorkers do not want.

Fur comes at a moral cost that is too high for this city to bear any longer. We are a city built on determination, hard work, and creative thinking, We must not continue to support this cruel and outdated industry based on tradition and fear. Please help us keep New York an example of leading the way for necessary change and support Intro 1476. Thank you.

Brandi Wagner
W 115th St
New York, NY 10026

Testimony on The Proposed New York City Fur Ban Before the New York City Council.

Hello my name is Ariel Collis. I am an economist with Capital Trade, Incorporated, an economic consulting firm based in Washington D.C.. I was commissioned by the International Fur Federation of the Americas to estimate the impact to New York City of a proposed ban on the sale of fur products in the City. The results of my research are summarized in a report which has been sent to all of the City Council members.

My research found that, if the proposed City ban were enacted, in the first year of the ban, the City would lose up to \$850 million in revenues from businesses that sell fur products and businesses that earn revenues from fur sellers. The city would lose up to \$76 million in sales taxes on these revenues. It is also estimated that up to 7,500 men and women would also lose their jobs in the City in the first year of this ban.

However, the ban would remain in effect, not just for one year, but for the foreseeable future. Over the first ten years of the proposed ban, the City would lose up to \$7 billion.

My estimations of losses come from first hand interviews with and surveys submitted by businesses that sell fur throughout the city as well as financial disclosure filings for companies that sell fur products.

My research shows that businesses effected by the ban include 150 retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers, and service providers who earn the majority of their revenues from fur. If the Proposed City Ban were enacted, it is anticipated that nearly all of these fur businesses would move their operations from New York City to other jurisdictions or close their businesses without moving. This assumption is based directly on the responses of survey participants. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of respondents, representing 99.8% of fur business revenues among

the businesses surveyed, stated that they would close their store or move operations from New York City if the Proposed City ban was enacted. These are largely family owned and operated businesses that would be closing down or relocating. Based on my research, most of these businesses were second and third generation family-operated businesses, that have done business in New York City for an average of 47 years.

The ban would also negatively impact the more than 300 businesses located throughout the city engaged in designing, manufacturing, and selling fur products, but who do not earn the majority of their revenues from the sale of fur. While these companies may not close down due to the ban, it is estimated that up to 2,300 jobs related to selling fur within these businesses would be lost.

In addition, the Proposed City Ban would impact the communities that surround fur-selling businesses, where employees of these businesses spend their wages (such as local restaurants, convenience stores, clothing shops). Should fur selling businesses be forced to close down or relocate out of New York City, the New York City businesses that sell to them, including those businesses involved in shipping, real estate management, office supplies, advertising, and security as well as companies downstream from these businesses will also suffer losses.

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to testify today. I am available to answer any questions you might have about my research. Thank you.

The Economic Impact of a Proposed New York City and a Proposed New York
State Ban on the Sale of Fur Products

Ariel H. Collis
Capital Trade, Incorporated

May 16, 2019

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1. Executive Summary

The New York City Council and the New York State Assembly have both, separately, proposed bans on the sale of fur products. This report, commissioned by the International Fur Federation Americas (“IFFAM”), presents estimates of the economic impacts of the proposed New York State and New York City bans. These impacts are broken out into three categories: (i) impacts to businesses that earn the majority of their revenues from the sale of fur apparel and accessories (“primary fur businesses”), (ii) impacts businesses that sell fur apparel and accessories but do not earn the majority of their revenues from fur sales (“secondary fur businesses”), and (iii) impacts to businesses that do not sell fur but are supported by money spent by primary and secondary fur businesses (“spin-off fur businesses”). The report estimates that if the City and State bans are adopted, in the first ten years of these bans, New York City and New York State would lose between \$5 billion and \$8 billion in revenues from the businesses impacted by these bans. A summary of these losses broken out by City and State and broken out by primary, secondary, and spin-off fur businesses is given in Table 1 below. The report also details the size and scope of the fur industry in New York City and New York State.

With regard to the first impact category, this paper estimates that, should both the City and State ban be adopted, an estimated 170 primary fur businesses that earn the majority of their revenues from selling fur outerwear, fur-lined and fur-trimmed clothing, fur-covered accessories, and providing fur-related services will be compelled to close down or relocate from the state of New York to other jurisdictions, resulting in losses between \$370 million and \$470 million in the first year of the ban to New York City and New York State. It is estimated that 750 and 1,350 men and women from these companies would likely lose their jobs if a ban were to be adopted. On average, these businesses have been operating in the state of New York for 49 years.

With regard to the second impact category mentioned above, this report estimates that, should both the City and State ban be adopted, New York City and State would lose an additional estimated \$180 million to \$400 million in revenues and 1,200 to 2,600 jobs from secondary fur businesses that that sell, but do not earn the majority of their revenues from fur products. There are an estimated 351 of these secondary fur businesses operating in New York City and State.

With regard to the third impact category, this report estimates that, should both the City and State ban be adopted, New York City and State would also lose an additional \$50 million to

\$120 million in revenues and 2,800 to 4,800 jobs from spin-off businesses that are supported by the wages spent by fur businesses and secondary fur businesses within their communities.

Table 1: Estimated Losses to New York State and New York City due to Proposed Legislation

Category	Business Losses (#)	Revenue Losses (Low \$ Mil)	Revenue Losses (High \$ Mil)	Employment Losses (Low)	Employment Losses (High)
Primary Fur Businesses - New York City	150	\$350	\$440	600	1,100
Secondary Fur Businesses - New York City	unk.	\$150	\$320	1,100	2,300
Spin-off Fur Businesses - New York City	unk.	\$40	\$90	2,600	4,100
Primary Fur Businesses - New York State	23	\$22	\$24	150	250
Secondary Fur Businesses - New York State	unk.	\$26	\$76	100	300
Spin-off Fur Businesses - New York State	unk.	\$11	\$31	200	700
Total (City)	150	\$540	\$850	4,300	7,500
Total (State)	23	\$59	\$131	450	1,250
Total	173	\$599	\$981	4,750	8,750

Notes:

1. New York State in the table above represents the areas of the State of New York outside of New York City
2. The Spin-off Businesses category presents the revenues earned and employment supported by the spending on fur products.

To give context to the estimated impacts of the City and State bans, the paper also describes the New York City and State fur industries, including estimations of the revenues and employment for primary and secondary fur businesses, including revenues from the sale of non-fur products.

Estimations given in this report for fur business revenues and employment as well as the impacts of the proposed City and State bans were derived from: (a) a list of fur industry participants compiled by Capital Trade and IFFAM, (b) a survey of fur businesses located in New York City and New York State conducted by Capital Trade, (c) interviews conducted by Capital Trade with New York City and New York State fur business owners, and (d) calculations using the Regional Input-Output Modeling System (“RIMS II model”). A description of the estimation methodology for revenue and employment can be found in the Fur Industry Employment and Revenue Estimation Methodologies in Section 8 below.

2. History of the Fur Industry in New York City and State

To provide context to the current New York fur industry, a brief review of the history of the industry is illustrative. Early in the history of the Dutch and English settlements of what became New York State, fur was a major export.¹ In the 1600s and early 1700s beaver was abundant in the area and beaver fur was popular in Europe at the time in apparel and accessories. Trade in furs with Europe flowed through the New York City harbor, drawing new settlers to the area and helping to build the economy of what would become New York City.² When New York City's seal was established in 1686, it had the images of two beavers on it because of fur's importance to New York City's early economy.³

Similarly, the fur trade was such a major part of the mid-state economy that the area that is now the state capital, Albany, was originally known as Beverwyck, or "beaver district" in Dutch.⁴ Like the New York City seal, the official seal of Albany contains the image of a beaver.⁵

During the height of the fur industry from 1910 to 1986,⁶ a network of stores, manufacturers, and skin dealers grew in a small square of Manhattan. These businesses and this geographic area came to form the center of the U.S. fur industry. The area, known as the "fur district", is located at the boundaries of Sixth Avenue on the east, Eighth Avenue to the west, 26th Street to the south and 30th Street to the north.⁷ At its height, eighty percent (80%) of the

¹ *NYC's Garment District Past and Future*. BISNOW. July 28, 2015. <https://www.bisnow.com/new-york/news/neighborhood/nycs-garment-district-past-and-future-48489>. (Accessed, September 5, 2018).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Albany, The State of New York. <https://www.ny.gov/counties/albany> (Accessed March 28, 2019).

⁵ Trapping Furbearers, An Introduction to Responsible Trapping, Chapter 2 History of Trapping. http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/trapedman.pdf (Accessed April 2, 2019). The Adirondack History Guide website has a history of trapping and lists some famous trappers who trapped in the area such as French Louie, E.J. Dailey and Johnny Thorpe.

⁶ See Robert D. Leiter. The Fur Workers Union. *ILR Review*. Vol. 3, No. 2 (Jan., 1950), pp. 163-186, at p. 167; <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2008-03-04/fur-industry-thriving-despite-campaigns/1061636>; and <https://www.nytimes.com/1989/03/14/nyregion/as-the-image-of-furs-suffers-so-does-profit.html> (Accessed September 10, 2018).

⁷ <http://www.westsidespirit.com/local-news/20180828/furriers-fisticuffs-and-a-fond-farewell/1&template=mobileArticle> (Accessed September 2, 2018).

fur coats manufactured in the U.S. were manufactured in New York City's fur district and ninety percent (90%) of all fur processing in the U.S. was performed in New York City.⁸

3. **The Fur Industry in New York City Today**

In the last thirty years, demand for fur has been more cyclical, with demand rising and falling because of trends in fashion and changes in weather conditions. Recent peaks in these cycles occurred from 2003 to 2004, 2010 to 2011, and as recently as 2013 to 2014. In the 2015-2016 fashion season, fur was prominently displayed in the majority of the fashion runway shows, especially during New York's fashion week.⁹ In the past few years fur has been seeing a resurgence. In 2018 U.S. production of fur for apparel reached its highest level in 17 years.¹⁰ Throughout these trends, the U.S. fur industry has remained centered in New York City and fur continues to be economically significant to the City.

Although less than at its peak, New York City still acts as the epicenter of the U.S. fur industry and is the largest fur market in the United States.¹¹ Several national fur retailers interviewed by the author stated that up to one in five retail fur sales nationwide are made in New York City. New York manufacturers are also known in the fashion industry as being at the forefront of fur garment style.¹²

An estimated 150 businesses currently operating in New York City earn the majority of their revenues from the sale of fur products ("primary fur businesses").¹³ These primary fur businesses include retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers, skin brokers and dealers, as well as fur service companies. Fur services include, storage, repair services, and companies that make new

⁸ Robert D. Leiter. The Fur Workers Union. ILR Review. Vol. 3, No. 2 (Jan., 1950), at p. 164-166.

⁹ "[A]cross all four leading Autumn-Winter 2016 (AW 16) fashion weeks, with an estimated 70% of collections overall featuring the natural material". <https://furcommission.com/aw16collections/> (Accessed September 10, 2018). New York Fashion Week is one of four Autumn-Winter fashions weeks across the world. Other fashion week locations include London, Milan, and Paris.

¹⁰ "Bans of Fur Threaten and Industry's Rebirth." Suzanne Kapner. Wall Street Journal. April 14, 2019.

¹¹ See for example, www.fur.org/fica-facts (Accessed September 25, 2018).

¹² See for example, Inside the New York Factory Reinventing the Way Designers Use Fur. Olivia Fleming. Elle Magazine. Oct 26, 2015. <https://www.elle.com/fashion/a30251/inside-fur-factory/> (Accessed September 25, 2018).

¹³ The estimation of fur businesses in New York City is based on a list of fur industry participants compiled by the author.

garments out of old garments, a process known as remodeling. More than half of these primary fur businesses are located within the fur district.¹⁴ Other sectors of the fur industry (i.e., auctions, animal farming and trapping, and skin processing) occur outside of the city.

The retailers within the boundaries of the fur district are the public face of the fur district. Fur wholesalers, manufacturers, and skin dealers also occupy many of the backrooms and upper floors of the buildings that surround the fur retailers in the district.¹⁵ Beyond the fur district, prominent department stores in uptown and mid-town Manhattan, such as Saks Fifth Avenue, Bergdorf Goodman, Macy’s, and Bloomingdales contain fur salons, which are specialized fur departments where fur items can be purchased, stored, repaired, or remodeled.¹⁶

It is estimated that New York City’s primary fur businesses generate revenues of \$350 million to \$440 million per year. Of these revenues, between \$340 million to \$410 million are made from the sales of products that were made mostly or wholly of the types of fur that would be banned under the council’s proposed ordinance.¹⁷ These businesses employ approximately 600 to 1,100 men and women. See Table 2 below for a breakdown of fur business revenues by business type.

Table 2: Fur Business Revenues and Employment by Business Type

Business Type	Businesses (#)	Total Revenues (Low \$ Mil.)	Total Revenues (High \$ Mil)	Fur Revenue (Low \$ Mil)	Fur Revenue (High \$ Mil)	Fur Related Employment (low)	Fur Related Employment (High)
Care/Service/Broker/Dealer/Skin Trader	24	\$30	\$40	\$30	\$40	50	150
Manufacturer	26	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	100	250
Retail	74	\$250	\$320	\$240	\$300	300	500
Wholesale	25	\$50	\$60	\$50	\$50	150	200
Total	149	\$350	\$440	\$340	\$410	600	1,100

These revenue and employment estimations for primary fur businesses in the retail, wholesale, manufacturing, and care and services sectors, as well as estimations relating to brokers and dealers of animal skins in the New York City fur industry, were derived from (a) a

¹⁴ Based on the results of an online search for New York city fur businesses conducted September 23 - 26, 2018.

¹⁵ Based on a walking tour of the fur district conducted by the author on September 5 and September 6, 2018.

¹⁶ See, for example, <https://www.saksfifthavenue.com/locations/services/fur-salon> (Accessed September 25, 2018).

¹⁷ The difference between total revenues and revenues from fur products is due to (a) the surveys offered a wider range of values for Total Revenues than for Fur Product Revenues and (b) in addition to fur products, fur stores also sell non-fur products, including leather, cashmere, and angora garments as well as non-fur accessories.

list of fur industry participants compiled by the author, (b) a survey of fur businesses located in New York City conducted by the author and IFFAM, (c) interviews conducted by the author with New York City fur business owners,¹⁸ and (d) SEC filings from public companies that sell fur products.¹⁹ A description of the estimation methodology for revenue and employment can be found in Section 8, *Fur Industry Employment and Revenue Estimation Methodologies*, below.

Most of the businesses surveyed and interviewed were second and third generation family-operated businesses. As one interview subject stated, “Chances are, if you are in [the fur industry], you were born into it.” Among surveyed companies, the average businesses had been operating in New York City for 47 years.²⁰ This business lifespan is considerably longer than the lifespan of the average American small business. The Small Business Association estimates that less than twenty percent (20%) of American small businesses exist more than 15 years.²¹

In addition to primary fur businesses that primarily sell, trade, and care for fur products, there are numerous manufacturers, retailers, and designers throughout New York City that manufacture and sell fur garments, fur-lined and trimmed garments, and fur accessories, but earn most of their revenues from the sale of products that do not contain fur (“secondary fur businesses”).²² Fendi, Loro Piana, Canada Goose, Moose Knuckles, Hermes, J Mendel, and Max Mara are a few of the better known secondary fur retailers and designers that operate retail stores or have products that are sold in retail and department stores in New York. In addition, several large department stores in New York City sell garments, footwear, and accessories that contains fur, including Barney’s, Bergdorf Goodman, Bloomingdale’s, Macy’s, Nordstrom Rack, and Saks Fifth Avenue. Appendix C lists almost 200 of these secondary fur retailers, department

¹⁸ A more complete description of the survey can be found in Appendix A: Survey Questionnaire. The interview questions can be found in Appendix B: Interview Questionnaire, and the list of fur businesses in New York City can be found in Appendix C: List of New York Fur Businesses.

¹⁹ See, for example, Decker Outdoor Corporation, 2018 10-K.

²⁰ One fur business, Steven Corn Furs has been in New York City for 121 years. (See <http://www.stevencorn.com/about> (Accessed April 21, 2019)).

²¹ Small Business Facts. <https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/Business-Survival.pdf> (Accessed September 17, 2018).

²² For example, the Canada Goose company sells jackets and sweaters many of which do not contain fur. However, one of Canada Goose’s most popular parkas has a fur lined hood. Therefore, Canada Goose is not counted as a fur business, but the ban would impact the company. These businesses are called secondary fur retailers because fur products are a secondary, rather than a primary good that they sell.

stores, and designers. It is estimated that in 2018 secondary fur businesses collected between \$150 million and \$320 million in sales of fur products.

4. **The Fur Industry of New York State Today**

While less densely concentrated than in New York City, New York State has been home to fur manufacturers, retailers, and wholesalers since before colonial times. This report will refer the areas of the State of New York outside of the five boroughs of New York City as New York State. Some of the longest running fur retail stores in the Northeast United States are located in the counties of New York State. New York State also supports an active trapping community, with more than 14,000 trappers and trapping clubs located throughout the State. There are 64 primary and secondary fur businesses in New York State that derive between \$50 million and \$100 million in revenues from the sale of fur garments and accessories. It is estimated that these New York State primary and secondary fur businesses employ between 300 and 600 people.

a. The Continuity of the Fur Trade in New York State

Fur retailers are among New York State's oldest established businesses that still operate today. Fur retailer Beyer Furs was established in 1837 in Schenectady, NY.²³ The Schenectady City Council recognized Beyers Furs as "an integral part of the city's heritage and commerce."²⁴ Fur retailer Held Projansky Furs of Rochester, New York was established in 1925;²⁵ Bronxville Furriers of Bronxville, New York was established in 1926;²⁶ and Beck Furs, of Albany, NY was established in 1934. Among surveyed companies, the average business had been operating in New York State for 57 years.

A common thread that runs through these businesses is that they are family-owned and family-operated and ownership is passed down through families or to trusted employees. Beck

²³ *Sch'dy Fur Shop Among Region's Oldest Businesses*. The Daily Gazette. February 20, 2017. <https://dailygazette.com/article/2017/02/20/sch-dy-fur-shop-among-region-s-oldest-businesses>. (Accessed April 3, 2019).

²⁴ Beyers is recognized by the Schenectady City Council as an integral part of the city's heritage and commerce. *Beyers Furs*. <http://beyerfurs.com/> (Accessed April 3, 2019)

²⁵ Held Projansky Furs, <http://www.heldprojansky.com/> . (Accessed April 3, 2019)

²⁶ <https://www.bronxvillefurriers.com/contact>. (Accessed April 3, 2019)

Furs has been managed for over thirty-six (36) years by the niece of the original owner. Christa Bray purchased Beyers Furs after working there for two decades years doing fur remodeling.²⁷

b. Revenues and Employment from Fur Sales

An estimated twenty-six (26) primary fur businesses located across the State, from Collins Center in the west to Mineola in the southeast, derive their primary source of revenue from fur products. In 2018, these businesses employed an estimated 200 to 300 men and women and earned an estimated \$20 to \$30 million in revenues. Of these revenues, it is estimated that between \$25 million and \$26 million in revenues were earned from the sale of fur products.²⁸ An additional thirty-eight (38) secondary fur businesses earned an estimated \$30 million to \$80 million in revenues from the sale of fur products.²⁹

These sixty-four (64) primary and secondary sellers support an additional 200 to 700 spin-off fur business jobs and between \$11 million and \$31 million in economic activity in these spin-off fur business through the wages spent by workers in these primary fur businesses and secondary fur businesses in their communities.

5. Trappers, Trapped Fur and Fur Auctions in New York State

a. Trapping in New York

Between 2014 and 2017 an average of nearly 15,000 fur trappers in the state of New York purchased trapping licenses each year.³⁰ These trappers could be found in every county in

²⁷ Beyers is recognized by the Schenectady City Council as an integral part of the city's heritage and commerce. *Beyers Furs*. <http://beyerfurs.com>. See also, *Sch'dy Fur Shop Among Region's Oldest Businesses*. The Daily Gazette. February 20, 2017. <https://dailygazette.com/article/2017/02/20/sch-dy-fur-shop-among-region-s-oldest-businesses>. (Accessed April 3, 2019).

²⁸ The difference between total revenues and revenues from fur products is due to (a) the surveys offered a wider range of values for Total Revenues than for Fur Product Revenues and (b) in addition to fur products, fur stores also sell non-fur products, including leather, cashmere, and angora garments as well as non-fur accessories.

²⁹ The differing sizes of the revenue estimates for the fur businesses and secondary retailers and brands reflects the differing levels of uncertainty to these estimates.

³⁰ The years 2014 to 2017 were the years for which data on trapping licenses was available. New York State Trappers Association, <https://nystrappers.org/trapping-license-sales-data/> (Accessed April 2, 2019).

the state of New York, including in New York City.³¹ Trapping is regulated in New York State by the Department of Environmental Conservation (“DEC”). The DEC oversees the official trapping seasons and issues trapping licenses for 14 different animals native to New York.³²

Trappers and trapping are a significant part of the New York fur industry. First, a large amount of trapping is done in New York. For example, more than 16,000 people engaged in trapping in New York in 2014 alone.³³ Second, fur trapped in New York makes its way into the commercial fur industry. According to a 2015 report conducted by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies on trapping, 76% of trappers in New York State have sold fur.³⁴ Most trappers sell furs either to a local fur dealer or at a trapper auction in state. While most trappers in New York State viewed income from trapped fur as supplementary or used for discretionary spending, 18% of trappers indicated that it was a very important or somewhat important source of income.³⁵ Two Canadian auction houses, North American Fur Auctions (“NAFA”) and Fur Harvesters Auction Inc., send buyers throughout New York State to purchase pelts from trappers.³⁶ Trappers also ship pelts to the Canadian auction houses. These services allow New York State trappers to sell their trapped fur into the world market.

b. The Economics of Trapping

Trappers incur roughly \$1,000 in expenses each year, on average, related to trapping. These expenses include traps and lures, tools, skinning knives, trapping license fees, and spending on travel to the trapping sites. In addition, trappers spend money on major purchases

³¹ New York State Trappers Association, <https://nystrappers.org/trapping-license-sales-data/> (Accessed April 2, 2019).

³² DEC website, <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/45551.html> (Accessed April 2, 2019). Trappers must complete an education course to obtain a trapping license.

³³ <https://nystrappers.org/trapping-license-sales-data/> (Accessed April 2, 2019).

³⁴ Trap Use, Furbearers Trapped, and Trapper Characteristics in the United States in 2015, conducted for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies by Responsive Management. Table 12. https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/afwatrapuserpt15.pdf (Accessed March 7, 2019).

³⁵ Trap Use, Furbearers Trapped, and Trapper Characteristics in the United States in 2015, conducted for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies by Responsive Management. Table 11. https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/afwatrapuserpt15.pdf (Accessed March 7, 2019).

³⁶ See https://portal.nafa.ca/webcenter/portal/Auction/pages_pickupserviceusabyregion and <https://www.furharvesters.com/uspickups.html> (Accessed April 2, 2019).

related to their trapping activity, such as vehicles. Table 3 below breaks down the average annual cost of trapping by expense category.

Table 3: Mean Expenses for New York State Trappers, 2015³⁷

Expense	Average Annual Cost
Traps and lures	\$221.34
Other equipment	\$152.17
Travel	\$232.68
Major purchases	\$438.75
Total Expenses	\$1,031.30

Source: Trap Use, Furbearers Trapped, and Trapper Characteristics in the United States in 2015 Table 14. Mean Expenses by State.

In 2017, the last year for which data on the sales of trapping licenses was available, 14,061 licenses were sold. Using these 2017 license sales, it is estimated that New York trappers spent more than \$14 million on trapping related expenditures in 2018 (i.e., 14,061 x \$1,031.30). The impacts of the proposed New York City and State bans on trappers are discussed in section 7c below.

6. Effects of a Proposed New York City Ban on Fur Sales

The impacts to New York City presented in this report were calculated based on the prohibitions and penalties given in the March 28, 2019 version of the proposed ban on the sale of fur apparel in New York City. Specifically, the impacts to the City were calculated assuming the adoption of the proposed bill, “A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to prohibiting the sale of fur apparel” as presented on the New York City Council website March 28, 2019 (the “Proposed City Ban”).

The proposed legislation in New York City would prohibit the sale “or offer for sale [of] any fur apparel except for used fur apparel or fur apparel made from fur sourced exclusively from

³⁷ Figures in Table 3 were taken directly from source. The expenses in the source do not add to Total Expenses.

used fur apparel.”³⁸ The ban defines fur as “any animal skin, in whole or in part, with the hair, fleece or fur fibers attached” and fur apparel is defined as “any article of clothing or fashion accessory, to be worn on any part of the body, made of fur, in whole or in part.”³⁹ That is, it is my assumption that this legislation would ban the sale of apparel containing mink, fox, beaver, sable, coyote, nutria, lynx, cow hide with hair, shearling, and rabbit fur.

Under the Proposed City Ban, businesses that continue to sell new fur garments after the ban goes into effect, “shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for that person’s first violation and each additional violation occurring on the same day as the first violation, and not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,500 for each subsequent violation. Violations shall accrue on a daily basis for each item of prohibited fur apparel that is sold or offered for sale.”⁴⁰

a. Primary Effects of the Proposed City Ban

If the Proposed City Ban were to be enacted, it is estimated that in the first year of the ban New York City would lose between \$500 million and \$760 million in revenues from primary and secondary fur businesses and 1,700 to 3,400 men and women in primary and secondary fur businesses would lose part time or full-time employment. Economic losses to the city from the revenues lost from primary and secondary fur businesses over the first ten years following an enactment is estimated to be between \$4 billion to \$6 billion in lost revenues. This impact can be further broken down into the impact on primary fur businesses and the impact on secondary fur sellers as seen below.

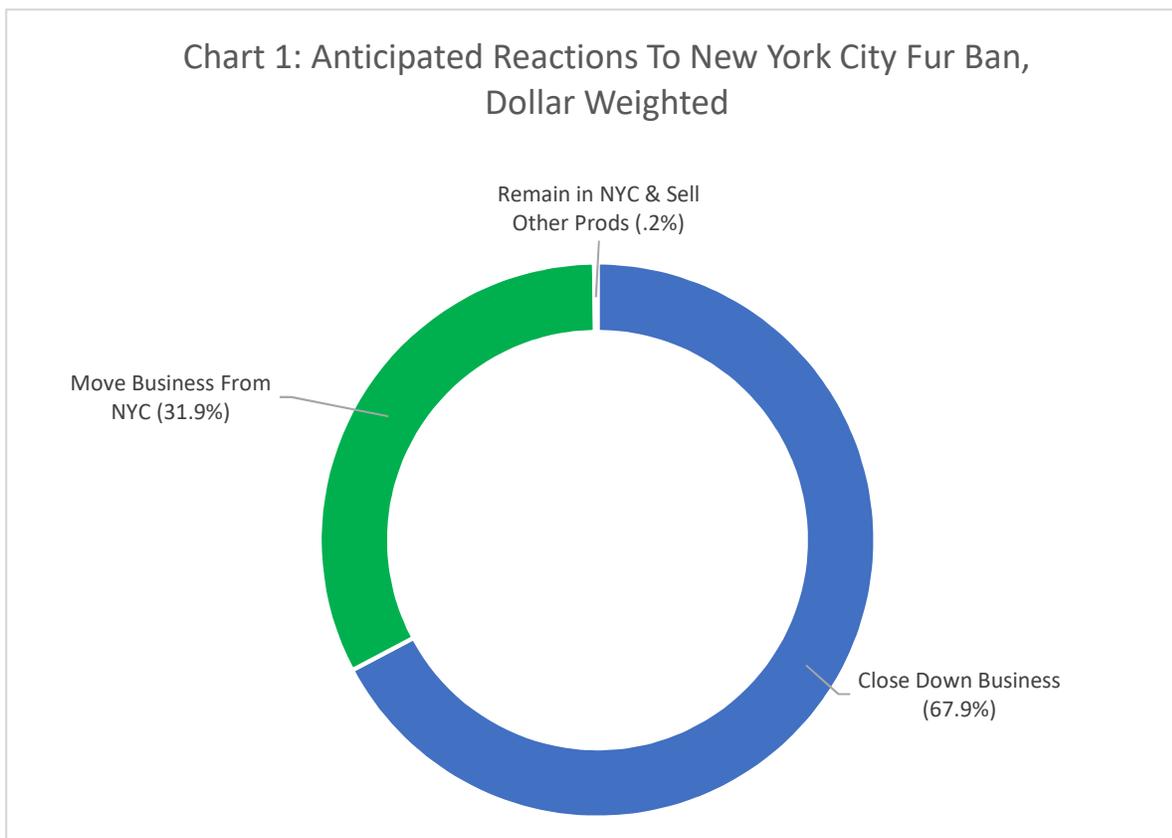
If the Proposed City Ban were enacted, it is anticipated that nearly all primary fur businesses would move their operations from New York City to other jurisdictions or close their businesses without moving. This assumption is based on the responses of survey participants to the question, “What will your business do if a New York City ban on the sale of fur products is enacted?” Ninety-seven percent (97%) of respondents, representing 99.8% of primary fur business revenues among the businesses surveyed, stated that they would close their store or

³⁸New York City Council proposed legislation, “A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to prohibiting the sale of fur apparel” File # Int 1476-2019, Sponsors: Corey D. Johnson, Mark Levine, Fernando Cabrera, Justin L. Brannan, Helen K. Rosenthal, Robert F. Holden, Brad S. Lander.

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ *Id.* That is if a business offers 10 coats for sale for two days, they would be subject to a fine of between \$20,000 and \$29,000.

move operations from New York City if the Proposed City ban was enacted.⁴¹ Forty-four percent (44%) of respondents, representing 31.9% of all fur business revenues among the businesses surveyed, stated they would move the location of their business from New York City and fifty-three percent (53%) of respondents, representing 67.9% of all fur business revenues among the businesses surveyed, stated that they would close their store if the ban were enacted. Only three percent (3%) of respondents, representing .2% of all fur business revenues among the businesses surveyed, stated that their businesses would stop selling furs, but continue operating in New York. See Chart 1 below.



Following the survey results, it is estimated that the Proposed City Ban would lead to the loss of 99.8% of all sales of fur and non-fur items for primary fur businesses, an estimated \$350 million to \$440 million loss, in the first year if the Proposed City Ban were enacted (i.e., \$350 million x 99.8% = \$350 million to \$440 million x 99.8% = \$440 million).

⁴¹ Other response options on the survey were: “Just stop selling fur items”, “Move more sales to ecommerce”, and “Other”. See Appendix A: Survey Questionnaire for the survey questionnaire.

New York will lose an additional \$150 million to \$320 million in sales of fur products from secondary fur retailers, because secondary fur retailers would also be forced to discontinue sales of all fur items that they currently sell, due to the Proposed City Ban. Because these retailers sell other items in addition to fur products, it is assumed that none of these businesses would close or leave the City if a ban were to be enacted. However, it is assumed that the loss of fur product revenue would cause these businesses to scale back employment currently supported by fur product sales. Estimated losses given in this report for these City businesses only include the losses of sales of fur apparel and accessories. To the extent that any secondary retailer would leave or close their store in response to the Proposed City Ban, this assumption underestimates the employment and revenue losses due to the proposed ban. In addition, to the extent that the author failed to include any secondary retailer in the list of New York City retailers and manufacturers that sell fur items, the employment losses due to the Proposed City Ban have been further underestimated.

If adopted, it is assumed that the Proposed City Ban would remain in effect into the foreseeable future. Therefore, the impact of the Proposed City Ban would include not only the losses in the first year of the ban but also all on-going losses of sales that would have been made in future years had it not been for the ban. To estimate these losses, the report calculates the present discounted value of lost revenues over a ten-year period, using a 4.90% discount rate.⁴²

Losses over the 10-year period are assumed to be constant, in 2018 dollars, on an annual basis. That is, losses in the second year of the Proposed City Ban will be the same as the losses in the first year of the ban, and losses in the third year will be the same as losses in the second year, and so on for the 10-year period after the ban is enacted. This assumption is consistent with the results of a 2017 study by Henning Otte Hansen on the global fur trade as shown below.

According to the results of Hansen's 2017 paper, average retail sales of fur products have been flat over the last 20 years, roughly \$1.25 billion to \$1.3 billion per year nationwide. (The constancy of this average is true whether the average is measured over the past 20 years or over the past 10 years). Therefore, it is assumed that losses over the first 10 years of the ban would also be constant, in 2018 dollars, on an annual basis. Because fur sales are cyclical, assuming the

⁴² Based on the average Bank Prime Loan Rate for 2018. Federal Reserve bank of St. Louis. Annual rate is calculated as the average monthly rate for January through December 2018. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/graph/?id=MPRIME,PRIME>. (Accessed April 15, 2018).

same loss each year will undervalue losses in some years and overvalue losses in other years. Given this assumption, the present discounted value of losses in fur sales to New York City from both primary fur businesses and secondary fur businesses are estimated to be between \$4 billion and \$6 billion in lost revenues over the next 10 years.

b. Additional Effects of a Proposed Ban on Fur Products in New York City

The Proposed City Ban would affect not just businesses that sell fur, but also the suppliers and service providers for fur sellers and manufacturers. The Proposed City Ban would also impact the communities that surround fur-selling businesses, where employees of these businesses spend their wages (e.g., the local restaurants, convenience stores, clothing shops, etc.--“spin-off fur businesses”). Should these primary fur businesses close down or relocate out of New York City, the New York City businesses that sell to them, including those businesses involved in shipping, real estate management, office supplies, advertising, security, and storage, will also suffer losses.

It is estimated that New York City primary fur businesses and secondary fur businesses spending generates 2,600 to 4,100 jobs and \$40 million to \$90 million in economic activity for these spin-off fur businesses. If the Proposed City Ban were passed, the jobs and economic activity supported by primary fur business and secondary fur business spending would be lost.

In addition to the general costs of transportation, office overhead, advertising, and storage that are paid by most fur businesses, New York City manufacturers and skin dealers directly purchase from specialized fur businesses, including fur dressers (dressing is a process by which the raw pelt “is cleaned, softened, fleshed (extraneous flesh is removed), and stretched.”⁴³), fur dyers, and auction houses. These businesses are primarily located outside of the state of New York. To the extent that the Proposed City Ban would cause manufacturers to close or reduces sales of manufacturers, these specialized suppliers would also be adversely affected.

7. Effects of the Proposed New York State Ban on Fur Sales

The impacts to New York State presented in this report were calculated based on the prohibitions and penalties given in the February 6, 2019 version of a proposed ban on the sale of

⁴³ “Fur”. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/fur-animal-skin#ref114468> (Accessed September 25, 2018).

fur apparel in New York State. Specifically, the impacts to the State were calculated assuming that the proposed bill, A05040, as presented on the New York State Assembly website (February 6, 2019 the “Proposed State Ban”) is passed.

The Proposed State Ban would make it “unlawful to sell, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, give, donate, or otherwise distribute a fur product by any means in the state.”⁴⁴ The Proposed State Ban would also make it “unlawful to manufacture a fur product in the state.”⁴⁵ The Proposed State Ban defines fur as “any animal skin or part thereof with hair, fleece, or fur fibers attached thereto, either in its raw or processed state,” and defines fur product as “any article of clothing or covering for any part of the body, or any fashion accessory, including but not limited to handbags, shoes, slippers, hats, earmuffs, scarves, shawls, gloves, jewelry, and key chains, that is made in whole or in part of fur.”⁴⁶ However Proposed State Ban does make an exception which allows the sale of “skins or parts thereof as are to be converted into leather, which in processing will have the hair, fleece, or fur fiber completely removed; cowhide with hair attached thereto; or lambskin or sheepskin with fleece attached thereto” and used fur product or “fur product that a person has acquired for his or her own use and worn.”⁴⁷ That is, this report assumes that this legislation would ban the sale of apparel containing mink, fox, beaver, sable, coyote, nutria, lynx, and rabbit fur, but would allow the sale of products with shearling and cow hide with hair.

a. Primary Effects of the Proposed State Ban

If the Proposed City and the Ban Proposed State Ban outlined above were both enacted, it is estimated that New York State (that is the area of the State of New York outside of the City) would lose between \$50 million and \$100 million in revenues and between 250 and 550 people would lose part time or full-time employment within the first year of the ban due to the ban’s impact on primary and secondary fur businesses. It is estimated that economic losses to the State over the first ten years following an enactment would be between \$400 million and \$800 million

⁴⁴ New York State Assembly, Bill number A05040. Sponsored by Linda Rosenthal. February 6, 2019.

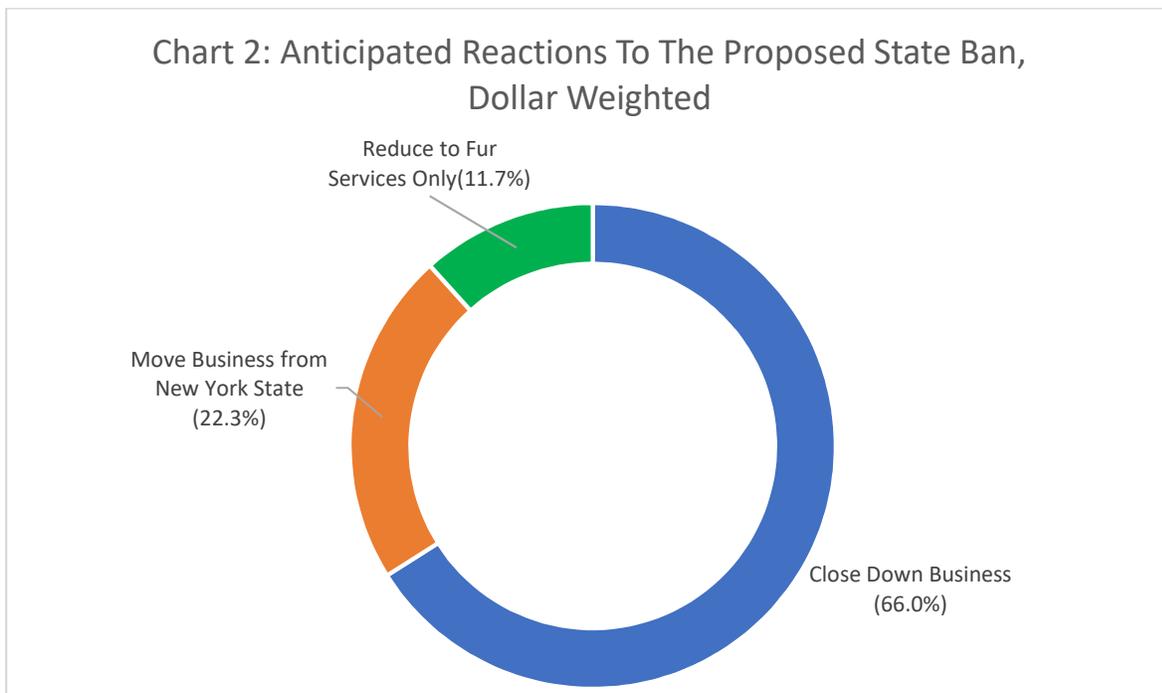
⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ *Id.*

in lost revenues. This impact can be further broken down into the impact on primary fur businesses and the impact on secondary fur businesses.

In response to the question, “What will your business do if a New York State ban on the sale of fur products is enacted?” Seventy-two (72%) of respondents, representing 88.3% of all fur business revenues among the respondents surveyed, stated that they would close their store or move operations from New York State if a fur ban were enacted.⁴⁸ Seventeen percent (17%) of respondents, representing 22.3% of all fur business revenues among the respondents surveyed, stated they would move the location of their business from New York State and fifty-five percent (55%) of respondents, representing 66.0% of all fur business revenues among the respondents surveyed, stated that they would close their store if the Proposed State Ban were enacted. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of respondents, representing 11.7% of all fur business revenues among the respondents surveyed, stated that they would continue performing fur services in New York State but not sell any furs.⁴⁹ See Chart 2 below.



Following the survey results, it is estimated that the Proposed State Ban would lead to the loss of 88.3% of all sales of fur and non-fur items for primary fur businesses located in New

⁴⁸ Other response options on the survey were: “Just stop selling fur items”, “Move more sales to ecommerce”, and “Other”. See Appendix A: Survey Questionnaire for the survey questionnaire.

⁴⁹ Among the New York State businesses surveyed, no business stated that if the Proposed State Ban were enacted, they would remain in New York State and just sell non-fur items.

York State,⁵⁰ which is estimated to be \$22 million to \$24 million in the first year, if the Proposed State Ban were enacted (i.e., \$25 million x 88.3%=\$22 million to \$26 million x 88.3%=\$24 million). The closures and departures of these primary fur businesses would lead to the loss of 150 to 250 jobs in New York State.

New York State is estimated to lose an additional \$26 million to \$76 million in sales of fur products and 100 to 300 jobs from secondary fur businesses, because secondary fur businesses would also be forced to discontinue sales of all fur items that they currently sell due to the Proposed State Ban. Because these retailers sell other items in addition to fur products, it is assumed that none of these businesses would close or leave the State if the Proposed State Ban were to be enacted. However, it is assumed that the loss of fur product revenue would cause these businesses to scale back employment currently supported by fur product sales. To the extent that any secondary retailer would leave or close their store in response to the proposed ban, this assumption underestimates the employment losses due to the Proposed State Ban.

If adopted, it is assumed that the Proposed State Ban would remain in effect into the foreseeable future. Therefore, the impact of the Proposed State Ban would include not only the losses in the first year of the ban, but also all on-going losses of sales that would have been made in future years had it not been for Proposed State Ban. To estimate these losses, I calculated the present discounted value of lost revenues over a ten-year period, using a 4.90% discount rate.⁵¹

Losses over the 10-year period are assumed to be constant, in 2018 dollars on an annual basis. That is, losses in the second year of the ban will be the same as the losses in first year of the ban, and losses in the third year will be the same as losses in the second year, and so on for the 10-year period after the ban is enacted. The present discounted value of losses in fur sales to New York State from both primary fur businesses and secondary fur businesses are estimated to be between \$400 million and \$800 million in lost revenues over the next 10 years.

b. Additional Effects of The Proposed State Ban

⁵⁰ It is unclear from the text of the Proposed State Ban that businesses would be allowed to continue performing fur services. As a conservative estimate it is assumed that 11.7% of fur revenues could still be earned in New York State following enactment of the Proposed State Ban. To the extent that this overestimates the survival rate of these businesses, this methodology underestimates the losses from the Proposed State Ban.

⁵¹ Based on the average Bank Prime Loan Rate for 2018. Federal Reserve bank of St. Louis. Annual rate is calculated as the average monthly rate for January through December 2018. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/graph/?id=MPRIME,PRIME> (Accessed April 15, 2018).

The Proposed State Ban would affect not just businesses that sell fur, but also the suppliers and service providers for fur sellers and manufacturers. The ban would also impact the communities that surround fur selling businesses, where employees of these businesses spend their wages (e.g., the local restaurants, convenience stores, and clothing shops). Should these fur businesses close down or relocate out of New York State, the New York State businesses that sell to them, including those businesses involved in shipping, real estate management, office supplies, advertising, security, and storage, will also suffer losses.

It is estimated that if the Proposed State ban were passed, 200 to 700 jobs and \$11 million to \$31 million in economic activity from spin-off fur businesses in New York State would be lost.

c. The Impact on Trappers of The Proposed State and City Bans

The Proposed State Ban contains an exception for the sale of trapped fur. However, the Proposed State and City Bans could, collectively, negatively impact trapping in several ways. First, if passed, the proposed New York State ban would create uncertainty in the fur market, decreasing prices and therefore negatively impact trappers' revenues from the sale of trapped fur.⁵² The DEA indicates that fur licenses sold "varies dependent on the year and fur market conditions."⁵³ If the Proposed City Ban were passed without an exception for trapped fur, a major market for trapped fur would be eliminated, decreasing fur demand. This decrease in demand would lower prices for trapped fur, and therefore decrease the income from trapped fur. Without incentives to trap, it is predicted that less trapping would occur, reducing the \$14 million in spending within the state of New York by trappers (see Section 5b, *The Economics of Trapping*, above, for the estimation of trapper spending).

In interviews, trappers expressed concern that a ban on the sale of fur in New York State could be a stepping stone to increased restrictions on how they can trap and what animals they will be able to trap in the future, if any.⁵⁴ Bans in other states such as California have often led to continued modifications that, while not banning trapping, significantly reduce trapping. For example, a ban on foothold traps in California led to a decline in trapping licenses sold in the state and a move to large cages for trapping. There were only 133 licensed trappers in the state

⁵² Interview with New York State Trappers Association President Jim Carmody. (Conducted April 1, 2019).

⁵³ DEA website. <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/355.html> (Accessed April 2, 2019).

⁵⁴ Interview with New York State Trappers Association President Jim Carmody. (Conducted April 1, 2019).

last year, down from 253 licensed trappers in the 2014/2015 season.⁵⁵ San Francisco passed a ban on sale of fur last year and now there is a proposed bill to expand the bill statewide.⁵⁶ The proposed bill would ban the sale of fur trapping licenses in that state.⁵⁷

8. **Fur Industry Employment and Revenue Estimation Methodologies**

In New York City and New York State revenues and employment for fur businesses in the retail, wholesale, manufacturing, and care and services sectors, as well as for brokers and dealers of animal skins, were estimated based on responses to a survey given to fur businesses located in New York City and New York State, interviews with New York City and New York State fur business owners, and SEC filings for public companies that sell fur products and accessories. An alternate method of estimating retail sales of fur products in New York City was performed by the author, based on the Hansen 2017 model, using pelt production rather than the survey data (see Appendix D: Alternate Estimation Methodologies for Fur Revenues).

The author received surveys and or interview responses from 78 primary fur businesses that manufacture fur products, deal in fur pelts, wholesale fur products, sell fur products at the retail level, and provide fur services in New York City and New York State. The author also received seven (17) surveys from secondary fur businesses located in New York City and New York State. Both the surveys and the interviews included questions about the revenue, employment, and expenses of these businesses as well as on their expected reaction to a potential fur bans in New York City and New York State. The survey and interview questions are provided in Appendices A and B to this report.

Data from these surveys and interviews were extrapolated out to the estimated 463 primary fur businesses and secondary fur businesses in New York City and the 64 primary fur businesses and secondary fur businesses in New York State. The number of fur businesses was determined by a comprehensive internet-based search for fur businesses in New York City and

⁵⁵ State of California, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Licensed Fur Trappers and Dealers Report 2017-18, Table 1.

⁵⁶ The Sacramento Bee. Fur trapping was once the heart of California's economy. A new bill could ban it. By Andrew Sheeler January 25, 2019. <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article225041665.html> (Accessed April 2, 2019).

⁵⁷ *Id.*

New York state as well as through interviews with fur business owners. This number was confirmed based on discussions with IFFAM. The list of New York City primary fur businesses and secondary fur businesses, based on this search, is provided in Appendix C to this report. The list of New York State primary and secondary fur businesses, based on this search, is also provided in Appendix C to this report.

Each of these businesses was assigned to a sector (i.e., retail, wholesale, manufacture, skin broker or dealer, or care and services) and category (i.e., primary fur business or secondary fur business) based on information found in the surveys, in interviews, and through online research. Many businesses participate in more than one sector of the industry. For example, wholesalers and manufacturers will sell directly to consumers.⁵⁸ Businesses were classified by, and all their revenues were attributed to what the author determined was the businesses' main source of revenue, thus business revenues were not double counted. This determination was confirmed by discussions with IFFAM. That is, revenues from cleaning and remodeling earned by a business that earned most of its revenues as a retailer was attributed to the retail sector. This methodology was utilized because most of the businesses interviewed and surveyed were not able to attribute their revenues by sector.

Businesses that provided responses to surveys or to interviews were assigned values for total revenues, revenues from fur products, and employment based on those responses. Values for businesses that did not respond to a survey were assigned based on a two-tier estimation methodology. Through interviews, it was found that most of the revenues and employment for fur businesses in all of the sectors of the New York fur industry were generated by a small number of businesses. An effort was made to survey these "major" fur businesses. Revenue and employment estimates were performed separately for major and non-major businesses in each sector. In this way, revenue estimations for smaller firms were not biased upward by the inclusion of one of the larger firms in the average revenue and employment calculations.

A business was classified as a major New York City or State fur business if it was listed during an interview by two or more business owner respondents in response to the question, "Who are the five most important companies" in the retail, wholesale, manufacture, care and

⁵⁸ See for example *Luxury For All*. Ruth Katz. New York Magazine. Nov 28, 1988. ("Most of [wholesalers and manufacturers] claim they are not open to the public. Psssst! They all are.").

services, or broker dealer sectors in terms of revenues and employment. All other businesses were classified as non-major businesses.

Surveys were sent, and interviews were attempted for all major fur businesses in each of the sectors of the New York fur industry. Major businesses that did not provide information through a survey or an interview were assigned values for revenues and employment based on the lowest values given among the other major business within a sector. For example, if five companies were identified as major manufacturers and one of these manufacturers did not respond to survey and interview requests, that business was assigned the fourth highest value for employment and revenues from among the major manufacturers that provided responses.

Non-major fur businesses that did not provide responses to surveys and interviews were assigned the average values for employment and revenues from among the non-major business respondents in their sector.

Revenues and employment for spin-off businesses were estimated using the Final Demand Output and Total multipliers for “Other retail” from the RIMS II model, which is a widely used model for calculating secondary/ spin-off impacts.⁵⁹ As the RIMS II user’s Guide states, “The idea behind the results of RIMS II is that an initial change in economic activity results in other rounds of spending—for example, building a new road will lead to increased production of asphalt and concrete. The increased production of asphalt and concrete will lead to more mining. Workers benefiting from these increases will spend more, perhaps by eating out at nicer restaurants or splurging more on entertainment.”⁶⁰ Wholesale manufacturing and service multipliers were not included so as to not double-count output.

9. **Conclusion**

Fur is a large and growing sector of the economy in both New York City and New York State.⁶¹ Fur businesses have been a continuous presence in the City and State throughout New

⁵⁹ See RIMS II: Users Guide. Bureau of Economic Analysis. December 2013.

⁶⁰ *Id.*, at 1-1.

⁶¹ For evidence of industry growth see “Bans of Fur Threaten and Industry’s Rebirth.” Suzanne Kapner. Wall Street Journal. April 14, 2019.

York's history. Should the Proposed City and State Bans be enacted, revenues lost due to these bans over the bans' first 10 years of the bans are estimated to be between \$5 billion to \$8 billion.

The Proposed City and State Bans would effectively end the fur industry in New York City and New York State, resulting in the closures and relocations of nearly all of the City and the State's primary fur businesses. Many of these primary fur businesses are second and third generation operated. The bans would also change the character of shopping in New York. New York City is known for its luxury shops and department stores. Many of these shops and most of these department stores sell items that will be banned under the proposed New York City ban.

It is estimated that, if the proposed fur bans were to pass, New York City and New York State would lose \$599 million to \$981 million in the first year of the Proposed City and State Bans due to the Bans' impacts on primary, secondary, and sin-off fur businesses. Not only would these bans prevent the sale of fur and shearling clothing, accessories, and services, they would make it economically infeasible for fur sellers that sell non-fur items to continue to do business.

Appendix A: Survey Questionnaire

QUESTIONS:

1. Is this store physically located within the city limits of New York, not just using New York as its mailing address?
 Yes No

2. How long has this store been located in New York at this or any other location? _____ Years (enter nearest whole number).

3. A. Which of the following types of items do you carry in the store? (check all that apply in Column A)
 B. Which of these items do you consider your primary item? (1 response, Check in Column B)

C. Of all the items the store carries, which are made of or contain real fur? (Check all that apply in column C)

Item	A✓if carries	B✓primary	C✓ if Has Fur
general apparel/fashion clothing			
Outerwear			
Shoes			
purses/bags			
undergarments/lingerie			
Accessories (belts, scarves, hosiery, etc.)			
other (specify items)			
None primary – sell all about equally			

4. What is the approximate square footage of your store? _____

5. Please look at the table below... tell us the letter that represents your total sales last year in 2017? _____

6. Please look at the table. Tell us the letter that represents your projected total sales for 2018?

- a. Up to \$500,000
- b. \$500,000 – 999,999
- c. \$1 –2.49 million
- d. \$2.5 – 4.99 million
- e. \$5.0 – 7.49 million
- f. \$7.5 – 9.99 million
- g. \$10 – 12.49 million
- h. \$12.5 – 14.9 million
- i. \$15.0 – 19.9 million
- j. \$20 million+
- k. Refuse to answer

7. What was your total revenue generated by sale of all fur products? _____ By fur coats _____

- a. Up to \$50,000
- b. \$50,000 - \$100,000
- c. \$100,000- \$200,000
- d. \$200,000 - \$400,000
- e. \$400,000 - \$600,000
- f. \$600,000- \$800,000
- g. \$800,000 - \$1 million
- h. \$1 – 1.75 million
- i. \$1.75 – 2.1 million
- j. \$2.2 – 3.2 million
- k. \$3.2 million – \$4 million
- l. \$4.1 million+

8. If a ban on the sale of any fur and apparel were to pass, do you think you would...

- g. Just stop selling fur items?
- h. Close the store?
- i. Move the store out of New York? If so, where to _____?
- j. Move more sales to ecommerce?
- k. Other (specify): _____

9. What percentage of your customers come to your store specifically to shop for fur items? _____%

10. Please select your total number of people your store employed in 2018?

- a. 1 to 5
- b. 5 to 10
- c. 10 to 20
- d. 20 to 30
- e. 30 to 50
- f. More than 50

11. How many jobs would be lost if a fur ban is enacted? _____#

12. How much do you think a ban on fur sales would harm the local retail economy?

13. What percentage of your sales come from international visitors? _____%

Do you have any comments to make on this?

Appendix B: Interview Questionnaire

General Industry Questions

- 1) Approximately how many retailers are there that primarily sell fur in NY? Stores? Internet Based?
- 2) Approximately how many retailers are there that sell fur products, where fur is not their primary sales item, in NY? Stores? Internet Based?
- 3) What is the density of these stores? How many stores are grouped in one place?
- 4) Approximately how many fur products manufacturers are there in NY?
- 5) Approximately how many fur broker/dealers are there in NY?
- 6) Approximately how many fur importers/exporters are there in NY?
- 7) Approximately how many country collectors are there in NY?
- 8) What percentage of the U.S.'s retail fur sales are made in NY?
- 9) What percentage of the U.S. manufacturers' fur sales are made in NY?
- 10) What percentage of the U.S.'s broker dealer fur sales are made in NY?
- 11) Who are the major suppliers of pelts for trimmed and lined garments and accessories in the US?
- 12) Do you know how many pelts are purchased by Canada Goose per year?
- 13) What are the current factors driving (or depressing) sales of fur coats and fur products?
- 14) Who are the five most important companies in the US fur business today?

Questions for Retailers

- 1) What are popular fur coat /stole/product styles?
- 2) About how many minks are used to make the average/a typical fur coat /stole/product?
- 3) What is the range of costs for a fur coat /stole/product?
- 4) How much does a typical coat sell for?
- 5) Is your establishment located in New York City? How long has it been located in NY City?
- 6) What fur items do you sell, including fur coats and other fur lined and fur trimmed items?
- 7) From whom do you purchase your fur products?

- 8) Describe your typical customer that purchases a fur product?
- 9) What were your total sales, furs and other items in 2018? Just furs?
- 10) Do you offer any fur related services, ex., remodeling, storage, etc.?
- 11) What were your total revenues from fur related services?
- 12) How many people does your business employ?
- 13) What percentage of your sales are to foreign customers?
- 14) If there were a total ban on the sale, display, or donation of all fur products would you: move your business (if so, where), close down, sell online, let go of employees?
- 15) How would the ban impact your suppliers, your neighborhood, and New York City?
- 16) What were your total expenses for 2018?
- 17) Who are the top five retailers in NY City? Who are the top five wholesalers in NY City?

Questions for Manufacturers

- 1) How long does it take for someone to learn how to make a fur coat? To work with fur?
- 2) What are popular coat styles?
- 3) About how many minks are used to make the average coat?
- 4) What is the range of sales prices for a fur coat?
- 5) How much does a typical coat sell to a retailer or end customer for?
- 6) Beside coats, what are fur products, including lining, trimming, and accessories, that you make?
- 7) What were your total sales in 2018? Just furs?
- 8) How many people does your business employ?
- 9) What percentage of your sales are to foreign customers?
- 10) If there were a total ban on the sale, display, or donation of all fur products would you: move your business (if so, where), close down, sell online, let go of employees?
- 11) How would the ban impact your suppliers, your neighborhood, and New York City?
- 12) What were your total expenses for 2018?
- 13) Who are the top five fur products manufacturers in NY City? Who are the top five broker dealers/country collectors in NY City?

Questions for broker/dealers/country collectors

- 1) Please describe a typical chain of events from purchase of pelts/ dressed furs/ finished products to final sale to your end customer?
- 2) How many pelts/ dressed furs/ finished products did you sell in 2018?
- 3) What were your total sales in 2018? Just furs/fur related services?
- 4) How many people does your business employ? What is the average salary of an employee?
- 5) If there were a total ban on the sale, display, or donation of all fur products would you: move your business (if so, where), close down, sell online, Let go of employees?
- 6) How would the ban impact your suppliers, your neighborhood, and New York City?
- 7) What were your total expenses for 2018?
- 8) Who are the top five broker dealers/country collectors in NY City?

Appendix C: List of New York City and New York State Fur Businesses

New York City Fur Businesses

1. A&M Fur Sales Ltd.
2. A. Kokaliaris Fur Corporation
3. A. Rothman Furs
4. Adrienne Landau
5. Aleric
6. Alex Furs
7. Alvin Ghlickman Inc
8. American Fur Centre
9. Amsko Fur Corp
10. Anamoda
11. Anastasia Fur
12. Angelinas New York
13. AP Furs
14. Avante Furs
15. B. Smith Furs
16. BCI
17. Bianka Rico Design
18. Blue Duck
19. Blum & Fink Inc.
20. Brandon Sun
21. Brighton Fur, Inc.
22. Carolyn Furs
23. Celine's
24. Chaarm Leather & Fur Design
25. Chris Soukas
26. Christie Bros Fur Corp
27. Constantine Leathers Corp (also spelled Konstantine)
28. Corniche Furs
29. Daniel's Leather
30. David Goodman Furs (Goodman Couture Inc.)
31. Davide Fur
32. Dawn Levy
33. De Fur Fashion
34. DeLax Furs, Limited
35. Denimaxx
36. Dennis Basso
37. Dimitrios Furs
38. Elissee Furs Inc.
39. ER Fur Trading Corporation
40. ERNY Furs
41. Forever Furs

42. Fox Unlimited
43. Fur & Furgery
44. Fur Depot
45. Fur Source
46. Fur Warehouse Outlet, Inc.
47. Fur Wearhouse
48. FurCoats
49. FurHatWorld
50. Furs Alixandre
51. Furs by Frederick Gelb (Fred Gelb Furs)
52. Furs by Karayiannis Bros., Inc.
53. Furs by Kurt
54. Furs by PK
55. Furs by Steven
56. George A Bobrick
57. George Takis Furs
58. Giorgios Pappas Furs
59. Gliagias Furs
60. GM Furs
61. Group Panache Inc.
62. Gus Serbos Furs Inc.
63. H. Goodman Furs
64. Henry Cowit Inc.
65. Hima International Inc.
66. HSG Klondike
67. Hyman Kersner and Sons Inc
68. ITC Fur
69. Johnevon
70. Jon Karas Fur
71. Jos. H. Lowenstein & Sons, Inc.
72. Joseph Model Associates
73. Julia Furs, Inc.
74. Kaitery Furs
75. Kaufman Furs NY Ltd
76. Klondike Furs
77. Konstantine Furs
78. L Furs Inc
79. Larissa Designs
80. Le Monti
81. Leonard Kahn Furs
82. Levenson Furs Ltd.
83. Madison Ave Furs, Ltd.
84. Marc Kaufman Furs
85. Maximillian
86. Mechutan Fur

87. Megaris Furs
88. Michael Forrest
89. Miller and Berkowitz - Mohl Furs
90. Miller Fur Specialty Ltd.
91. Mink Mart
92. Moschos House of Sable Inc.
93. N. Treitel & Co., inc.
94. Nargis Plaza Inc.
95. New York Fur Leather
96. Newman Fur Appraisers & Consultants
97. Newmont Group
98. Nick & Sons
99. Northern Furs Fashion
100. Not Just Mink Inc.
101. Oscar de la Renta Furs
102. Panos Furs
103. Paul N Sekas Furs
104. Peter Duffy Furs Inc.
105. Peter Mark Fashion
106. Peter Nathan Inc.
107. Pologeorgis Fur Inc
108. Premier Fur Shop
109. PSH Fur Accessories
110. R. Henessy Furs (G Michael Hennessy Furs)
111. Rafaello Furs
112. Rafel Shearling
113. Raphael Schreiberman Inc
114. Rays Furs (Rayfur)
115. Red, White and Blue Foxes, Ltd.
116. Reich Furs
117. Rendevous
118. Ritz Thrift Shop - Ritz Furs
119. Riverdale Fur Shop, Inc.
120. Robert Payne Furs
121. Royal Crown Sable
122. S&A Leathers
123. SCBMI Inc. - Annabelle New York
124. Schildkraut Fur Co Inc.
125. Sekas International
126. Serbos Furs
127. Sharnelle Furs
128. Sofia Cashmere
129. Sol Banks
130. Sorbara Furs
131. Stallion Inc.

132. Staten Island Furriers
133. Steven Corn Furs
134. Steve's Originals
135. Surell Accessories
136. The Fur Palace
137. The Fur Source of NY LLC
138. The Fur Studio
139. The Fur Warehouse
140. UGG- Greenwich Street
141. UGG- Madison Avenue
142. UGG- Mercer Street
143. United States Fur Group, KaMoshen, Inc.
144. USA Furs by George
145. VS and You
146. Warehouse NY
147. Xandu Furs
148. Yarmak Helen
149. Yes Fur Inc
150. Z & G Fur Corp

New York City Secondary Fur Businesses

1. 1 Atelier
2. 100 Contract Manufacturers-Names Withheld
3. A.L.C.
4. Ace Cantrell
5. AIMÉ LEON DORE
6. Akris
7. Albertus Swanepoel
8. Alexander Wang
9. Alexis Isabel
10. Alice + Olivia
11. All Saints
12. Altuzarra
13. Amiee Lynn
14. Andrew Marc
15. Anna Sui
16. Anonomous
17. Anthropologie
18. Aquatalia
19. Aquazzura
20. ARI
21. Armani
22. Artizia
23. Ashya
24. Atelier

25. Atrium
26. Balenciaga
27. Bally
28. Bari Lynn
29. Barney's
30. Bearpaw
31. BENCRAFT HATTERS
32. Bergdorf Goodman-Men's
33. Bergdorf Goodman-Women's
34. Berlutti
35. Bernardo
36. Birkenstock
37. Bloomingdale's 59th Street
38. Bloomingdale's SoHo
39. Bloomingdale's Upper West Side Outlet
40. Bogner
41. Bottega Veneta
42. Brooks Brothers
43. Brunello Cucinelli
44. Canada Goose
45. Carolina Herrera
46. Carolyn Rowan
47. Century 21
48. Christian Dior
49. Christian Louboutin
50. COACH 342 MADISON
51. COACH 595 MADISON
52. COACH 79 5TH AVENUE
53. COACH SOHO
54. COACH TIME WARNER BUILDING (COLUMBUS CIRCLE)
55. Cole Haan
56. Crown Cap 1987 Ltd
57. Dear Foams
58. déjà vu Boutique
59. DELVAUX
60. Designer Revival
61. District Leathers
62. DNA Footwear Bensonhurst
63. DNA Footwear Greenpoint
64. DNA Footwear on Smith Street
65. DNA Footwear Park Slope 5th Ave
66. DNA Footwear Park Slope 7th Ave
67. DNA Footwear SoHo
68. DNA Footwear Williamsburg

69. Dries Van Noten
70. DSW
71. Eddie Bauer
72. Edie Parker
73. Elie Tahari
74. Emm Kuo
75. Express
76. Fendi
77. Fivestory
78. Name Withheld by Request
79. Fleurette
80. Fownes Brothers
81. Fox's-Brooklyn
82. Fox's-Manhattan
83. FRANCISCO LEE FASHIONS
84. Frankie Shop
85. Free People
86. French Connection
87. Garmany
88. Giorgio Armani
89. Givenchy
90. Glamourpuss NYC
91. Global Leathers
92. GOLDEN GOOSE
93. Goose Barnacle
94. Gucci
95. HAT & CAP EMPORIUM (CC)
96. HAT PLUS
97. HELMUT LANG
98. Hermès
99. HERNO
100. House of Lafayette
101. Hunter Boot
102. Ivel International
103. J Mendel
104. Jack Rogers
105. JJ Hat Center
106. Joan Oloff
107. Jocelyn
108. Joie
109. Joseph
110. Julianne
111. Kamp New York
112. Karl Lagerfeld
113. Kate Spade

114. Kenneth Cole
115. Kinross Cashmere (Dawson Forte Cashmere)
116. Kirna Zabete
117. Kith Brooklyn
118. Kith Soho
119. LAMO
120. Lanvin
121. Leather Imact
122. Les Petits Joueurs
123. Letter J
124. Libra Leather
125. LISA PERRY
126. LOCK & CO. HATTERS
127. LOEWE
128. LOLA HATS
129. Loro Piana
130. LUXE DE LEON
131. LVMH
132. Mackage
133. Macy's Bay Plaza
134. Macy's Brooklyn Downtown
135. Macy's Cross County
136. Macy's Herald Square
137. Macy's Kings Plaza
138. Macy's Parkchester
139. Macy's Queens - Rego Park
140. Macy's Staten Island
141. MANOLO BLAHNIK
142. Mansur Gavriel
143. Marni
144. Max Mara
145. Michael Kors
146. Michele Olivieri
147. Milly
148. Minnetonka
149. Minnie Rose
150. MIU MIU
151. Moda Operandi
152. Moncler
153. Mood Designer Fabrics
154. MR & MRS ITALY
155. No.6 Store
156. Nordstrom Rack 31st & 6th
157. Nordstrom Rack Fulton Street
158. Nordstrom Rack Gateway Center

159. Nordstrom Rack Skyview Center
160. Nordstrom Rack Union Square
161. Norman Ambrose
162. Off-White
163. Opening Ceremony
164. PHILOSOPHY DI LORENZO SERAFINI
165. Piccolo New York
166. Prada-5th Avenue
167. Prada-Madison
168. Rafe
169. Rag & Bone
170. Ralph Lauren
171. RANI ARABELLA
172. Rebecca Minkoff
173. REI
174. RHIÉ STORE
175. Rick Owens
176. Rosetta Getty
177. Saks Fifth Avenue-New York
178. Sally LaPointe
179. SALVATORE FERRAGAMO
180. Schott
181. Snowman New York
182. Sorel
183. Stefano Ricci
184. Stuart Weitzman
185. Studio 1 Leather Designs
186. Sugar (E.S. Originals Inc.)
187. The Frye Company-Flat Iron
188. The Frye Company-Soho
189. THE ROW
190. The Webster
191. Theory- Brookfield
192. Theory- Columbus
193. Theory- Flatiron
194. Theory- Hudson Yards
195. Theory- Madison
196. Theory- Meatpacking
197. Theory- Soho
198. Therafit
199. Tip Top Shoes
200. Tom Ford
201. Totokaelo
202. Trina Turk
203. Tyrone

204. Union Garage
205. Urban Zen
206. Valentino
207. Vince
208. Vivaldi
209. Wolf & Badger
210. Woolrich
211. WORLD HATS INC
212. Yves Salomon
213. Yves St. Laurent-57th
214. Yves St. Laurent-Green

New York State Primary Fur Businesses

1. Alexandros Furs
2. Barbatsuly Furs
3. Beck Furs
4. Beyer Furs
5. Bronxville Furrier
6. Cassandra Inc
7. Dena Products
8. Dimitri's Furs & Leathers
9. Funtastic Furs
10. Fur Vault
11. Furs By Maria and Nick
12. Furs, Furs, Furs
13. Georgios Furs -Destiny USA
14. Georgios Furs -South Salina
15. Gorksi -NY
16. Held Projansky Furs
17. Hoots Furs
18. John Pappas Furs
19. Laurette Furs
20. Morton Fur
21. Russell Furs
22. Snyder Furs
23. Superior Furs
24. Tres Chic
25. Tsontos Furs
26. Vani Furs

New York State Secondary Fur Businesses

1. Bloomingdale's Roosevelt Field
2. Canada Goose-NY2
3. Eric Javits

4. Fox's-Eastchester
5. Fox's-Forest Hills
6. Fox's-Huntington
7. Fox's-Mineola
8. Fox's-West Babylon
9. Gorlicks Trading Post
10. Lord & Taylor-Eastchester
11. Lord & Taylor-Garden City
12. Lord & Taylor-Manhasset
13. Lord & Taylor-Palisades Center
14. Lord & Taylor-Ridgehill
15. Lord & Taylor-Walt Whitman Mall
16. Macy's Commack
17. Macy's Flushing
18. Macy's Hicksville
19. Macy's Manhasset
20. Macy's Massapequa
21. Macy's Palisades Center
22. Macy's Roosevelt Field
23. Macy's Smith Haven
24. Macy's SouthShore
25. Macy's Valley Stream
26. Macy's Walt Whitman Mall
27. Macy's White Plains Galleria
28. Macy's Yorktown
29. Nieman Marcus Hudson Yards
30. Nieman Marcus Roosevelt Field
31. Nieman Marcus White Plains
32. Peebles
33. Pegasus Footwear- New Palz
34. Pegasus Footwear- Rhinebeck
35. Pegasus Footwear- Woodstock
36. Saks Fifth Avenue-Long Island
37. Singer22
38. Whitman Fur & Feather

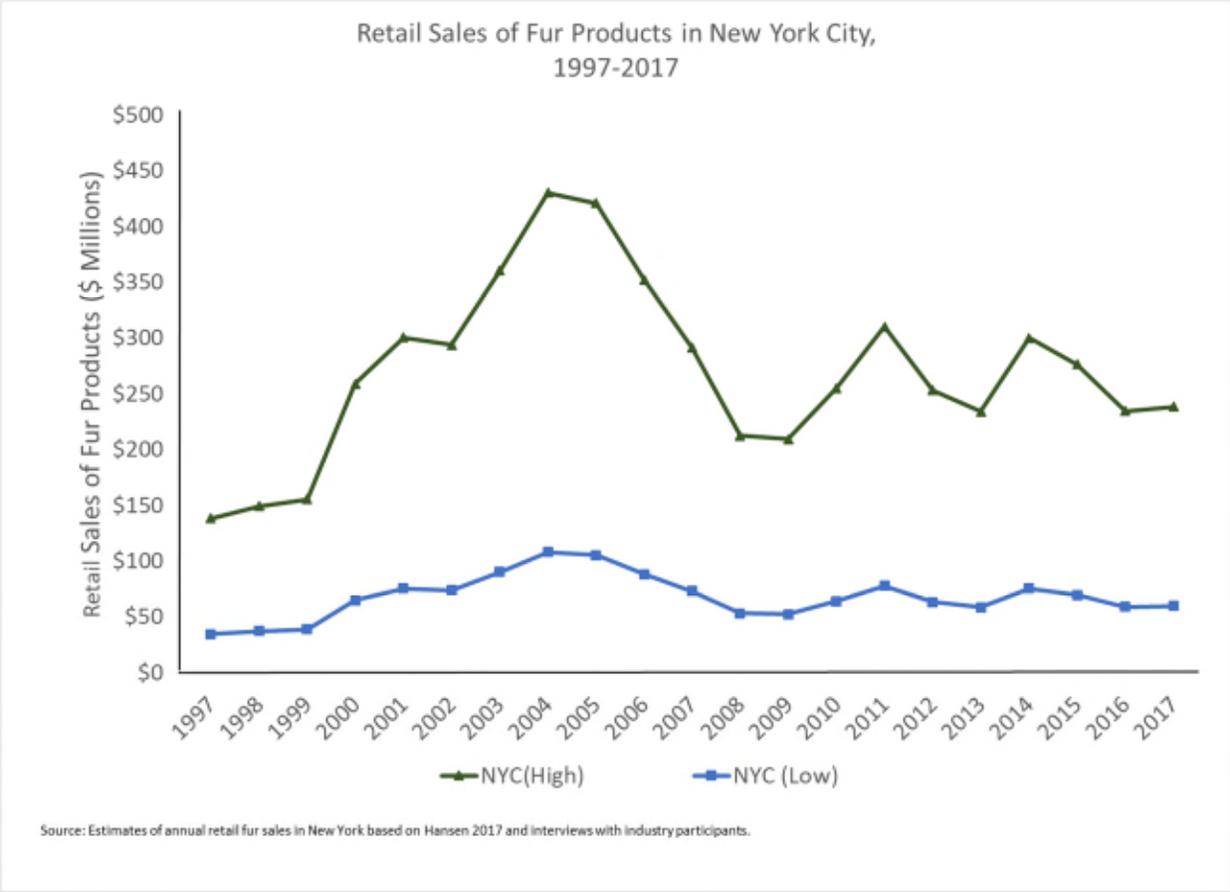
APPENDIX D: Additional Estimations of Fur Sales

Additional Estimations of Fur Sales

While the survey results above provide a direct estimation of New York City sales of fur pelts, garments, and accessories, two other national-level estimations of fur sales are informative to assessing the size and scope of the New York fur industry: (a) a 2017 study by Henning Otte Hansen (“Hansen 2017” or “Hansen”), a senior advisor at the University of Copenhagen, estimating U.S. retail fur sales and (b) a report on U.S. sales of fur products on a wholesale and manufacturer level by Euromonitor, a consumer products market research company.

The Hansen 2017 study models total U.S. retail sales of fur products from 1996 to 2015 using mink pelt production, as well as fur products import and export data.⁶² Applying Hansen’s model, I calculated that there were \$1.2 billion in retail fur sales in 2017. In the interviews done for this study, industry participants stated that between 5% and 20% of U.S. retail fur sales occur in New York. The result of applying these New York percentages to the Hansen estimate of U.S. retail sales is an estimate of between \$60 million and \$240 million in retail sales of fur products in New York in 2017 (\$1.2 billion x 5% to \$1.2 billion x 20%). The survey-based estimates of retail sales for 2017 (i.e. \$68 to \$96 million) are comparable to the estimates of retail sales based on the Hansen model. See the chart below for estimates of retail sales of fur products in New York City, based on the Hansen model, for 1997-2017.

⁶² For a more detailed explanation of the Hansen model see the Estimation Methodology section of the paper below and Henning Otte Hansen. *Global fur retail value*. July 31, 2017.



Euromonitor, a leader in international market-research,⁶³ has estimated that manufacturing and wholesale sales of “articles of apparel and clothing accessories, of fur skins (excluding hats and headgear)” in 2017 were \$517.7 million.⁶⁴ Applying the same “New York factor” of 5% and 20% (based on industry interviews) to this estimate, provides an estimate that there were between \$30 million to \$100 million in manufacturing and wholesale sales of fur items in New York City in 2017. The survey-based estimates of manufacturing and wholesale sales for 2017 (i.e., \$52 to \$62 million) are consistent with this estimate.

Retail sales of fur products were also estimated based on a model of retail fur sales as given in Hansen 2017.⁶⁵ This model derives retail sales of fur products by:

⁶³ See <https://www.euromonitor.com/about-us>.

⁶⁴ Euromonitor Passport, Industrial 2018. Fur and Fur Articles. Extracted Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

⁶⁵ Henning Otte Hansen. *Global fur retail value*. July 31, 2017.

1. Calculating the total number and value of mink pelts produced, imported to, and exported from the United States. These numbers are provided by publicly available data on production, import, and export of pelts.⁶⁶
2. Estimating the mark-up from pelt value to fur product retail value.
3. Applying that mark-up to the production value of pelts to determine the retail value of fur products made from those pelts.
4. Estimating the total value of all pelts used in fur product production based on the ratio of mink exports to exports of other fur products in export data and applying that ratio to mink production to estimate production of all fur skins, not just mink.
5. Computing net imports for fur garments (i.e., imports less exports).
6. Estimating the mark-up from wholesale fur garment value to retail fur garment value.
7. Applying that mark-up to the net imports to determine the retail value of those imported garments.
8. Adding the retail value of pelts to the retail value of net imports to determine total U.S. retail sales of fur garments.

⁶⁶ Production data were provided by the Report on Pelt Production. National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Released on July 20, 2018. Data on import and export statistics for both raw pelts and “Furskin articles; apparel and clothing accessories” and “Furskin articles; other than apparel and clothing accessories” were provided by the United Nations COMTRADE database. (Accessed August 30, 2018)

STUDIO ONE LEATHER DESIGN, INC.

270 WEST 39TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10018

PH: (212) 760-1701 FAX: (212) 760-1702

Testimony

Caitlin Levin, Chief Operations Officer

May 15th, 2019

I would like to thank the Chair, Council Member Rafael L. Espinal, and the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing for the opportunity to provide comments at this hearing in regards to Int. 1476.

Studio One Leather Design, Inc. is a small factory in New York City's Garment District. My father started this company in the early 1990's. Before that he had both manufacturing and retail businesses in New York City dating back to the 1970's. I was brought into the family business about eight years ago as the company was experiencing exciting growth, which we have worked hard to maintain over the years. We source materials, develop, and manufacture leather apparel for several luxury brands based in New York City.

Design houses seek out our expertise with fur and shearling, which are two different materials as it is understood within the industry. Shearling, which is a byproduct of the global food industry, represented over 10 percent of our business last year, and will likely represent closer to 20 percent this year. As a small family business the proposed fur ban, as written, would have a significant impact on our business.

Much of the discussion around this ban has been centered on fur of animals slaughtered purely for their skin. Yet the broad definition being used, without a proper carveout for shearling, puts at risk my business as well as thousands of other businesses from Barneys all the way down to the "mom and pop" shoe store selling Ugg boots. Recent legislative efforts in Los Angeles and San Francisco have wisely noted the difference between the killing of animals for the skin alone, compared to the byproduct that is shearling and its ubiquitous use in fashion.

City Council Speaker Johnson was recently quoted in Crain's New York Business on May 8, 2019 saying, "leather is a co-product of meat. So right now, if you're killing a mink, or a chinchilla, or a coyote for fur, you're not eating their meat," he said. "They're being skinned alive, gassed, trapped, farmed for fur, just to take the fur off their body for clothes. That's not what happens with leather."

I hope this committee takes into consideration those words along with my testimony and the testimony of others to redefine the definition with the following exception, “not including skins that are intended for conversion and are later converted into leather. Fur does not include cowhide with hair attached thereto or lambskin or sheepskin with fleece attached thereto.” Without such changes my father and I will unfortunately be faced with the reality of laying off employees from living wage jobs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

My name is Cory Bee. I'm a resident of New York City. I strongly support to ban the sale of furs.

The violent and cruel practices of the fur industry are beyond inhumane.

Eighty-five percent of the fur industry's skins come from animals on fur factory farm. Animals exist in filthy and cramped cages, the size of the animal, as was testified at the hearing and further documented. Squeezing expenses and prioritizing profit at the expense and suffering of the animal is unconscionable.

Animals are then crudely killed by genital electrocution, gassing, neck breaking and skinned alive, where the animal often does not die immediately but dies an unbelievable painful death.

Please support the ban on fur sales. This industry is based on exploitation of these vulnerable animals.

Thank you

Cory Bee

To NYC Councilmen:

My name is Katherine Kazak and I'd like to express my view on the matter concerning Fur Ban hearing that took place in the NYC City Hall on 5/15/2019. I was participating in the rally and was hoping that I could speak my point of view at the hearing. I didn't have a chance to, so I'd appreciate if you give my letter appropriate attention.

I went to this rally to support my friends and family and all the other people who tried to withstand the attack of vegan people in their attempt to ban fur in NYS. I worked in the industry years before and now as an independent designer and a resident of NYS felt concerned for the position many people, including myself, are being put in.

First and foremost, I want to stand up for my freedom of expression and choice. I find the fact that vegan point of view towards this issue should be sufficient to ban a fur industry quite disturbing. We live in a society that made a huge leap forward in embracing all sorts of differences among people. It's clear we are all different and what one finds acceptable, another might find revolting. But we are learning to make each voice matter. Where is that like when anyone can come and try to erase you based on their dislike?

This attack on the fur industry demonstrates a complete lack of respect of vegan people to the things that matter to others. There are so many other industries that rely on animals being utilized for the benefit of people that should be banned too if we believe the vegan position is correct. It's a matter of personal choice and everyone should be allowed to exercise their judgment on what to eat and what to wear. What about people who don't share vegan beliefs. Do their opinions matter? Why does the vegan society feel it can decide for everyone?

During the rally, there were displays of killed animals, slogans against Canada Goose company (so it's not about NYS only) with their jackets and killed animals and many more. These people were not just against fur, but also wool, leather and anything that has to do with killing the animals. In response to that, I'd like to point out that the animal cruelty is not acceptable and there should be sticter rules and regulation, oversight and punishment of farms that exercise unethical practices. But we cannot blame all of them being cruel. It's an industry that any other and extinguish a whole industry based on the missteps of few. Humans always relied on nature in everything and eating meats and using fur has deep roots. I'm a lover of nature and I see everything around us as alive. When you cut a tree, it's being hurt too. It doesn't scream or bleed, but it dies while it could be growing for many

years till it's old, but we cut it and it dies. So the element of life and death is everywhere and when vegan people feel that only animals are being hurt, they are wrong. Even without going into the philosophical discussion, it is clear that nature is our source of life whether we are carnivores or omnivores. All we have to do is to maintain the balance and be discrete and respectful to each other.

Also, I find it absolutely outrageous that thousands of family businesses and their workers might be losing their jobs because of the strong feelings vegan people have towards this issue. I have family and friends who were building their businesses from zero. They worked seven days a week, no holidays didn't see their kids, struggled greatly to survive economic ups and downs only to come to this day where all their effort could lead to bankruptcies, broken dreams, uncertain future. Is this a fair way to treat people?

Moreover, if the fur is banned in NYS, people will buy it in the neighboring states. If it's banned everywhere in the US, it will be purchased overseas. What do we achieve here? Lost jobs and revenues.

Last but not least, vegan people propose we substitute animal products to synthetic furs and materials. As simple as it may seem, this solution has a long-lasting negative impact on the environment as these products would be not biodegradable. Today, the eco situation is as tragic as it is. We don't need to add to this issue even more.

As you can see there are many angles here to consider. It would be a big mistake to ban fur in NYS or anywhere else as it represents only a certain viewpoint and interests. I would greatly appreciate if you could consider my opinion in this matter.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Katherine Kazak <katsiarynaelkind@hotmail.com>

Hello,

My name is David Giardina and I live in Tribeca in Councilmember Margaret Chin's district. I am submitting testimony in support of Intro 1476.

When I was growing up I had a family member whom I cared for very much and I know he cared for me as well my entire family too. He was always there to encourage me or support me when I was down or ill. He had quite a personality and could make me laugh even if I was not feeling very happy. He had a great sense of adventure and enjoyed accompanying me and my other family members on trips around the country. This very dear and special family member was named Sparky and he was rescue dog from a local shelter who lived with us for 15 short years.

Not being human took nothing away from Sparky's personhood. He had thoughts, feelings, emotions just as I did. The idea of anything happening to hurt Sparky would be devastating to me. I think anyone who's ever had a dog or cat or any other family animal would feel the same way. Why then do we have a disconnect when it comes to using certain animals for our pleasures, comforts or profits such as in the fur industry? Why do we create loop holes in our basic decency and compassion to support such unspeakable violence against the most innocent and vulnerable sentient beings?

The justification for this is usually based in money/status. Money has been the motivating factor in conquering and pillaging other lands. Money has been the motivator for every war in human history. Money has been the motivating factor in human slavery and subjugation. Money has been the motivating factor in destroying the very planet we all share. But does money truly justify any of these things? Would we accept this justification if someone were violating, enslaving, hurting, killing us or anyone we love, including our dogs or our cats? I strongly feel the answer to that question is an obvious "no". Just because minks, raccoons, chinchillas, coyotes, foxes (the latter two are types of dogs by the way no different than Sparky) are not usually considered family "pets" does not mean they deserve or desire to be treated this way. They do not.

Another justification for unspeakable animal abuse is culture and tradition. Again - for thousands of years it has been a culture and tradition around the world for humans to enslave and subjugate other humans based upon their ethnic background, skin color, gender, sexual nature, physical or mental attributes. The whole class system is based upon this sense of entitlement over others. In modern times especially - can we truly say culture and tradition is good justification for barbaric behavior?

I fully understand that based upon how we've structured our society - money is an important element for us to live. And I understand that some people have been doing a specific type of work for many years and they know no other way of making a living. They may feel that they have no choice. I will insist that we all have a choice. Humans are supposed to be the "superior species" with a higher capacity for intelligence, logic, reason and compassion. On top of that we have moral agency. We're supposed be able to grasp the concept that we do not need to hurt anyone, human or nonhuman, in order to survive.

For those concerned about employment and paying their bills there are choices to seek help and assistance. Animals are not given a choice when it comes to being used for human interests. As it is, the world is moving forward. Faux fur is the wave of the future happening now. If people are truly wanting employment security they could certainly join modern times and create, sell and distribute beautiful faux fur garments. Good for everyone.

My final thought is this: Exploiting, hurting and killing sentient beings is needless for our survival - especially in modern times. The golden rule does apply to everyone - human and nonhuman alike. For centuries the world has looked to New York City as the mecca of culture and sophistication. Thank you for helping to maintain that reputation by ensuring that the fur industry is gone from the great city of New York.

Sincerely,
David Giardina

Wednesday May 15, 2019

New York City Council
Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing
City Hall
City Hall Park
New York, NY 10007
Re: (Intro. 1476-2019 – Testimony to the Hearing re Proposed Fur Ban)

Dear Chair Rafael L. Espinal Jr., Speaker Johnson and City Council Committee:

I regret that I was not afforded the opportunity to testify today (May 15) before I was obliged to leave the chamber for the airport at 5:15PM for my homebound flight early this evening.

My name is Michael O'Brien. I am a wildlife biologist born and raised in Nova Scotia with an MSc in Wildlife Biology from Acadia University. I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist under The Wildlife Society professional certification program. I have dedicated my professional career to the conservation of wildlife populations and habitats. I am speaking today on behalf of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) (see footnote 1).

I have 43 years of professional wildlife management experience, much of that with the Government of Nova Scotia, including 22 years as Manager of the Nova Scotia Sustainable Wildlife Use Program (which included wild furbearer, small game and large mammal management as well as human wildlife conflict management and management of wildlife disease). I continue to be active as an advisor on North American and international wildlife management and policy.

Canada and the United States have for decades worked very closely together on wildlife management and ensuring high animal welfare standards in the sustainable use of wildlife. As a result, the North American Model of Wildlife Management is widely recognized as the best in the world.

It was apparent today (May 15) in testimony that I heard that there is considerable confusion and misinformation out there about traps and the use of traps to capture wildlife. Myself and my colleague Matt Peek (also representing AFWA and registered to testify) would have been able to contribute accurate information to that discussion had we had the opportunity to speak. Canada and the United States have collectively invested over \$50 million to date to ensure that all traps used to capture wild furbearers in North America are systematically tested to meet globally recognized animal welfare standards. These standards follow an ISO testing protocol and were developed through the work of a panel of expert wildlife biologists and wildlife veterinarians from US, Canada, Russia and European Union.

Over the past 22 years, trap testing has resulted in the identification of trapping devices which meet the internationally accepted standard, various trap modifications to improve animal welfare performance, and the phasing out of devices that do not meet the standards. I am one of the team of wildlife biologists and wildlife veterinarians who have led this work in Canada since 1997.

I hope you will be interested to know that the tested and approved traps used for live capture of furbearers by trappers in North America, are the same ones used by wildlife biologists (and recommended by the Canada Council on Animal Care – see footnote 2) to live-capture wild furbearers in wildlife tagging and research programs.

While I heard statements to the contrary during the hearing, I can assure you that the wild fur harvest in North America is part of highly regulated, strictly enforced, science-based state/provincial/territorial wildlife conservation programs.

Besides trapping for wild fur harvest, trappers and the use of traps contributes greatly to:

- Protecting and monitoring endangered species
- Reintroduction of species into their original habitats (e.g. US American River Otter program)
- Public safety
- Prevention of property damage
- Protection of crops and livestock
- Protection of ecosystems and habitats
- Disease management to protect animal and human health
- And much more

Here's the key thing about all this - based on my four decades of experience, if you ban the sale and use of fur, you certainly remove its value but that doesn't necessarily translate to protecting animals. Populations of many species sharing the landscape with us will still need to be managed — the difference is that you end up with a situation more like what occurs in Europe, where millions of 'problem' animals are captured and killed at public expense, and then discarded in the waste management system as part of wildlife damage control.

In North America, the responsible use of wildlife resources is a crucial part of our model of wildlife management. All too often when harvest for sustainable use is removed from the equation, we are faced with increased flooding, livestock and property damage, human safety risks, zoonotic disease outbreaks, and other problems associated with overabundant wildlife populations.

Unfortunately, when that happens, the public reaction we see is a rapid erosion of our value, respect and willingness to accommodate wildlife in the landscapes where we live.

From a wildlife conservation perspective, such a loss of value and willingness to accommodate presence of wildlife is a very negative outcome.

I welcome any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). For more detailed information, we left in the room multiple copies of the publication *Trapping and Furbearer Management in North American Wildlife Conservation* (see also footnote 3).

Thank you,

Michael O'Brien
Wildlife Biologist
902-300-3221

obrienms.ns@gmail.com

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)

Footnotes:

1. The Association was founded in 1902 as an inter-governmental organization of public agencies charged with the protection and management of North America's fish and wildlife resources. The Association's members include the fish and wildlife agencies of the states, the provinces, as well as federal government agencies in the United States and Canada. The Association provides a forum for hundreds of senior level fish and wildlife public agency biologists across North America to develop positions on public policy issues involving fish and wildlife conservation. The Association has been instrumental in promoting sound resource management and strengthening federal, state, provincial, NGO and private cooperation in protecting and managing fish and wildlife and their habitats in the public interest.
2. <https://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/Wildlife.pdf> pp 23-24
3. https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/8815/2944/8183/Trap-Fur-Mgmt_final.pdf

My name is Stephanie Stone. I'm a native New Yorker living in Washington Heights. I grew up on the upper East side seeing winter after winter two legged minks, foxes, chinchillas, among others. When, at 8, I told my mother her beautiful coat made from about 60 minks did not belong to her but rather to those animals whose fur she was wearing, she gave the coat to a thrift store. My mother says now if she had really thought about the reality of the suffering and fear the animals experience she would never have bought it. I always wonder if the people who wear Canada Goose fur trim jackets ever think about the coyotes who suffer terribly being trapped by steel jaws, many of whom try to chew off their trapped limbs in order to escape only to fail and hours later be shot in the head or not shot, just die a slow painful death. How on earth is it considered acceptable that upwards of 200 chinchillas, let alone one, are killed for a coat?

Times and sentiments are changing and so to are businesses which are adapting to change. Who would have thought of the creation of the Impossible Burger or Almond or Hemp milk? People are buying these products and people have jobs making and selling these products. Faux is being considered beaux and people are buying it as they are buying gorgeous fabric coats. More environmentally friendly fabrics are being created. We must move with the times and especially now, today, during these violent times we should be more compassionate.

I support the NYC fur ban and I hope you do too. Thank you for your consideration and compassion.

Dear Honorable Council Member,

I'm writing to respectfully urge support Intro 1476 introduced by Speakeru Corey Johnson and Counsil Members Levin,Cabrera,Rosenthal and Brannan would make it unlawful to sell fur in NYC give, or manufacture a new fur product in the state. If passed, 1476 would make NYC the state in the nation to ban the cruel and unnecessary fur trade within its borders.

Simply put, the sale of fur products in NYC is inconsistent with its position as a world leader on animal welfare and environmental issues, as well as its role in fostering innovative technological advancements.

Regarding animal welfare concerns, it is well-accepted that animal cruelty is inherent in the fur industry. Each year more than 100 million animals are raised and killed for their fur. On fur factory farms, wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are then killed in inhumane ways - such as crude gassing, anal/genital electrocution and neck breaking- to preserve the quality of their pelts. In the wild, animals are often caught in crippling leg-hold traps for days without food or water. These archaic traps are indiscriminate, often maiming and killing non-target animals, like threatened species and even pets.

The fur industry also poses serious environmental threats. On fur factory farms, waste runoff from animals pollutes the soil and waterways. The tanning and dying process uses toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, like chromium and formaldehyde, to prevent the skin from decaying. Fortunately, innovative technology has produced an array of alternatives with the same warmth, look and feel as fur but without the cruelty or environmental concerns.

Moreover, consumers' growing concern about the cruelty and environmental degradation caused by the fur industry is leading fashion brands, cities, and countries to move away from animal fur once and for all. In 2018, Chanel, Coach, Burberry, Versace, Donna Karan, Diane Von Furstenberg, and InStyle magazine joined Gucci, Michael Kors, and Armani by announcing fur-free policies. Internationally, Norway and Belgium joined the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Austria in banning fur production. Also, India banned fur imports in 2017.

By passing Intro 1476 and eliminating the sale of new fur products in NYC we have the opportunity to increase community awareness of animal welfare, mitigate the environmental harm caused by the fur industry, bolster the demand for sustainable and innovative alternatives, and foster a more humane environment in NYC.

Please support the fur ban!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Frank Davila
New York
Rego Park

Good Day,

I want to take the time to explain why I support Intro 1476, which will ban the sale of fur in New York City.

We share the planet with animals. I cannot fathom the belief that animals are solely meant for human beings to utilize for themselves.

I believe animals have their own souls, and feel all emotions including distress, pain, sorrow, and grief. What an ordeal for these fur bearing animals to be caught in traps in the wild (and sometimes cats and dogs get caught in these traps as well). Also fur bearing animals are bred and raised to become fur fashions in gloomy conditions and ultimately their lives are cut short by such methods as electrocution.

The processing of fur leads to toxic pollution for people to have to deal with. I hope New York City can follow the examples of San Francisco and Los Angeles and ban the sale of fur. These animals should not face such exploitation in a civilized society.

Thank You,

Miriam A. Cohen

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of NYC and an animal lover, I am thrilled that a ban on fur sales has been introduced. No animal deserves the prolonged agony of a steel trap, only to be bludgeoned to death for a fur collar. Some of the methods animals in the fur industry are killed by include drowning, electrocution, being shot in the head and skinned alive. Millions of Coyotes, foxes, rabbits, cats, dogs and other animals suffer this torment yearly for a cruel product that has been on the way out for a long time. NYC is better than this. We do not and should not support torture of any being, especially the most innocent beings on the planet.

I support fur ban intro 1476 and really hope you would help us fight against such a barbaric industry.

Please feel free to call me anytime to further discuss.

Sincerely,

Melinda Lee
William J. Farmer Inc.
369 Lexington Avenue, Suite 310
New York, NY 10017

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

New York City Council
Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing
City Hall
City Hall Park
New York, NY 10007
Re: (Intro. 1476-2019 – Opposition to Proposed Fur Ban)

Dear Chair Rafael L. Espinal Jr. and City Council Committee:

My name is Matt Peek. I'm a professional wildlife biologist for the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and I oversee the wild furbearer management program for the state of Kansas. As a wildlife biologist, I have trapped beaver, coyote, otter and various other species for research, reintroduction programs, and damage control, and I have extensive experience with traps and trapping.

I'm here today representing the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). All 50 state wildlife agencies support regulated trapping as a necessary part of modern wildlife management, and we have serious concerns about the implications of the bill to wildlife conservation.

This ban is being promoted as pro-animal welfare. In fact, trapping today is managed through science-based regulations that already address animal welfare. These regulations are put in place by wildlife biologists like myself who care deeply about animals, and have dedicated our lives to their conservation.

The U.S. and Canada have spent over \$50 million in recent decades conducting trap research and promoting the best and most humane traps in existence. And this effort has been effective. Recent trapper surveys indicate the vast majority of the target animals captured by trappers in the U.S., are captured in traps that pass international humane trapping standards.

In addition, the same traps used today by fur trappers are also used by biologists for research and reintroductions. This is only possible because these traps usually cause minimal or no injury to captured animals.

Recognizing this, the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians has a position statement recognizing foothold traps, "when used properly, are humane, safe and practical."

It's also worth noting that the species that are trapped today are abundant, in fact some like coyote and raccoon are more abundant than they've ever been in history, and they have the

potential to damage property and other, more vulnerable species like sea turtles and ground nesting birds.

Without the fur trade, the harvested animal will be disposed of and wasted, rather than producing a durable, environmentally-friendly product that can be used by people. The fur trade is responsible use of wildlife.

In closing, a ban on the sale of fur in New York City will have significant, negative impacts on both wildlife and people. I'm asking you today to trust the judgement of wildlife professionals and ~~your~~ state wildlife management agency agencies on this issue ~~and oppose this bill~~.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and FurNYC

Matt Peek
Wildlife Research Biologist
620-342-0658
matt.peek@ks.gov
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)

No Fur Ban in NYC!!

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been working in the Fur industry for 40 years. I will be left without a job . NYC is melting pot of different people , with different opinions. Wearing fur is a choice. Everyone should have the freedom to make that choice . What about my rights? What about all those people loosing their jobs ? Please stop the fur ban.

Thank you!
Kostoula Skourlas

Hi My name is Marilyn Galfin founder of "Voices for Shelter Animals". We are a NYC based advocacy group fighting for shelter reform and No kill. We support intro 1476

The time has come for New York City to become a city of compassion for the companion and non-companion animals. No animal in this city should be the victim of abuse, exploitation, cruelty, or torture.

This needs to be a city of no kill no matter what species it is. It is time the city chooses compassion over any commerce of cruelty

Millions of animals each year including minks,foxes, rabbits, beavers chinchilla, coyotes,rabbits and more, (sentient beings who experience pain and suffering) go through hellish torture being victims of fur farms, stuck in tiny cages in inhumane conditions, or trapped in barbaric steel-jaw leghold traps (which have been know to trap dogs and cats as well) where animals sometimes have to chew off their own limbs to free themselves, anally& vaginally electrocuted, hanged, skinned alive,(including dogs and cats). This is not what a civilized society does to animals.

.The cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco have already banned the selling of fur.and is spreading to other cities and is already banned in other countries. The time has come for New York City the fashion hub of the world to make the statement that this city is leaving behind this antiquated model of clothing made from cruelty and that compassion is in fashion in the Big Apple.

No money should be made from the torture of an animal. No matter how the fur industry weaves their story to justify these barbaric acts it is time that no one buys into their web of misinformation and lies. There is absolutely nothing humane about this industry

No human has the right to take a life for greed or vanity or convenience. It took many generations but finally we are at the point where progressive compassionate consumerism is becoming the norm.

Fur is unnecessary and most NYers do not support this industry. They have proven they want humane alternatives and is exemplified by the success of businesses who sell fake fur and fake fur accessories that do no harm to animals. Wearing literally dead animals on one's body as an act of vanity, as a status symbol, as a symbol that I have arrived economically to afford this, is not the norm any more for the majority of NY ers and for many people around the world anymore.

Many famous brands have joined this progressive mindset Gucci ,Michael Kors, Versace, and more..You can look beautiful, be stylish, feel good about who you are, be happy and that does not have to include wearing a coat made from torture of animals.

It's time that politics are put aside and that we look within ourselves to know that morally, ethically, all this is unacceptable, unconscionable on every level. and it must stop.

I encourage the council members to stand your ground no matter what pressure you get from opposition. Only you could put an end to this horrific industry and be the heroes to stand up for what is right and just for these animals.. Please support intro.1476



May 17, 2019

Re: Testimony to hearing 1476-2019 – NY City Fur Ban

Dear Chair Rafael L. Espinal Jr.;

I have always been an animal lover. In the absence of a local veterinarian or animal shelter, I was the girl in our community that cared for every sick or injured animal, and rescued every stray cat or dog. When I was fifteen, I read a book written by Ingrid Newkirk, founder of PETA, titled *“Save the Animals!: 101 Easy Things That You Can Do”*. This book convinced me that using animals for *any* purpose was cruel and heartless. I immediately stopped eating meat, stopped using products that had been tested on animals, and became opposed to using animals for clothing. I clearly remember reading a chapter in this book focussed on fur. Newkirk suggested visiting fur retailers and leaving notes in the pockets of fur coats reading *“It takes 40 dumb animals to make a fur coat, but only one to wear it”* or *“fur is dead”*.

At that age, I did not question the validity of the information that had been presented to me. Rather, I accepted it as truth, and became a devoted advocate for the animal rights movement. I became very vocal, and every opportunity I got, I pushed my messages. I felt that I was correct, and that others were ill-informed.

At the age of eighteen I left home to attend an agricultural college to begin pre-veterinarian studies. I continued to preach my message of how humans have no right to utilize animals for *any* purpose. Many of my fellow students were farmers, so my messages were not always well-received!

During my second year of college, I was required to work more closely with animals – in an agricultural setting. My mentality at that time was that livestock farmers lacked compassion and had no connection with the animals. *However*, the more time that I spent working with the farmers (and the animals), the more that I began to question my beliefs. Suddenly things were no longer black and white.

Over the next three years, I watched how the farmers interacted with the animals, and realized that there was not only a connection with the animals, but also a respect for the animals. It also became blatantly clear that livestock farming is not only hard work – but a hard lifestyle; with a set of challenges that only exist with raising animals; and financial rewards that are often

inconsistent. So why would anybody choose to do it? *Because they enjoy working with and caring for animals.*

That was the beginning of a journey that changed by perspective from one of anti-animal use to responsible animal use.

Fast forward to today. I am the manager a large mink farm - and have been for 15 years now. It is certainly not where I would have envisioned myself 25 years ago, but I really do enjoy it.

My staff and I make every effort to keep our mink healthy, comfortable and stimulated.

Our mink are housed in pens - often in pairs during the growing season, and individually as adults. The mink hang out in their wire mesh pens to play, stretch, nap, and access their food and water. They also use this as their bathroom, so urine and feces fall through the wire so their pen remains clean. Attached to the pen is a wooden nest box, the bottom covered with dry pine bedding. This provides the mink with a cozy place to sleep or hide, similar to a den. Pen mates will often choose to curl up together in this space. Our mink are provided with both manipulable enrichments (toys that they can play with or chew), and hammocks to lie on.

Our mink feed is produced with only high quality ingredients, based on diets that are designed and balanced by a mink nutritionist. These diets are adjusted based on the physiological needs of the mink depending on the time of year. Hands-down, our mink eat much healthier than most of our human population!

We walk through the barns daily, to remove any left-over feed before fresh is provided. At this time, we identify any mink that have not eaten their ration, which is often a sign that the mink is not feeling well. These mink will be checked for signs of illness or injury, and will be provided with appropriate care. In any large population, there will always be a small percentage that will require medical attention. This is not unlike the human population.

Certain times of the year require more frequent handling of the mink. These periods include breeding, whelping, weaning, vaccinating, breeder selection and harvesting. Our staff is trained to handle the mink in a manner to keep them as comfortable as possible.

As in any type of livestock farming, the animals reach a point when they must be harvested. For mink, this is a very peaceful process. The animals simply fall into a permanent sleep.

Here in Canada (and similar to other mink-producing countries) we have an animal welfare standard (Code of Practice) that requires our farmers to follow a strict set of guidelines addressing every aspect of mink husbandry, including housing, nutrition, herd health and euthanasia. Our standards even require us to provide the mink with shelves to enable the mother mink to escape from her young kits for some R & R, and toys (enrichments) for the mink

to play with. The Code of Practice was developed by a committee which included animal welfare representatives, veterinarians, animal welfare researchers, and producers. A third-party auditing system began during the summer of 2018, and all farms are expected to be certified by 2020. This is something that we worked very hard to build and implement, and of which very proud.

It is now kit time on our farm – my favorite time of the year. I enjoy watching the mother mink diligently care for her young. I love reaching into the warm nest and pulling out a handful of dozy kits and burying my nose into their fine layer of fur, breathing in the very distinct smell that can only be compared with the smell of puppy-dog breath.

Pretty soon groups of school kids will arrive on our farm. As they squeal with excitement at the opportunity to hold the squirmy kits, and someone announces that they have gotten peed on, I take some time to talk to the kids about what I feel are important life lessons.

Firstly, when raising animals for *any* purpose, we have a responsibility to care for them properly and make great effort to keep them healthy, happy and comfortable.

Secondly, that we have a responsibility to protect the environment. This includes making choices that reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in landfills and washes into our oceans, harming our sea life. This means choosing clothing made from natural fabrics that are long-lasting and 100% biodegradable - *such as fur*.

It is clear that my perspective on animal use has changed over the years. However, one thing that has remained consistent is my passion to care for animals and to provide them with a happy healthy life.

I am proud to be a part of the fur industry.

Sincerely;



Catherine Moores

New York City – Council Hearing, 15 May 2019

Oral Testimony re: 1476-2019

Mr. Chairman and Council Members:

My name is Robert Cahill, Senior Vice-President of North American Fur Auctions. My company traces its roots back 350 years to 1670 and the establishment of the Hudson's Bay Fur Trading Company. We have operations in the United States, Canada and Europe.

As you have or will hear from fur farming experts, my presentation will focus on wild harvested furs.

Trapping is undertaken in virtually every country in the world for many reasons, including scientific research, relocation, disease control, problem-wildlife and ecosystem management. Essentially fur is the by-product of wildlife management programs and contributes tens of millions of dollars into the rural economies of the United States, through commercial trapping. This includes licensed State trappers and tens of thousands of indigenous trappers.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, it was our Company that set harvest quotas for beaver in the early 19th century, as the first wildlife conservation measure in North America. We have also advocated for and financially supported scientific trap research and testing, for best welfare practices, and are implementing a Trapper Certification program that will take effect in 2020. Details of that program can be found attached to this document.

We collect the fur from licenced trappers and farmers, where it is sorted, by type, colour, size, quality, etc., and sold to world buyers who use fur in many ways. Through our auction house, all fur sold is 100% traceable back to the rancher, licenced harvester or licenced dealer.

The State and Federal US Fish and Wildlife Service plays a significant role in oversight to enforce trapping regulations and track the movement of fur from the US to auction or to overseas buyers, as do other government agencies. No endangered species are traded, nor is the use of endangered species condoned by the fur trade or our Company.

I would strongly recommend that your Committee reach out to the New York State Department for Environmental Conservation for more details and scientific evidence of sustainable and welfare designed trapping programs.

It is widely recognized that the quality of an animals fur has a direct relationship to the health of that animal. It is in the farmer or trapper's best interest to care for those animals to produce the highest quality fur.

The videos shown at the beginning of today's hearing are not representative of legal, ethical or acceptable trapping or farming practices. There are laws in place at the Federal and State level relating to animal cruelty that can prosecute people abusing or neglecting animals, contrary to trapping or fur farming requirements.

North American States and Provinces are world leaders in developing, implementing and enforcing wildlife management and trade systems that have proven sustainable over hundreds of years, and are world leaders in animal welfare practices that are constantly evolving. Trade figures of animals harvested and traded from North American can be documented back to 1600 – that is over 400 years of documented trade figures. Today, all furbearing animals harvested legally under State wildlife management programs come from abundant and sustainable animal populations.

The Industry is highly regulated by government oversight systems, as you have or will hear from Government biologists. Again, I encourage you to reach out to the New York State Department for Environmental Conservation for impartial facts and figures.

Where countries or States that DO NOT allow commercial harvesting of fur-bearers what we see is in fact, the deregulation of wildlife management, yet it still gets 'managed':

- Harvest continues and may even increase
- Little to no government oversight
- Increases in human-wildlife conflict complaints
- Increases in insurance claims from animal related damage
- Tax-payer dollars or land-owners paying for wildlife control
- And in the end, the animals are often thrown in a ditch or incinerated at a government facility.

Contrary to what advocates for the ban say, furbearing animals will continue to be 'managed' through hunting and trapping, even if **the fur is** not used or commercial trapping were to be banned. There are numerous State and national examples where millions of furbearing animals are 'managed' with no oversight and their **furs are** not used. These are examples of programs that are 'well intentioned', but mislead and ultimately reduce the value and respect for wildlife. Some examples include:

- Massachusetts banned commercial trapping in 1996, now citizens or Government agents hunt or trap an estimated equivalent number of animals in control programs. Mainly beaver. Reporting is not required.
- Colorado, who does not allow commercial trapping, but relies on trappers to re-introduce Lynx to the State over the past 20 years from abundant populations in Canada.
- **The** UK traps and hunts up to 400,000 red fox each year to manage populations – none are used.

- The Netherlands has trapped upwards of 300,000 muskrat each year, under government programs over the past 30 years at costs of \$30 million. None are used.

In summary, banning the use and sale of fur will not stop what many of you have been told will be stopped. Trapping will continue, yet with few restrictions and few oversights, and wasting the animal – showing it less respect in every way.

Moreover taxpayers end up paying for this management - this is what you are facing. It is not a case of yes or no, but who pays, how is it managed and what to do with the by-product of wildlife management.

You have thousands of skilled craftspeople and business people who are experts in this, and have been for generations.

Thank you!

Dear Council this Fur Ban will kill a whole industry, countless jobs will be lost. There are more harrowing issues in this City that you can tackle but you choose this because PETA is lobbying. Why don't they go to Africa and stop animals from becoming extinct.

Have you done any studies on the faux Fur? It's more dangerous than REAL fur, it's plastic and it is not sustainable so you would be contributing to killing the EARTH!! Real Fur is RECYCABLE!!

Please do not allow this Ban to go through !!

Thank You
Crystal Fox Fashions

Hello,

My name is Jeffrey Aust. I reside in Brooklyn, in district 34. My city council member is Antonio Reynoso. I am giving testimony in support of intro 1476.

In all my winters in NYC..I've never owned a fur coat. It's my estimation that most human beings in this city haven't either.

In not owning a fur coat, I haven't frozen to death, I have all my fingers, toes, appendages...there's been no amputations from frost bite done on me. I simply wear clothing from non animal fabrics to stay warm, and I do just that.

I think we all know fur isn't a necessity but a luxury item. It is worn to portray the image of success and wealth due to an underlying insecurity, that can be addressed by other means. In other words, it's completely unnecessary to wear fur...and for something that is completely unnecessary animals are paying for it with their lives and enduring an unbelievable amounts of torture and pain in the process. Here are some of the things being done to these innocent, helpless animals to create this luxury item :

- Anal and vaginal electrocution
- Gassing to death
- Shooting in the head
- Strangulation
- Neck snapping
- Skinning alive
- Trapping with painful steel mechanisms
- Bludgeoning to death with blunt objects

Do these sound like reasonable things for a "civilized"species to be doing to another?

All the evils in history and even in our current society stem from an absolute failure to abide by one basic principle: empathy, the golden rule: Put yourselves in the victims position. The fur industry people are NOT the victims, the animals ARE. If I had to trade places with either the animals or a fur industry worker right now, it'd be the fur industry worker, who is still allowed to keep his or her life, and only must apply their job skill set in an alternate way. "This city was built by the fur industry", some argue. Well, the south was built on slavery. When something is wrong and you know it's wrong, you evolve and take the higher road! These workers will still be alive after the ban and life is the most precious gift of all, more precious than a job, jobs come and go. We must vote for lives over profit and ban this greedy and barbaric trade as soon as possible. It is long overdue and SO SO many animals have already paid the price for it.

Thanks for considering my testimony.

Regards,
Jeffrey Aust

5/19/19

Dear Council Member,

Thank you very much for considering the ban on fur in NYC.

Anyone who has seen the footage or knows the inherent cruelty of the fur industry will surely support the ban!

Animals caught in leg hold traps will try to chew their own legs off to escape or be left to suffer attacks from other animals or be eaten by maggots, or bludgeoned to death by trappers. It is a long suffering and horrific death. On fur farms they are often starved, neglected, given no medical care, anally electrocuted or drowned.

It is also bad for the environment with the chemicals that are used to process the fur for clothing.

Cruelty should no longer be a status symbol! It is not kind or cool to wear fur. There are so many great alternatives to keep warm.

THANK U for your compassion and for taking us out of the Dark Ages!!

Sincerely,

Elaine Sloan
Mitchell Place
NYC, NY 10017

To whom it may concern,

My name is Victoria Toulis and I am in full support of the fur ban 1476. I am a resident of Long Island New York, and have lived here my whole life. Speaking as a furrier's daughter, the issue of killing someone for personal gain is as black and white of an issue to me as to anyone else with a shred of decency. I will not, nor should anyone else accept the disgraceful attempts to justify murder on the grounds of tradition, skill set to sow and sell flesh, fashion choice or any other grotesque and dishonest excuse. This is a vile industry and needs to be abolished NOW!

I have witnessed first hand the disturbing manipulation, disconnect and violence towards animals that this industry perpetuates. I, like most children, had an appreciation for animals and for me, a special admiration for Skunks. On a business trip to obtain the skin stolen off animals, my parents bought me the murdered body of a Skunk from China as a gift. To this day her body haunts and chills me to my core. Her eyes had been cut out of her face and her bones and insides discarded just like her life. How she was murdered and how she lived are two of the most disturbing thoughts one could have. Had she ever felt the warmth from the sun? Had she ever heard the song of a Bird? Had she been a mother that fought for her babies? How hard did she struggle? How much did she suffer? Did she ever think she would survive? Did she almost get away? She is only one of the billions of thinking, feeling beings that lived and continue to live in agony until the day they are brutally killed on behalf of this atrocious industry and the greed and moral corruption that fuels it.

As a child with access to fur, I was also dressed in their flesh at an early age for the purpose of being shown off at social events. Now I see the same hideous behavior enacted on the younger generations, including my niece. She is an animal lover and yet is draped in the corpses of torture victims by her parents. This moral corruption and exception of animal cruelty is something that needs to be terminated, apologized for, rectified and certainly never promoted. Mahatma Gandhi said "The Greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." As individuals we make up a nation and we MUST take responsibility for the actions and the impact they have on others, especially the vulnerable. The case for banning the sale of fur could not be more clear and its beyond disturbing that in 2019 citizens of a so called "civilized society" even have to address this. This is not something that will be even remotely excused by the generations to come. The only thing to do now is to leave this legalized unthinkable torture in the past and move onto a humane and just future, where tormenting and killing animals is not accepted rather condemned as it should be.

Thank you for your time and concern in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Victoria Toulis

City Council Members,

I am writing today to urge you to consider New York City's fur ban.

The fur trade is a barbaric and antiquated industry that capitalizes off of the torture and suffering of living, sentient beings. These animals are not simply hunted for food and then their skin made of coats. They are viciously brutalized for their fur while their bodies are discarded like trash.

When caught steel traps, their bones are shattered in these metal jaws while they wait bleeding and agonizing in pain until they are found and either shot or beaten over the head, they are anally electrocuted, they are skinned alive, they are force fed in cages until they are so fat they can no longer move, all in the name of fashion, status and vanity. Well I tell you this: in 2019 we do not need the skin of another animal for our own survival to keep us warm. There are many other sufficient alternatives that look and feel like the real thing. In this day and age there is no need to savagely kill another living thing.

Please, council members, I implore you to use your compassion and your humanity to vote in favor of the fur ban. Los Angeles, San Francisco, and many other nations around the globe have already banned fur. Let us follow suit and show the world why New York really is the greatest city in the world.

Thank you,

Vanessa Ellers (proud, native New Yorker)

36th St

Astoria, NY 11106

Good afternoon,

Thank you to the members of the committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing for giving me the opportunity to express my views here.

My name is Arnaud Brunois. I represent the company **Ecopel**, the leader in luxury faux fur. We work with many internationally renowned fashion brands including several brands based in NY.

We have been very attentive to the debate regarding the initiative of a bill banning the sales of fur products in New-York.

Whether it is freedom of choice, animal welfare or sustainability these notions are important for all of us.

After having reviewed carefully everything that is at stake, we think a ban on the sales of fur products is a good idea for several reasons that go far beyond mere commercial reasons.

Bans already exist in other areas.

They provide a frame and have a positive impact on society.

For example, more plastic bags bans are being implemented and they have demonstrated their positive impact.

Evidence shows that smart and judicious bans can shape greener and more responsible consumption patterns.

Bans on the trade of endangered species also already exist and are a good thing.

Wild animals are protected while it is still possible to have the look of fur from these species thanks to imitations available in faux fur.

If a ban on the sale of real fur products would be voted, that would not mean the end of the fur look. It would just mean that **there are new ways to present old ideas.**

Vegan leather is booming. Emerging start ups are creating textile made from apples or silk made in a petri dish, injecting a new energy in the way fashion is done.

Regarding animal welfare, even if we do not live in a vegetarian world, reducing the number of animals we used is a positive thing.

The scientific community for instance has long adopted the concept of REDUCTION when it comes to animal testing.

That is why the sales of cosmetic products tested on animals have been banned in various places in the world, encouraging laboratories and big companies to develop new methods while creating a sense of responsibility and increased vigilance amongst consumers.

The concept of REDUCTION is key.

Fur bans help the textile industry to reduce its use of animals.

In 2018, a **20% reduction in animals exploitation** (for their furs) has been reported which means millions of animals saved.

This is directly attributable to the important number of luxury brands with a no fur policy, the number of countries having banned fur factory farming and the improvement made in the field of faux fur.

Bans give an impulse to textile innovation.

Just like plastic bags bans have encouraged companies to develop new types of packaging, new materials are being developed at a fast pace from bio-based to improved recycled fibers, innovation is shaping the textile industry in a greener way.

At Ecopel we have started a line of « teddy » faux fur made from post consumers plastics – which means that at our modest level, we contribute to reduce the quantity of waste being thrown in the oceans.

We are launching a new type of faux fur partially made from vegetal ingredients.

Synthetics are still crucial today but greener synthetics are on their way. In few years, faux fur will be exclusively made from recycled polyester or bio based materials.

Lastly, I would like to highlight the fact that environmental reports show that polyester, the base material used to create faux fur, has less impact on our environment than animal-based fibers or cotton. A mink fur coat will always have a higher environmental impact than faux fur. It is acknowledged by eco experts that natural fibers tend to be over-idealized despite their huge impact on the environment.

In addition to that, polyester is fully recyclable, while the biodegradability claims made by the fur federation has been proved to be baseless and inaccurate by the French Advertising Authority of Paris last december.

When it comes to sustainability it is important to be accurate. Our sustainability messages have to reflect current practices.

"Biodegradable" does not mean compostable.

"Compostable" does not mean litter friendly.

And all this does not mean anything without an effective collection system that would allow consumers to eventually bring their mink coats to a composting plant.

Our vision for the future of fashion is : more recycling, more bio fabrication and less factory farming.

I hope these information will help you make your final decision. I believe New-York, often referred to as the capital of the world, and a capital of fashion, could truly become an example in sustainability and in life friendly practices.

Testimony in Support of Intro 1476, the Bill to Ban the Sale of Fur in NYC

Submitted by: Lisa Bandelli 761 Amwell Road Hillsborough NJ 08844 (17-733-4903 on 5/19/19

Dear City Council:

On the outset, I will share that I am no longer a resident of NY. I was born and raised in Brooklyn and Staten Island and lived in Manhattan for about 10 years until I bought a home in NJ a little over a decade ago. Although I am no longer a registered voter in NY, I am strongly rooted and connected with New Yorkers in many ways and always will be. I currently work in NY as a lawyer for The Guardian Life Insurance Company of American in downtown Manhattan, and do both my volunteer work (I have been a committed volunteer in Dorot organization's "Friendly Visitor" program for over 20 years, and I am a committee member of the NYC Bar Association) and animal rights activism in NY, amongst other states. While those of us not residents of NY may not be able to vote in NY, we are intricately involved in NY activism and politics as NY is in our hearts, and we want our "home" to be a pioneer in progressively taking measures to eradicate oppression and injustices.

I attended the incredible City Council on Intro 1476 last Wednesday. What a monumental day to hear this Bill be taken as seriously as it is. It brought me to utter tears, not only because I am unbelievably hopeful it will pass but more so because it took us this long to get here. Despite all my joy in seeing a light at the end of the NYC fur sale tunnel, I cried uncontrollably for all the innocent animals who suffered horrible lives of intense confinement, torture and death. What most these poor animals think of life? They have no knowledge whatsoever of joy, freedom or happiness.

As tons of testimony was given live and I'm sure more written speaking to the many reasons we implore the City Council's passage of Intro 1476, I thought I would concentrate my testimony in response to the outrageously offensive and utterly ridiculous arguments put forth by those in opposition to the ban.

Counterarguments to Furriers etc Reasons for Opposing Intro 1476

1. Those in support of Intro 1476 have no regard for human lives and jobs affected

The furriers, the Fur Association, the stores and designers and so on that would be impacted by this law made repeated accusations of the proponents of the Bill not caring about humans and only caring about animals. This is completely and utterly unfounded and, more importantly, a purposeful distraction from the issue at hand. I would venture to guess that nearly every proponent of the Bill cares deeply for all living being and not only just non-human ones. First of all, opposition to fur is fairly universal and certainly far from in the sole prerogative on animal activists. And of thousands of animal activists I've met over my 20 plus years being an activist, I'd say every last one of us began our ventures into fighting for social justice related to issues specific to humans, whether it be homelessness, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence ...

We, at least I, care very much for humans, BUT when humans act with blatant disregard for the immense suffering of other living beings, and make their financial livelihood off the back of the suffering, torture and slaying of these innocent non-human animals, then I do not have sympathy for their plight. They voluntarily elected to enter into or stay in their family businesses which perpetuate such misery and cruelty and show NO REMORSE for the living beings' suffering upon which backs they have made their money. Let's please not lose sight about what they are arguing for, they are arguing for their right to make money. That's all this is about, money. I understand it may not be an easy adjustment to develop another business which will be as readily lucrative, but are we going to say the right of 7000 people (if that's even an honest figure

given by the furriers) to make a living surpasses the right of thousands upon thousands of innocent animals for the years and decades to come? If need be, I can see having an only slightly longer phasing out period than 90 days, but certainly nothing more than 180 days, and I think that phase out would only be to sell what they have in stock and not to continue with their business of killing. That should stop immediately.

2. Let Us Self-Regulate

The Intro's opponents argued they should be permitted to self-regulate. I say absolutely not! They couldn't even identify the actual size of the cages the animals are confined in. When pointed out that the cage size listed on the Fur Association's site is the exact same length or smaller than the animals themselves, they had nothing to say for themselves. They don't even know of care to know the details of the animals treatment while alive or being killed. If they've never even taken an interest in this, why should we possibly think that just because a law is proposed now which may affect their wallets that they would suddenly care about to minimize the suffering and make any improvements in the welfare of the animals? They don't. They just don't want the City Council to make their heinous practice illegal. They're grasping at straws saying whatever they can to save their violent businesses. I say "too late". They've proved they've never cared one iota for the animals, please don't trust that they ever will.

3. Slippery Slope Argument

The furriers again sought to insult proponents of the Bill by saying this a dangerous slippery slope, first these people will move their government to ban the sale of fur, next it will be eating meat or wearing leather. It's deplorable how many times I've heard this argument. It's pure defensiveness with no basis in reality. I will not hide my own personal hope that we someday live in a vegan world (where no animals is subjected to painful experimentation; bred, raised and killed to be eaten; skinned for leather; used clearly against their natural instincts and desires for living in circuses, rodeos, horse racing ...), BUT that does not mean that we humans, as a society, shouldn't put an end to practices that go against our common sense of indecency.

And truly, do you think the furriers genuinely are arguing this point because they are worried about the discontinuance of these other practices? I think not. They are only trying to cast aspersion on activists, as though people for deeply care for the oppression and injustices committed against all living beings, not just human beings, are in some way enemies to humans.

4. Violating Consumer Choice

The furriers, consumer organization ... argued that this subject should be left to consumer choice. Let the consumers decide if they want to buy fur products or not. Let the market take care of itself. This is insanity. Consumers once bought the products of child labor, of workers in dangerous miserable sweatshop conditions, of human slaves ... Just because people were unquestioning or even contented consumers of products of these now commonly accepted as egregious practices and industries doesn't mean they should be permitted that choice. Laws and government exist for many overarching reasons, one being to protect the innocent and our own dangerous excesses.

5. Fur as a Status Symbol of Black People:

I would only be repeating his testimony, so I refer you instead to the live and written testimony of Rodney King (I believe that was his name).

6. Fur as more Environmentally Friendly

As with argument #5, I think the many faux fur designers and many others presented strong scientific support that argument 6 is not true. More than anything I'd like to make one simple statement on this issue. Yes, fur is natural, NATURAL ON THE ANIMALS.

7. Fur Sales Can't Truly be Stopped in NYC Due to Internet Sales and Sales Across State Lines and Internationally

This is the only point raised by those in opposition to the Intro I found had any relevancy. When I first read Intro 1476, I was only simplistically thinking of stores selling fur products in NYC. I hadn't contemplated internet sales or orders emanating in NYC to outside dealers. Is the law mean to ban these sales, is there a way it could feasibly? As lawyer, I question if/how this could be done relative to interstate commerce and international commerce laws. Of course, I support a ban of all sales of fur in NYC, but I don't know enough currently about whether and how this could be done legally to make recommendations at this point. I do see that this this will need to be reconciled.

Thank you NY City Council for your sincere consideration of this most important legislation. I pray with all my heart you pass it and pave the way for a kinder NYC to innocent non-human sentient beings.

Sincerely,
Lisa Bandelli

Fashion. Forward.

Mac Smith
1721 10th Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11215
Brad Lander (D) NYC Council Member
Bill number (Intro 1476)

Good afternoon. As a boy growing up, I was always caught up in the imagery in fashion magazines. They felt like visual fairy tales. My grandmother and I would pour through her issues of Harper's Bazaar and Vogue swooning and earmarking the pages that felt particularly lush or awe inspiring. Growing up in Maryland, this all seemed so far away, a magical land off in the distance across moondust-swept mountain tops.

But what wasn't shown on these glossy pages of paradise was how behind this fantasy of leather mules, feather shifts and fur boleros was a real nightmare. The suffering of thousands of foxes, minks, rabbits, birds, racoons and more who were literally woven into those threads. Each of these animals was treated like the proverbial golden goose, an iconic tale of animal commodity at the hands of greedy men that we still spin to children as moralistic. I didn't understand it then and it wasn't until I finally joined the fashion industry that I truly could witness the commoditization of animals.

In 2005, I moved to New York City opening an exciting chapter for me in dream field: fashion. I started in magazines and now write for major lifestyle brands. While I was living out what I thought was a dream come true, I could never shake this nagging feeling of guilt: how could I launch and promote coats, handbags and shoes made from the very animals I claimed to love? You see I've been an animal lover even before I could dress myself. From the moment I could walk, I was stumbling towards animals to hug and pet them. At 19, I went vegetarian. I finally made the leap to go vegan 4 years ago, never looking back. But that refers to my kitchen. Slowly, after removing all animals from my plate, I took to the medicine cabinet. Then my shower. The last has been my closet, where I still have leather reminders of a time when sadly chic mattered more to me than consciousness. I can't go back and change that time, so instead I leverage it, allowing me an empathy to speak to others in my industry without judgement. I know what motivates my peers and know that on both sides of the retail equation, change is in vogue. The list of designers (Chanel, Gucci, Burberry, Versace, Michael Kors, DVF, etc) that no longer think fur is fabulous grows every day. I never thought I'd see the day when the conversation has come so far even with photographer, Alexi Lubormirski starting Creatives4Change, a pledge by stylists, editors, designers and more to quit the use of fur, exotics *and* feathers. Everyone is more educated now. Consumers at my current company clamor for transparency, even going so far as to give us criticism when we thought of including fur in our Fall line. I was blown away by the compassion over fashion feedback I received daily from our customers. As a society, we have collectively woke from our slumber, no longer choosing the convenient "don't think about where it comes from."

That said, there will always be other points of view. Look, I love animals. I believe everyone here loves animals. I could stand up and lecture about the morality of using animals as things, as materials for things. I could pull at heartstrings and trust me, I wish that would be enough. But everyone at one point in their life has turned a blind eye to suffering, especially when we're taught at a young age by society that that is the "natural way and order of things."

The path I choose instead is to say definitively that facts support us today. A new poll released by a coalition of over 50 public-interest organizations, found that 75% of New York City voters support a bill (Intro 1476) introduced by Speaker Corey Johnson prohibiting the sales of fur apparel. 75%?! That's huge. It's clear customers and craftsmen alike know that fur is passe. That animals are not fabric and that fur should stay where it belongs: in the archives and on the animals.

Today is a monumental chance to be part of the change, to be part of correcting the narrative. Both New York and Fashion have something key in common: they are always laser-focused on looking forward. Well the future is now. And the vote is in favor of a New York City-based fur ban.

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友琴
工作人員

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LIVING. AME U.S.A IS A FREE COUNTRY AND CAN NOT
STOP NO FUR, NO MEAT. PLEASE STOP THE
FUR BAN. I LOVE FUR.

電話

非作人員

MY NAME IS 全姓名 LIVE IN 地址
AGAINST FUR BAN. IT WILL DESTROY MANY JOBS IN AMERICA,
CANADA. ~~PLEASE~~ I LIKE FUR APPAREL. PLEASE
PUSH GUN CONTROL, CRIME CONTROL, Education, homeless,
air pollution. PLEASE STOP THE FUR BAN

Robert Seto
<iceman368.rs@gmail.com>



Dear Council members

My name is Peter Liakos, and I have been a part of the fur industry for 48 years.

My family's history in the fur business dates back hundreds of years in Greece . They came to America in the early 1900s and continued their fur business in NYC. They became US citizens and through hard work and long hours they supported their family and contributed to their community.

In 2003 my oldest son, Thomas, finished his third year of Medical rotation at the Graduate Hospital in Philadelphia. Shortly thereafter, he started feeling stomach cramps. My wife and I went to hospital to see what was going on with him. When his doctor came out to talk to us, we read his face. He told us that my son had stage 4 cancer. We were in tears, crying and asking the Lord for help. Thomas knew what he had; he would live for only 6 months.

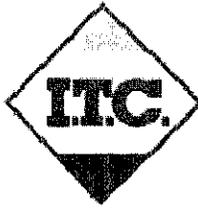
Despite what my family was going through, I could not stay with my son has much wanted to. We had to make sacrifices because of the job. My wife had to stay with him. I had to get back to my workers. I had to continue the production in order to pay our bill. At that time, it cost us 50,000 a month for rent and salaries to keep going.

My brother who is a Doctor, got my son right into Sloan in NYC . Sloan treated Thomas with experimental drugs tested from animals and chemotherapy for 6 months. He started feeling better, so he and his wife to be took a 10 days trip to Greece. But on June 12th 2005, our son Doctor Thomas Michael Liakos past away just 13 days before his 29th birthday.

Today, all I have is my family and the workers who depend on me. They are all I have to keep me going. I have been working full time in the fur market since 1971, and I have proudly continued my family business. A fur ban will cause my 6 workers to lose their jobs and shut down the business in the fur market. These people will not be able to get jobs anywhere else. Fur is unique fabric and the trained skills are not transferable.

Please, think of the workers. Think of families who would be destroyed.

Thank you for listening to me.



ITC. INTERNATIONAL

500 OCEAN AVENUE, EAST ROCKAWAY, NY 11518
Tel: (516) 599-7400 Fax: (516) 599-7418 Web: www.itcgroupusa.com

And JAV INTERNATIONAL INC

To: correspondence@council.nyc.gov

Subject: PROPOSED FUR BAN

NYC Council

I represent a small family business in NY importing and exporting fur skins and fur apparel. I also attended the hearing on Nov 15th at City Hall.

ITC was established in 1984 and expanded and opened another company by the name If JAV Intl to provide Import Customs clearance of same fur products.

The fur industry represents about 80% of our revenues. This ban would be detrimental to our family business and our employees of over 20 years with certain layoffs of staff. It would also mean a loss of revenue for JFK Airport, which charges various fees to the airlines for import and export of all cargo. Banning furs would drop this amount to Zero in addition to all the truckers that we use to move these shipments to and from the airport and throughout the nation. It would just move the action from NY to other states that are willing to make a profit from our loss.

Trade is very difficult and it seems fair that an industry dating back to the colonization should be allowed to thrive or fail based on the people and their freedom of choice.

I understand NYC's need to be a leader and the testimony of both sides have merits; however, it disturbs me when our government intervenes and does not let the market dictate the success or failure of a 300 year old industry. It will destroy lives and businesses and result in animosity for the leaders who forced them out of business.

I see more of a reason to ban cigarettes since we have proof that use of the products can cause cancer, death and disabilities to the smoker and the innocent bystander. I love animals, but I believe that human life and society is better served with a cigarette ban when it can result in a child losing a parent to cancer caused by smoking or the child's learned behavior to smoke and continue the cycle.

I believe this should be a priority if you also consider the pollution caused by cigarettes and the possible effect on global warming as well as the billions of dollars our health insurance providers charge our citizens because of cancer and heart conditions caused by smoking.

How can a fur ban take priority over human life and the burden smoking puts on our society?

Thanks for your time and I hope that NYC Council will consider further discussions on the ban to better support our local community.

Dean Zografakis

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

New York City Council
Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing
City Hall
City Hall Park
New York, NY 10007
Re: (Intro. 1476-2019 – Opposition to Proposed Fur Ban)

Dear Chair Rafael L. Espinal Jr. and City Council Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against the proposed ban.

My name is Mike O'Brien. I am a wildlife biologist born and raised in Nova Scotia with an MSc in Wildlife Biology/Management from Acadia University. I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist under The Wildlife Society certification program, and heavily engaged in the North America's Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA).

I have 43 years of professional wildlife management experience, much of that with the Government of Nova Scotia. I retired in 2017 after 22 years as Manager of the Sustainable Wildlife Use Program (which included wild furbearer management as well as human wildlife conflict management and wildlife disease). I continue to be active as an advisor on North American and international wildlife policy.

Canada and the United States have for decades worked very closely together on wildlife management and ensuring the highest globally recognized animal welfare standards in the sustainable use of wildlife. We currently have the best wildlife management model in the world as a result.

Many of you and your colleagues, over the past few weeks, have been given a great amount of misinformation. Just as one example, you were shown traps that are no longer used by professional trappers. The specific traps shown have been banned in Canada since the mid-90s and have been phased out in the United States. Trappers and wildlife managers drove that change.

You may be interested to know that the tested and approved traps used for live capture of furbearers by trappers are the same ones used by biologists to live capture animals and in wildlife tagging and research programs. And you should also know that Canada and the United States have collectively invested over \$50 million and counting to ensure that all traps used to capture wild furbearers are humane and meet globally recognized standards.

I can tell you firsthand, trapping is a critical activity that actually supports all elements of wildlife management and conservation.

Trappers are required to adhere to strict rules; 100 percent of the wild fur harvest in North America is part of strict, highly regulated, science-based government wildlife management programs. These programs are controlled, monitored and strictly enforced by the government.

The work these people do contributes greatly to:

- Protecting and monitoring endangered species
- Reintroduction of species into their original habitats, like the American River (Otter for example)
- Public safety
- Prevention of property damage
- Protection of crops and livestock
- Protection of ecosystems and habitats
- Disease management to protect animal and human health
- And much more

Look, here's the key thing about all this based on my four decades of experience: if you ban the use of fur, it doesn't protect ANY animals. It makes matters worse for them and for their ecosystems.

The value of the commercial trade of fur in a sense 'pays' for a great deal of wildlife management. If you ban commercial trade, populations of many species sharing the landscape with us will still need to be controlled —. The difference is that you end up with what they have in Europe, where millions of animals are just captured, killed and discarded in landfills at public expense as part of animal control.

In North America, the responsible use of wildlife resources is a crucial part of our model of wildlife management. All too often when sustainable use is removed from the equation, our value, respect and willingness to accommodate wildlife in the landscapes where we live are quickly eroded when we are faced with flooding, livestock and property damage, human safety risks and other problems associated with overabundant populations.

So in short, I strongly ask you to reconsider this ban and I welcome any questions.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of FurNYC

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Wednesday, May 15, 2019

New York City Council
Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing
City Hall
City Hall Park
New York, NY 10007

Re: *(Intro. 1476-2019 – Opposition to Proposed Fur Ban)*

Dear Chair Rafael L. Espinal Jr. and City Council Committee:

My name is Norma McDonald, North American Sales Manager for OWS since 2009. OWS is a globally-accredited laboratory, with 31 years experience testing more than 10,000 samples for determination of physical and biological degradation in a wide variety of environments.

In May 2018, OWS concluded 30 days of biodegradation testing of four natural furs and one faux fur in accordance with test methods ISO 15985 and ASTM D5511. The full reports are included as an attachment. These methods have been proven to simulate and accelerate the anaerobic – meaning without oxygen - biodegradation process that occurs spontaneously in a landfill over decades.

The test prescribes placing the samples into inoculum coming from a commercial facility treating solid waste that would otherwise go to a landfill. The test measures biodegradation on the basis of biogas produced by the microbial activity. The tests were performed in duplicate and included a blank and positive control, and all requirements for a valid test were fulfilled.

The biodegradation of each of the natural furs started immediately and then reached a plateau during the 30 days of testing under anaerobic conditions, showing partial biodegradation. The rate and extent of biodegradation under anaerobic conditions is similar to other natural materials – for instance, newspaper, wheat straw and oak leaves. Many natural materials require fungi to completely biodegrade, which are not present in an anaerobic environment.

Biodegradation of the faux fur never started. At the end of the test a biodegradation percentage of 0.3% +/- 0.1% was measured. The slightly positive result is attributed to natural variations in the biogas production of the inoculum. Therefore, it is concluded that the faux fur is not biodegradable under these conditions.

In addition, testing showed that the natural fur samples readily disintegrated within 30 days – the skin fell apart and disappeared but the hairs still remained since the proteins in hair are more resistant to decay. The faux fur did not show any disintegration, only discoloration.

Additional research using aerobic - meaning with oxygen – tests are recommended to complete the comparison of the biodegradability and disintegration of natural and faux furs.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
OWS, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norma S. McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'M'.

Norma S. McDonald
North American Sales Manager
(513) 535-6760
norma.mcdonald@ows.be
OWS, Inc.

Attachment: *Debeer, L. "Final Report MNI-1 – High Solids Anaerobic Biodegradation and Disintegration Test of Undyed mink fur, Undyed fox fur, Dyed mink fur, Dyed fox fur and Fake Fur" dated May 25, 2018*

FINAL REPORT MNI-1

High Solids Anaerobic Biodegradation and Disintegration test of **Undyed mink fur, Undyed fox fur, Dyed mink fur, Dyed fox fur and Fake fur**

Author: Lies Debeer
Sponsor: Fur Europe
Avenue des Arts 3-4-5
1210 Brussel
BELGIUM

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1 Identification of the test

Project number

MNI-1/1	High solids anaerobic biodegradation test of Undyed fox fur, Undyed mink fur, Dyed fox fur and Dyed mink fur
MNI-1/2	High solids anaerobic disintegration test of Undyed fox fur, Undyed mink fur, Dyed fox fur, Dyed mink fur and Fake fur
MNI-1/3	High solids anaerobic biodegradation test of Fake fur

Conditions

The test was performed under screening conditions

Sponsor

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BELGIUM

Sponsor contact

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Phone: +32 471 42 02 01

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Fax: +32 9 233 28 25
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lies.debeer@ows.be

Test items

Undyed mink fur
Undyed fox fur
Dyed mink fur
Dyed fox fur
Fake fur

Reference item

Cellulose

Test duration

30 days

2 Introduction

2.1 Principle of test method

The biodegradability of products in a sanitary landfill or in a solid state anaerobic digestion system is determined through high-rate dry anaerobic batch fermentation. This method simulates and accelerates the biodegradation process that takes place in a landfill because it is a stationary (no mixing) and dry fermentation under optimal conditions. The incubation temperature was $37^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$.

A small amount of test item is added to a large amount of highly active inoculum that has been stabilised prior to the start of the digestion period. Optimal conditions with regard to pH, nutrients, volatile fatty acids, etc. are provided and the mixture is left to ferment batch-wise. Likewise biodegradation is not influenced by other factors than those inherent to the test item itself.

During the anaerobic biodegradation of organic materials, a mixture of gases, principally methane and carbon dioxide, are the final decomposition products while some of the organic material will be assimilated for cell growth. The volume of the biogas produced is measured and the amount of CH_4 and CO_2 produced per weight unit of test item is calculated. If the carbon content of the test item is known the percentage of biodegradation can be calculated as the percentage of solid carbon of the test item that has been converted to gaseous, mineral C.

To evaluate the disintegration of a product in a sanitary landfill or in a solid state anaerobic digestion system, recognisable pieces of test item are added to a large amount of highly active inoculum and left to ferment batch-wise. At regular intervals (e.g. weekly) a piece of test item is removed from a test reactor and physical changes in the test item are observed.

2.2 Standard followed

The test was performed according to the following standard:

- ISO 15985 Plastics – Determination of the ultimate anaerobic biodegradation and disintegration under high-solids anaerobic-digestion conditions - Method by analysis of released biogas (2014)
- ASTM D5511 *Standard Test Method for Determining Anaerobic Biodegradation of Plastic Materials Under High-Solids Anaerobic-Digestion Conditions* (2018).

3 Results biodegradation tests (MNI-1/1 and MNI-1/3)

3.1 Test set up

A set of 18 equal vessels with a total volume of 2.5 l each was used. Each reactor was filled with 1000 g of inoculum and 15 g of reference or test item (except for the control reactors). The test items were cut into 2 cm by 2 cm pieces before adding them to the reactors, the cellulose was added as a microcrystalline powder.

The reactors were kept at $37^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ in an incubator. The test set-up is given in Table 1.

Table 1. Test set up of the high solids anaerobic biodegradation test

RN	Test code	Test series	Inoculum (g)	Item (g)
1	MNI-1/1	Control	994.5	-
2	MNI-1/1	Cellulose	993.1	14.9
3	MNI-1/1	Undyed mink fur	1046.0	14.9
4	MNI-1/1	Undyed fox fur	996.1	15.6
5	MNI-1/1	Dyed mink fur	997.0	15.0
6	MNI-1/1	Dyed fox fur	996.8	14.8
7	MNI-1/1	Control	994.8	-
8	MNI-1/1	Cellulose	992.9	14.9
9	MNI-1/1	Undyed mink fur	997.4	14.9
10	MNI-1/1	Undyed fox fur	997.2	16.0
11	MNI-1/1	Dyed mink fur	998.1	15.0
12	MNI-1/1	Dyed fox fur	997.8	15.1
13	MNI-1/3	Control	997.7	-
14	MNI-1/3	Cellulose	995.0	14.9
15	MNI-1/3	Fake fur	994.8	15.1
16	MNI-1/3	Control	998.4	-
17	MNI-1/3	Cellulose	994.8	14.9
18	MNI-1/3	Fake fur	995.0	15.0

3.2 Analyses of inoculum, reference and test items

The inoculum was taken from a digester that has been operated during several months on the organic fraction of household waste. Before use, the inoculum was left to stabilize during 7 days. This post-fermentation was needed to reduce the biogas production rate. The characteristics of the inoculum are given in Table 2. It is recommended that the pH is between 7.5 and 8.5, the $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ content between 0.5 and 2.0 g/kg and the volatile fatty acids content < 1 g/kg. The quality of the inoculum was good as all of the recommendations were fulfilled for both tests.

The reference and test item were analysed for total solids (TS), volatile solids (VS) and total organic carbon content (TOC). The results are given in Table 3.

Table 2. Characteristics of the inoculum

Characteristics	Inoculum MNI-1/1	Inoculum MNI-1/3
Total solids (TS, %)	20.1	21.6
Volatile solids (VS, % on TS)	65.5	64.3
Ash content (% on TS)	34.5	35.7
pH	8.1	8.1
Volatile fatty acids (VFA, g/kg)	0.17	b.r.
$\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ (g/kg)	1.52	1.14

b.r. = below reporting limit; reporting limit: VFA = 0.14 g/kg

Table 3. Total solids (TS), volatile solids (VS) and total organic carbon (TOC) content of the reference and test items

Test item	TS (%)	VS (% on TS)	TOC (%)
Cellulose	97.0	100.0	42.7
Undyed mink fur	89.6	96.9	44.6
Undyed fox fur	91.9	94.9	44.8
Dyed mink fur	89.8	95.5	42.1
Dyed fox fur	91.5	98.8	44.9
Fake fur	99.2	98.9	64.0

3.3 Biogas production

The averages and standard deviations of the final gas readings, after 30 days, in NI (normalized litre. i.e. litre converted to standard conditions of temperature and pressure) are summarized in Table 4. The background activity of the inoculum was clearly lower compared to the reference reactors for both MNI-1/1 and MNI-1/3. This shows that the inoculum was stabilized sufficiently during the post-fermentation period. The low background activity improved the accuracy of the tests.

Table 4. Average and standard deviation of the final gas production (NI) after 30 days

Test code	Test series	Biogas production (NI)	
		Average	Standard deviation
MNI-1/1	Control	6.8	0.3
MNI-1/1	Cellulose	17.0	0.4
MNI-1/1	Undyed mink fur	10.2	0.6
MNI-1/1	Undyed fox fur	8.6	0.7
MNI-1/1	Dyed mink fur	9.0	0.1
MNI-1/1	Dyed fox fur	7.6	0.2
MNI-1/3	Control	7.1	0.1
MNI-1/3	Cellulose	17.1	0.2
MNI-1/3	Fake fur	7.1	0.0

Table 5 shows the biogas composition after 30 days of testing. The gas compositions were within a normal range for all reactors. The composition of the biogas has no influence on the biodegradation percentage, but gives an idea on the fermentation process. A high CO₂ concentration and a low CH₄ content could indicate a bad fermentation. As can be seen from Table 5 this was certainly not the case for the test items.

Table 5. Average biogas composition (%) at the end of the test of the different test series

Test code	Test series	CO ₂ content (%)	CH ₄ content (%)
MNI-1/1	Control	40.1	59.9
MNI-1/1	Cellulose	46.6	53.4
MNI-1/1	Undyed mink fur	39.3	60.7
MNI-1/1	Undyed fox fur	39.3	60.7
MNI-1/1	Dyed mink fur	39.6	60.4
MNI-1/1	Dyed fox fur	39.1	60.9
MNI-1/3	Control	40.4	59.6
MNI-1/3	Cellulose	47.3	52.7
MNI-1/3	Fake fur	39.5	60.5

3.4 Biodegradation percentages

Table 6 shows the biodegradation percentages of reference and test items after 30 days. They are calculated as the amount of carbon in the sample that was converted to carbon in the biogas (methane and carbon dioxide).

Table 6. Biodegradation percentages at the end of the test (30 days)

Test series	Average C_{input} (g)	Average $C_{gaseous}$ (g)	Biodegradation (%)		
			AVG	SD	REL
Cellulose*	6.4	5.4	85.7	2.0	100.0
Undyed mink fur	6.6	1.7	25.8	2.7	30.2
Undyed fox fur	7.1	1.0	13.6	4.9	15.9
Dyed mink fur	6.3	1.2	18.3	0.4	21.3
Dyed fox fur	6.7	0.4	6.6	2.0	7.7
Fake fur	9.6	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.4

With AVG = average, SD = standard deviation, REL = relative biodegradation.

* Average of MNI-1/1 and MNI-1/3

The values in Table 6 do not include the amount of carbon which was originally present in the test or reference item and which in the course of the digestion has been converted to biomass carbon. Some of the carbon that is biodegraded is indeed used for the building of new bacterial biomass. For anaerobic digestion the biomass yield factor is between 10% and 30%. This means that for 1 g of carbon consumed, between 10% and 30% is used for new cell biomass while 70% to 90% is converted to gaseous, mineral carbon under the form of CH₄ or CO₂.

Figure 1 shows the evolution of the average biodegradation percentages of the reference and test items. Figure 2 to Figure 7 show the evolution of the biodegradation percentage of all the replicates of cellulose (4 replicates – 2 for MNI-1/1 and 2 for MNI-1/3) and the test items.

The test is considered valid if after 15 days (according to ISO 15985) the biodegradation percentage of the reference item is more than 70% and if the standard deviation of the biodegradation percentage of the reference item is less than 20% at the end of the test. After a lag phase of about one day, biodegradation of cellulose started at a high rate in both MNI-1/1 and MNI-1/3. After about 6 days, a biodegradation percentage of already 79.7% was reached. Then biodegradation slowed down to reach a plateau. The final biodegradation (after 30 days) was 85.7% ± 2.0%, meaning that all requirements for a valid test were fulfilled.

Biodegradation of the Undyed mink fur, Undyed fox fur, Dyed mink fur and Dyed fox fur started immediately. The undyed mink fur shows the highest biodegradation (25.8%), followed by the dyed mink fur (18.3%), the undyed fox fur (13.6%) and the dyed fox fur (6.6%). Biodegradation reached a plateau for all test items. This means that these test items are partially biodegradable under mesophilic, high solids anaerobic conditions.

Biodegradation of the fake fur never started. At the end of the test a biodegradation percentage of 0.3% ± 0.1% was measured. The slightly positive result is considered due to natural variations in the biogas production of the inoculum. This means that the fake fur is not biodegradable under mesophilic, high solids anaerobic conditions.

To put the biodegradation of the (real) fur samples into perspective it is interesting to know the average biodegradation percentage of some 'natural products'. This data is included in Table 7.

Table 7. Average biodegradation percentage of natural products

Product	Average biodegradation (%)
Craft paper (bleached and lignin removed)	66
Newspaper	30
Cardboard	44
Grass (mostly roadside)	50
Straw (from wheat)	36
Leaves (oak, poplar, willow)	31

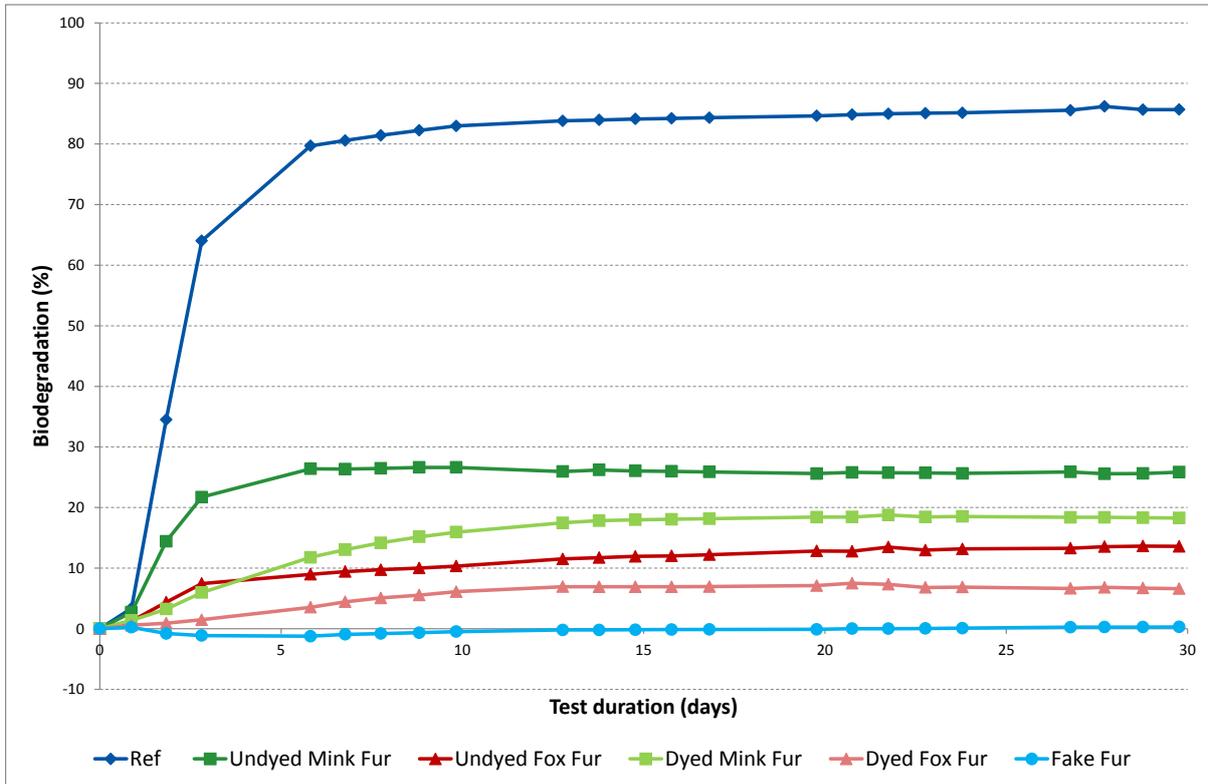


Figure 1. Evolution of the average biodegradation percentage of reference item and test items

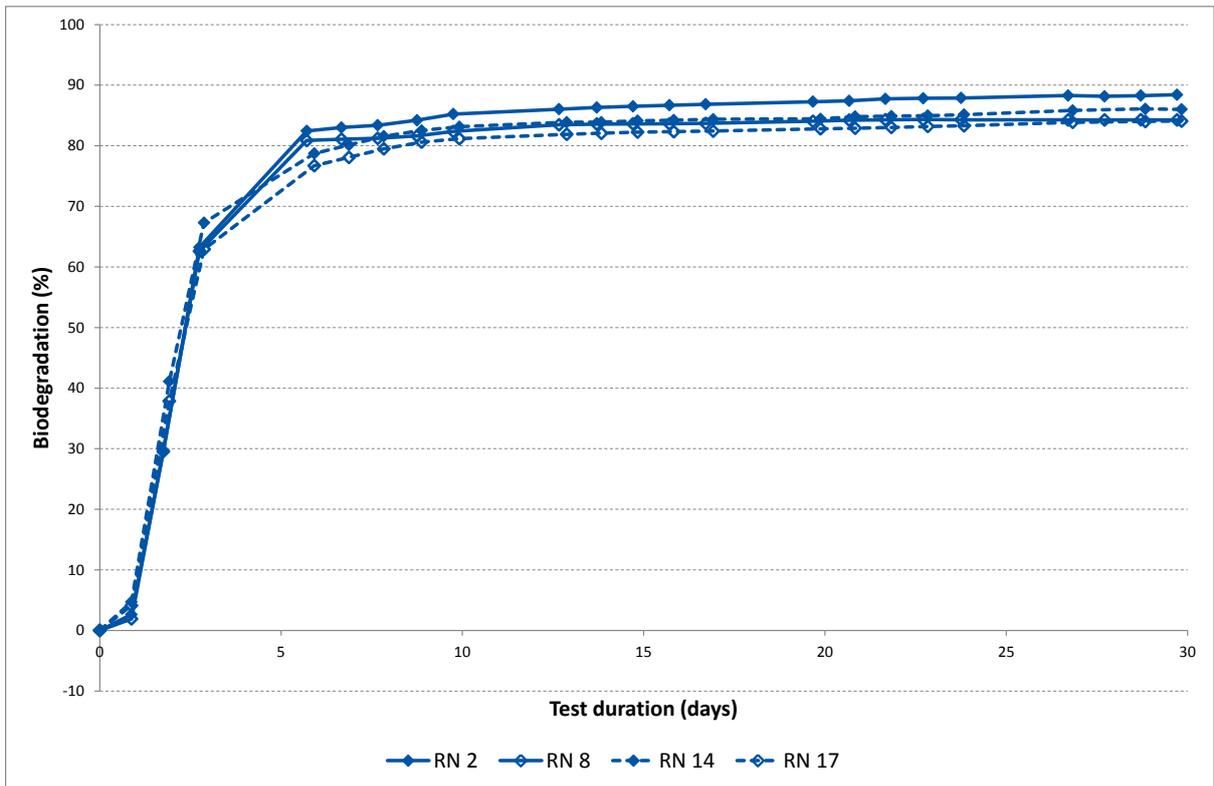


Figure 2. Evolution of the biodegradation percentage of the replicates of cellulose

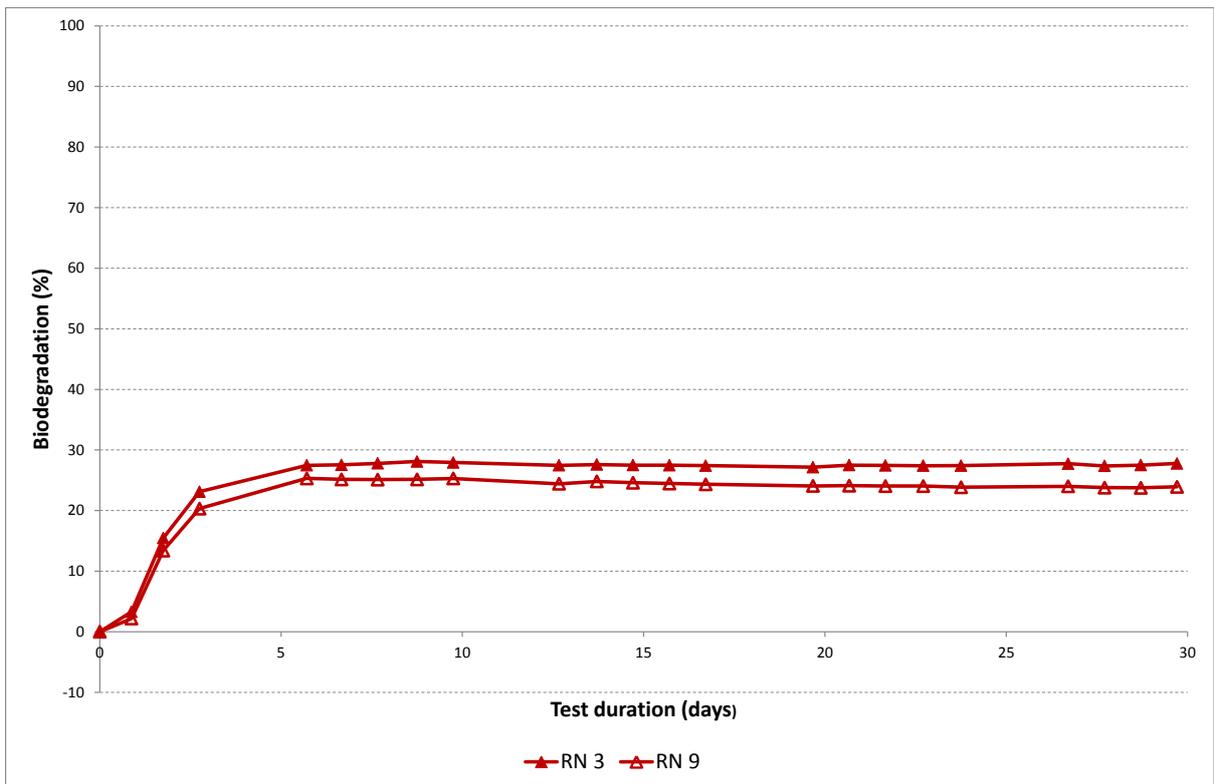


Figure 3. Evolution of the biodegradation percentage of the replicates of Undyed mink fur

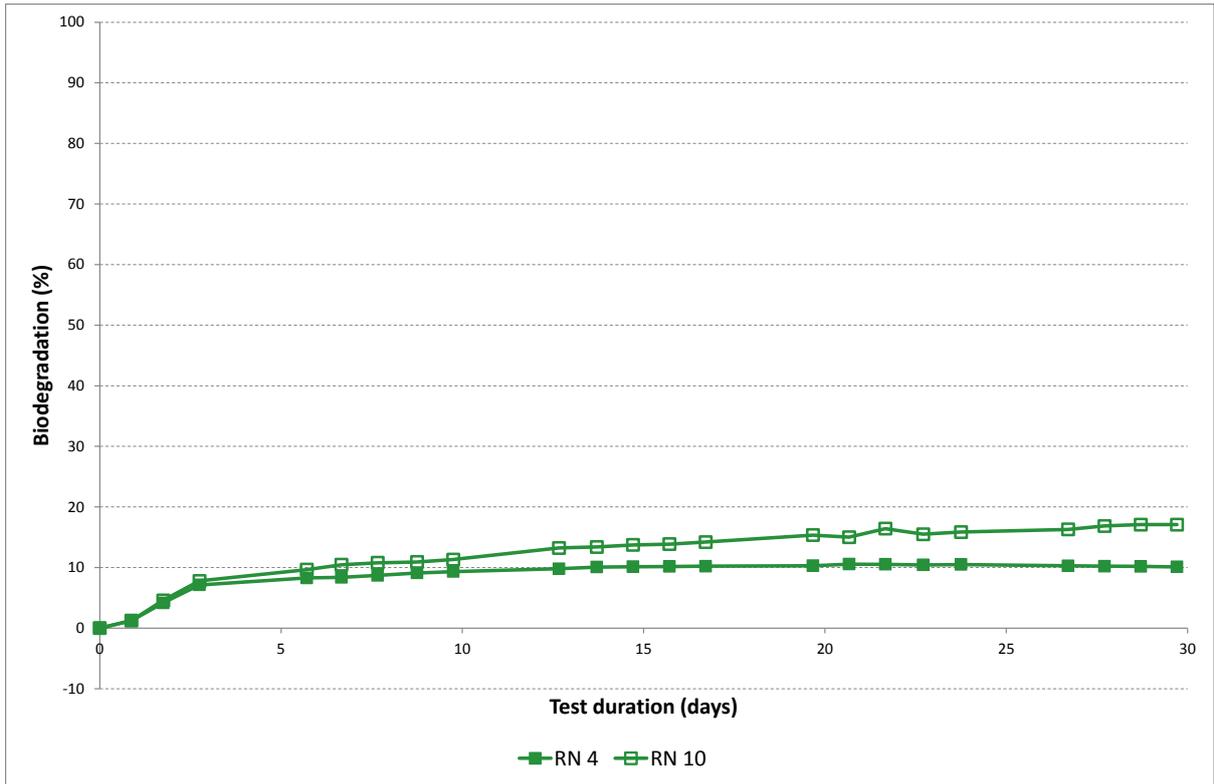


Figure 4. Evolution of the biodegradation percentage of the replicates of Undyed fox fur

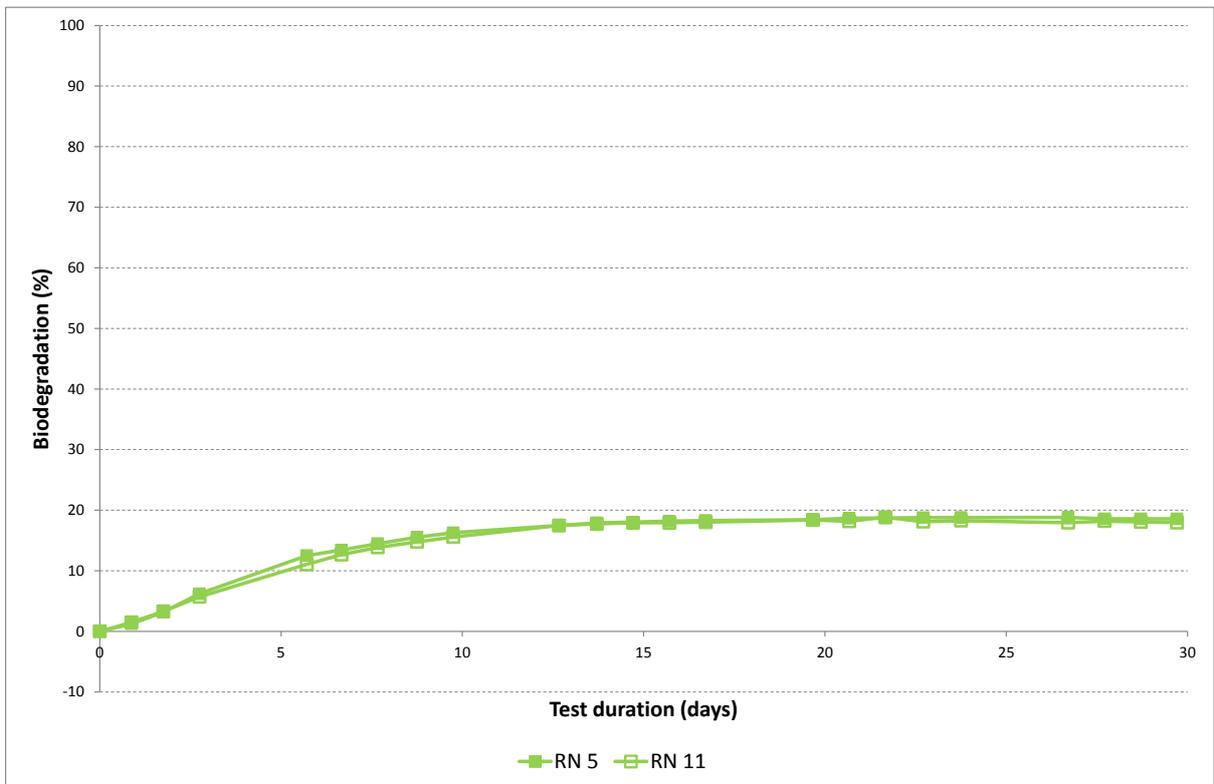


Figure 5. Evolution of the biodegradation percentage of the replicates of Dyed mink fur

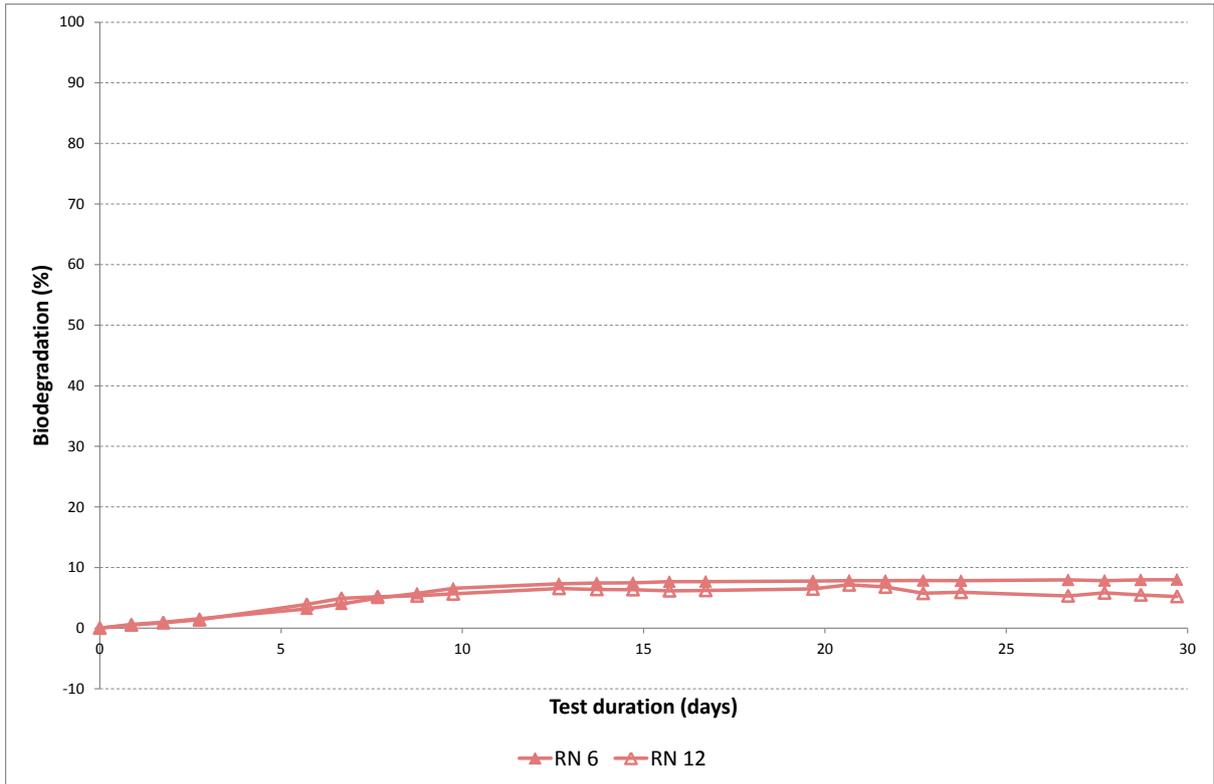


Figure 6. Evolution of the biodegradation percentage of the replicates of Dyed fox fur

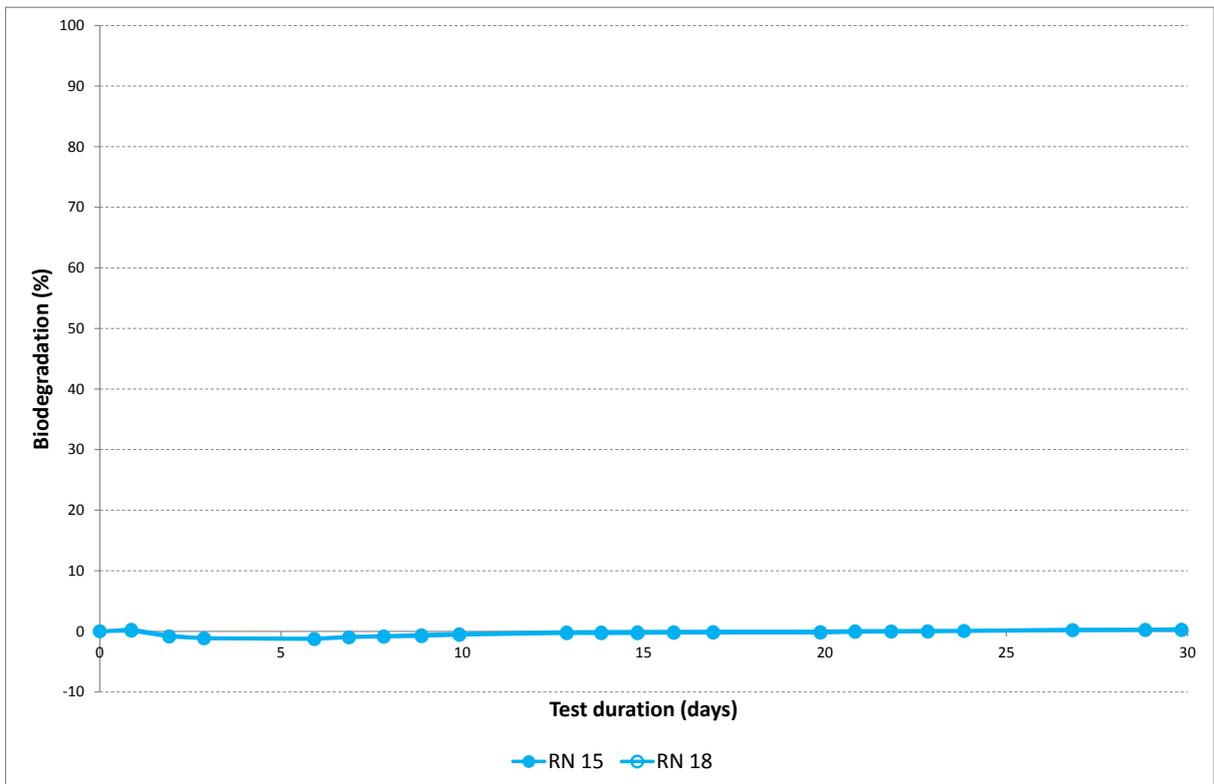


Figure 7. Evolution of the biodegradation percentage of the replicates of Fake fur

4 Results disintegration test (MNI-1/2)

4.1 Test set up

A series of 10 equal reactors with a volume of 2.5 l was used. The reactors were carefully filled with 1000 g of inoculum and 5 cm by 5 cm pieces of test items Undyed mink fur, Undyed fox fur, Dyed mink fur, Dyed fox fur and Fake fur. It was seen to that the pieces of test item are completely covered in inoculum. Each reactor contained 6 pieces of test item. The test was performed in duplicate at $37^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Every week, a piece of test item was removed from the test reactors to assess the disintegration. The removed pieces were cleaned up as much as possible, photos were taken and visual observations were noted.

4.2 Analyses of inoculum

The same inoculum as MNI-1/2 was used for this test. The characteristics of the inoculum are given in Table 2. The quality of the inoculum was good as all of the recommendations were fulfilled.

4.3 Disintegration

In Table 8 to Table 12 a photo and the observations can be found for each test item and every test week.

In general, it was observed that the Undyed mink fur, Undyed fox fur, Dyed mink fur and Dyed fox fur partially disintegrated: the skin fell apart and disappeared but the hairs remained. The fake fur did not show any disintegration, only discolouration.

Table 8. Visual representation of the disintegration of the undyed mink fur

 <p>MNI-1/2 Undyed Mink Fur at start</p> <p>5 cm</p>	Undyed mink fur at start
 <p>MNI-1/2 Undyed Mink Fur after 1 week of desintegration</p> <p>5 cm</p>	Undyed mink fur after 7 days Skin has become weak and lost strength. The piece fell apart easily. Hairs were clearly visible and seemed intact.

<p>MNI-1/2 Undyed Mink Fur after 2 weeks of desintegration</p> 	<p>Undyed mink fur after 14 days</p> <p>The pieces were falling apart completely. Some skin was still left, but all strength was gone. Hairs detached very easily.</p>
<p>MNI-1/2 Undyed Mink Fur after 3 weeks of desintegration</p> 	<p>Undyed mink fur after 21 days</p> <p>The pieces were falling apart completely. Some skin was still left, but all strength was gone. Hairs detached very easily.</p>
<p>MNI-1/2 Undyed Mink Fur after 4 weeks of desintegration</p> 	<p>Undyed mink fur at end (30 days)</p> <p>The pieces were falling apart completely. Some skin was still left, but all strength was gone. Hairs detached very easily.</p>

Table 9. Visual representation of the disintegration of the undyed fox fur

	<p>Undyed fox fur at start</p> <p>(Blue background used to obtain better photo – hairs were difficult to distinguish on white background)</p>
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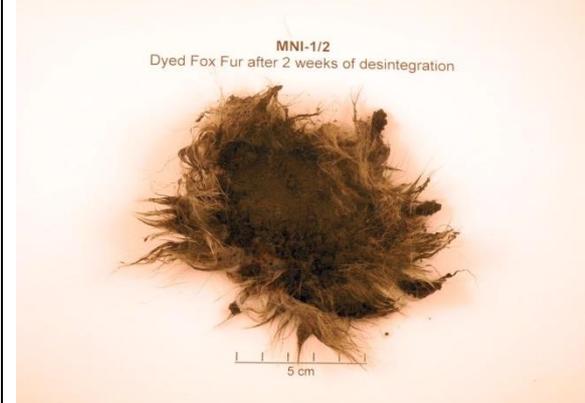
<p>MNI-1/2 Undyed Fox Fur after 1 week of desintegration</p>  <p>5 cm</p>	<p>Undyed fox fur after 7 days</p> <p>Skin had become weak and lost strength. It was difficult to remove the digestate from the piece without causing the piece to fall apart. Hairs were clearly visible and seemed intact.</p>
<p>MNI-1/2 Undyed Fox Fur after 2 weeks of desintegration</p>  <p>5 cm</p>	<p>Undyed fox fur after 14 days</p> <p>The skin was almost completely gone. Due to the longer hair (compared to mink), the pieces still hold together better, possibly due to digestate 'gluing' them together.</p>
<p>MNI-1/2 Undyed Fox Fur after 3 weeks of desintegration</p>  <p>5 cm</p>	<p>Undyed fox fur after 21 days</p> <p>The skin was almost completely gone. Due to the longer hair (compared to mink), the pieces still hold together better, possibly due to digestate 'gluing' them together.</p>
<p>MNI-1/2 Undyed Fox Fur after 4 weeks of desintegration</p>  <p>5 cm</p>	<p>Undyed fox fur at end (30 days)</p> <p>The pieces were falling apart, some skin was still left, but all strength was gone. Hairs detach very easily. Due to the longer hair (compared to mink), the pieces still hold together better, possibly due to digestate 'gluing' them together.</p>

Table 10. Visual representation of the disintegration of the dyed mink fur

<p>MNI-1/2 Dyed Mink Fur at start</p> 	<p>Dyed mink fur at start</p>
<p>MNI-1/2 Dyed Mink Fur after 1 week of desintegration</p> 	<p>Dyed mink fur after 7 days</p> <p>Skin had become weak and lost strength. It was difficult to remove the digestate from the piece without causing the piece to fall apart. Hairs were clearly visible and seemed intact.</p>
<p>MNI-1/2 Dyed Mink Fur after 2 weeks of desintegration</p> 	<p>Dyed mink fur after 14 days</p> <p>The pieces were falling apart completely. Some skin seems to remain (very hard to distinguish from the black digestate), but all strength was gone. Hairs detached very easily.</p>
<p>MNI-1/2 Dyed Mink Fur after 3 weeks of desintegration</p> 	<p>Dyed mink fur after 21 days</p> <p>The pieces were falling apart completely, some skin seems to remain (very hard to distinguish from the black digestate), but all strength was gone. Hairs detached very easily.</p>

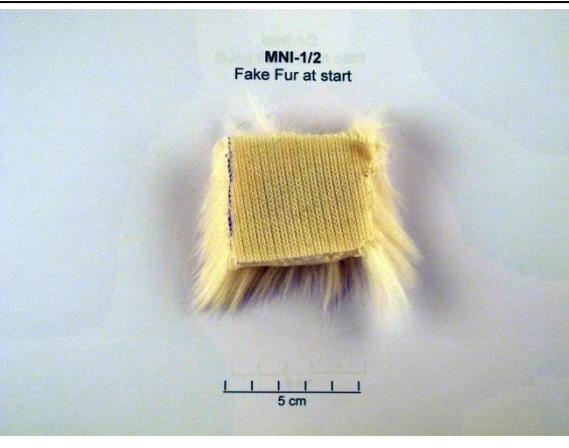
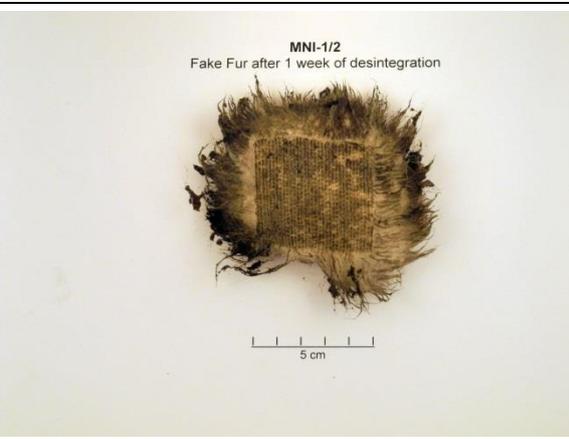
<p>MNI-1/2 Dyed Mink Fur after 4 weeks of desintegration</p> 	<p>Dyed mink fur at end (30 days)</p> <p>The pieces were falling apart completely, some skin seems to remain (very hard to distinguish from the black digestate), but all strength was gone. Hairs detached very easily.</p>
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Table 11. Visual representation of the disintegration of the dyed fox fur

<p>MNI-1/2 Dyed Fox Fur at start</p> 	<p>Dyed fox fur at start</p>
<p>MNI-1/2 Dyed Fox Fur after 1 week of desintegration</p> 	<p>Dyed fox fur after 7 days</p> <p>Skin has become weak and lost strength. It was difficult to remove the digestate from the piece without causing the piece to fall apart. Hairs were clearly visible and seemed intact.</p>
<p>MNI-1/2 Dyed Fox Fur after 2 weeks of desintegration</p> 	<p>Dyed fox fur after 14 days</p> <p>The skin was almost completely gone. Due to the longer hair (compared to mink), the pieces still hold together better, possibly due to digestate 'gluing' them together.</p>

 <p>MNI-1/2 Dyed Fox Fur after 3 weeks of desintegration</p> <p>5 cm</p>	<p>Dyed fox fur after 21 days</p> <p>The skin was almost completely gone. Due to the longer hair (compared to mink), the pieces still hold together better, possibly due to digestate 'gluing' them together.</p>
 <p>MNI-1/2 Dyed Fox Fur after 4 weeks of desintegration</p> <p>5 cm</p>	<p>Dyed fox fur at end (30 days)</p> <p>The skin was almost completely gone and the sample falls to pieces. Due to the longer hair (compared to mink), the pieces still hold together better, possibly due to digestate 'gluing' them together.</p>

Table 12. Visual representation of the disintegration of the fake fur

 <p>MNI-1/2 Fake Fur at start</p> <p>5 cm</p>	<p>Fake fur at start</p>
 <p>MNI-1/2 Fake Fur after 1 week of desintegration</p> <p>5 cm</p>	<p>Fake fur after 7 days</p> <p>The sample looked intact, only discoloration due to the digestate was observed.</p>

 <p>MNI-1/2 Fake Fur after 2 weeks of desintegration</p>	<p>Fake fur after 14 days</p> <p>The sample looked intact, only discoloration due to the digestate was observed.</p>
 <p>MNI-1/2 Fake Fur after 3 weeks of desintegration</p>	<p>Fake fur after 21 days</p> <p>The sample looked intact, only discoloration due to the digestate was observed.</p>
 <p>MNI-1/2 Fake Fur after 4 weeks of desintegration</p>	<p>Fake fur at end (30 days)</p> <p>The sample looked intact, only discoloration due to the digestate was observed.</p>

5 Summary and conclusions

The biodegradation at $37^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ (mesophilic conditions) of test items Undyed mink fur, Undyed fox fur, Dyed mink fur, Dyed fox fur and Fake fur was tested together with cellulose as reference item in a high solids anaerobic digestion test, according to ISO 15985. The test was performed in duplicate and lasted 30 days. The biodegradation percentage is based on the net biogas production and carbon content of the test item. Furthermore, the disintegration of the test items was evaluated.

According to ISO 15985 the test is considered valid if a) the degree of biodegradation of the reference material is $>70\%$ after 15 days, and b) the deviation of the percentage of biodegradation for the reference item in the different vessels is less than 20% at the end of the test. After 15 days the biodegradation of cellulose was 84.1%. The final biodegradation (after 30 days) was $85.7\% \pm 2.0\%$, meaning that all requirements for a valid test were fulfilled.

Biodegradation of the Undyed mink fur, Undyed fox fur, Dyed mink fur and Dyed fox fur started immediately. The undyed mink fur shows the highest biodegradation so far (25.8%), followed by the dyed mink fur (18.3%), the undyed fox fur (13.6%) and the dyed fox fur (6.6%). Biodegradation reached a plateau for all test items. This means that these test items are partially biodegradable under mesophilic, high solids anaerobic conditions within 30 days.

Biodegradation of the fake fur never started. At the end of the test a biodegradation percentage of $0.3\% \pm 0.1\%$ was measured. The slightly positive result is considered due to natural variations in the biogas production of the inoculum. This means that the fake fur is not biodegradable under mesophilic, high solids anaerobic conditions.

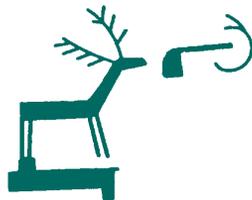
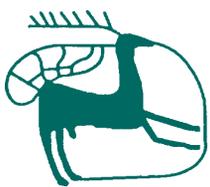
In the disintegration test, it was observed that the Undyed mink fur, Undyed fox fur, Dyed mink fur and Dyed fox fur partially disintegrated: the skin fell apart and disappeared but the hairs remained. The fake fur did not show any disintegration, only discolouration.

Gent, May 25th, 2018

Lies Debeer
Study Director

Bruno De Wilde
Lab Manager

TRAPPING AND FURBEARER MANAGEMENT IN NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



Trapping and Furbearer Management in North American Wildlife Conservation

is a compilation of the knowledge, insights and experiences of professional wildlife biologists who are responsible for the conservation of wildlife resources throughout the United States and Canada. It is based on the original *Trapping and Furbearer Management: Perspectives from the Northeast* published in 1996 by the Northeast Furbearer Resources Technical Committee. An expanded North American edition was published in 2001. This second edition of that publication was authored by the following subcommittee of the **Northeast Furbearer Resources Technical Committee** (NEFRTC): Dr. John F. Organ, Subcommittee Chairman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Thomas Decker, Vermont Department of Fisheries and Wildlife; Susan Langlois, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife; and Peter G. Mirick, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

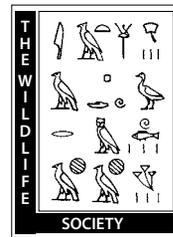
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The Northeast Furbearer Resources Technical Committee

is comprised of professional wildlife biologists from the northeastern United States and Provinces of eastern Canada, and is committed to the study and responsible management of our furbearer resources.

The Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society

is comprised of professional wildlife biologists and resource scientists and managers from eleven northeastern states and six eastern Canadian provinces, and is committed to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education.

For further information on Furbearer Management and Trapping in your state or province, contact your local Fish and Wildlife or Natural Resources Department.

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Second Edition - Updated July 2015

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Cover photo of muskrats by Bill Byrne.

Pictographs on cover portray cave drawings of methods ancient peoples used to capture wild animals.

Introduction

The trapping of furbearers – animals that have traditionally been harvested primarily for their fur – has been an enduring element of human culture ever since our prehistoric hunter-gatherer ancestors devised the first deadfalls, pit traps, snares, and capture nets. People were dependent upon furbearers to provide the basic necessities for survival – meat for sustenance, and fur for clothing, bedding and shelter – throughout most of human history. Defining and defending territory where furbearers could be captured to acquire these critical resources united families, clans and tribes long before the invention of agriculture and animal husbandry gave rise to ancient civilizations. While modern technology and agriculture have significantly reduced human dependence on furbearers for survival, people in both rural and developed areas continue to harvest furbearers for livelihood and personal fulfillment. The taking and trading of furbearer resources remain on the economic and environmental agendas of governments throughout the world.

Trapping furbearers for their fur, meat and other natural products presumably began with our earliest ancestors on the African continent. It has a long tradition in North America, dating back to the time the first aboriginal people arrived on the continent. Several thousand years later, fur was the chief article of commerce that propelled and funded European colonization of the continent during the 17th and 18th centuries. Numerous cities and towns founded as fur trading centers during that period still bear witness to the fact that furbearer trapping had a major influence on the history of the United States and Canada.

The utilization of furbearer resources was an unchallenged activity throughout that history until early in the 20th century, when the first organized opposition to furbearer trapping emerged. The focus of that opposition was primarily on the development of more humane traps and curtailment of trapping abuses, rather than

against trapping itself or the continued use of furbearer resources. During the 1920s opposition magnified to challenge the use of steel jaw foothold traps and the wearing of fur.⁽¹⁾ In response to this development, proponents of trapping and the fur industries began organizing to defend themselves. By the 1930s, furbearer trapping had become a recurrent public issue. Since then, the

pro- and anti-trapping factions have disseminated enormous amounts of generally contradictory information.

During this same period, new technologies and advances in ecology, wildlife biology, statistics and population biology allowed wildlife management to develop into a scientific profession. State, provincial and federal agencies were created to apply this science to protect, maintain and restore wildlife populations. The harvest of furbearers became a highly regulated, scientifically monitored activity to ensure the sustainability of furbearer populations. Trapping and furbearer management – one steeped in ancient tradition, the other rooted firmly in the principles of science – allowed furbearer populations to expand and flourish.

Today, as controversy over the use and harvest of furbearers continues, professional wildlife managers find themselves spending considerable time trying to clarify public misconceptions about trapping and furbearer management. The complex issues involved in that management – habitat loss, animal damage control, public health and safety, the responsible treatment of animals – cannot be adequately addressed in short news articles or 30-second radio and television announcements.

This booklet is intended to present the facts and current professional outlook on the role of trapping and furbearer management in North American wildlife conservation. It is the combined work of many wildlife scientists responsible for the successful conservation of furbearer populations in the United States and Canada.



Photo by Bill Byrne

The Furbearer

Technically, the term **furbearer** includes all mammals, all of which, by definition, possess some form of hair. Typically, however, wildlife managers use the term to identify mammal species that have traditionally been trapped or hunted primarily for their fur.

North American furbearers are a diverse group, including both carnivores (meat-eating predators) and rodents (gnawing mammals). Most are adaptable species ranging over large geographic areas. They include beaver, bobcat, badger, coyote, fisher, fox, lynx, marten, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, raccoon, river otter, skunk, weasels, and others. A few animals that are normally hunted or trapped primarily for their meat or to reduce agricultural or property damage may also be considered furbearers if their skins are marketed.



*A magnified view of red fox fur shows the short, dense **underfur** that provides insulation and water repellent qualities, and the longer **guardhairs** that resist abrasion and protect the underfur from matting.*

Most furbearers possess two layers of fur: a dense, soft **underfur** that provides insulation and water-repellent qualities; and an outer layer of longer, glossy **guardhairs** that grow through the underfur, protecting it from matting and abrasion. A fur is said to be **prime** when the guardhairs are at their maximum length and the underfur is at its maximum thickness.

Fur generally becomes prime in midwinter when the coat is fresh and fully grown; the timing for primeness is governed by photoperiod and may vary somewhat depending on species, location (latitude) and elevation.

Furs are generally “dressed” (tanned with the hair on), then trimmed and sewn into garments, rugs, blankets, and ornaments, and sometimes dyed in a variety of colors and patterns. Furs are also used in fishing lures, fine brushes and other products. Some furs are shaved, and the hair processed into felt for hats and other garments.

Fur is a renewable (naturally replenished) resource, a product of long traditional use, valued by many for its natural beauty, durability and insulative qualities. Fur is only one of many values that people ascribe to furbearers (see page 38).

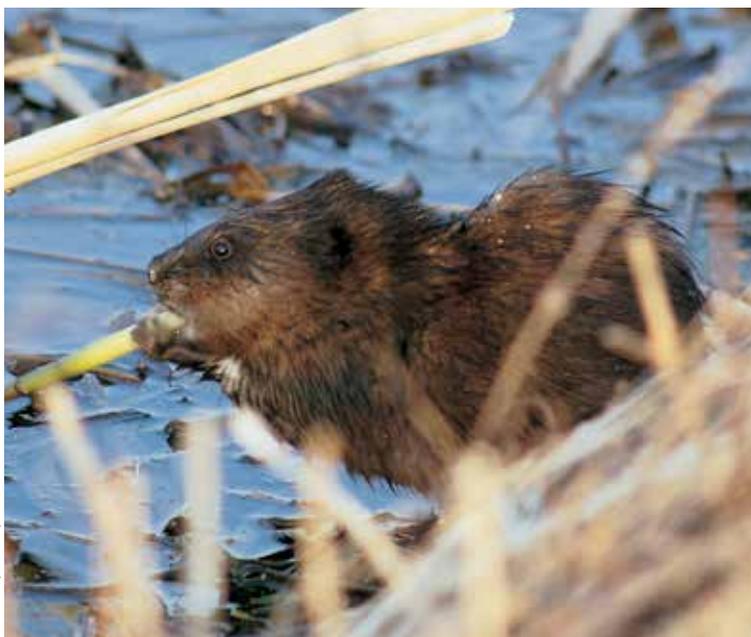


Photo by Bill Byrne



Photo by Jack Swedberg

Furbearers are a diverse group including several rodents and numerous carnivores (meat-eaters). The muskrat (above, left), a wetland herbivore (plant-eater), is the number one furbearer in the United States and Canada based on the number of pelts harvested each year. The beaver (above, right) is the largest native rodent in North America, best known for its ability to fell trees and dam streams. Facing page, top, the fisher, a member of the weasel family, is an opportunistic predator equally at home in the trees or on the ground. Below, the red fox, like the beaver, has achieved considerable success in adapting to suburban environments.





Other furbearers of conservation interest include the American badger (above), raccoon, and bobcat (below). These are all common and abundant species over large areas of their respective ranges. Their populations are managed sustainably, ensuring they remain healthy and abundant while allowing their continued utility as valuable furbearer resources.



Issues in Furbearer Management

There are three major issues involving the conservation and management of furbearers today: human population growth with its inevitable degradation and destruction of wildlife habitat; increasing public intolerance of furbearers in populated areas; and opposition from animal rights activists to any harvest or use of wildlife.

Loss of Habitat

The first and most critical issue challenging furbearer conservation today is human population growth and the resultant degradation and destruction of wildlife habitat. Without adequate habitat, wildlife populations cannot be sustained. While no furbearer species is in immediate jeopardy due to habitat loss in North America (because furbearers are typically abundant,

adaptable species often covering large geographic areas), the range of some populations has been reduced. Habitat destruction has eliminated the option to restore some species to areas where they once existed.

Among wildlife scientists, ecologists and biologists, no issue is of greater concern than the conservation of wildlife habitat. Every government wildlife agency is directing significant educational

and/or financial resources to the conservation of habitat. Habitat conservation is the key to maintaining the viability of all wildlife populations and the ecosystems on which they depend. Unlike habitat destruction, modern regulated trapping is a sustainable use of wildlife resources, and it is highly unlikely to jeopardize the continued existence of any wildlife population.



Photo by Bill Byrne

The continuing loss of wildlife habitat is the most critical issue in wildlife conservation today. Unlike regulated trapping, habitat destruction threatens the existence of wildlife populations and the ecosystems on which they depend. Further, as development encroaches on wildlife habitat, adaptable furbearer species create problems for homeowners, increasing public intolerance of these valuable wildlife resources.

Public Intolerance

While habitat loss is a direct threat to wildlife populations, it also has indirect consequences. As wildlife habitat continues to be fragmented and eliminated by development, wildlife managers are confronted with new challenges: coyotes killing pets, beavers cutting ornamental trees and flooding roads and driveways, raccoons invading buildings and threatening public health with diseases and parasites. These kinds of human-wildlife conflicts reduce public tolerance and appreciation of furbearers.

While **Biological Carrying Capacity** (population level an area of habitat can support in the long term) for a furbearer species may be relatively high, the **Cultural Carrying Capacity** (population level the human population in the area will tolerate) may be lower.⁽²⁾ Wildlife managers, responding to public concerns, have implemented furbearer damage management programs at state and federal levels.

A growing dilemma is that some furbearers, while of great utilitarian, economic, and intrinsic value to society, are also increasingly a public liability. The challenge – magnified in and near areas of dense human population – is to satisfy various constituents with different interests and concerns while conducting sound wildlife management. Wildlife agencies typically use an integrated approach involving education, barriers, deterrents and lethal techniques to address specific problems, while fostering public tolerance for wildlife that causes damage. The combination of as many feasible options as possible provides for the most successful program. Wildlife agencies have



Photo by Coleen Offenbuttel

Nuisance animal control has become a growth industry in many areas as development fragments wildlife habitat and traditional fur trapping declines. This trend is of concern to wildlife biologists, for it indicates that a growing segment of the public is losing its tolerance and appreciation of some wildlife species, viewing them as problems that should be removed and destroyed, rather than as valuable resources that should be utilized and conserved.

long relied on the free services provided by the public who trap to assist landowners suffering damage caused by furbearers. Unfortunately, due to various environmental, economic and sociological factors, traditional fur trapping – which can reduce animal damage at no cost to the public – tends to be a rural activity. The number of people involved in this cultural activity is a minority group, particularly in suburban and urban areas.

With the decline of traditional fur trappers, “nuisance animal control” has become a growth industry. Businesses specializing in trapping and removal of “problem” animals are thriving in many areas. This trend is of concern to wildlife biologists, for it indicates that a growing segment of the public is coming to view furbearers as problems that should be removed

and destroyed, instead of valuable resources that should be conserved and can be utilized. Regardless, regulated trapping provides an important and effective method to meet the public’s demand for reduction of furbearer damage.

Animal Rights

As wildlife managers are faced with having to rely more on regulated trapping for furbearer population management and damage control, animal rights activists demanding an end to trapping are appealing for public support. Those advocating “animal rights” would eliminate all trapping and use of furbearers. Without regulated trapping, the public would have far fewer reliable and economically practical options for preventing and solving wildlife damage problems associated with furbearers.

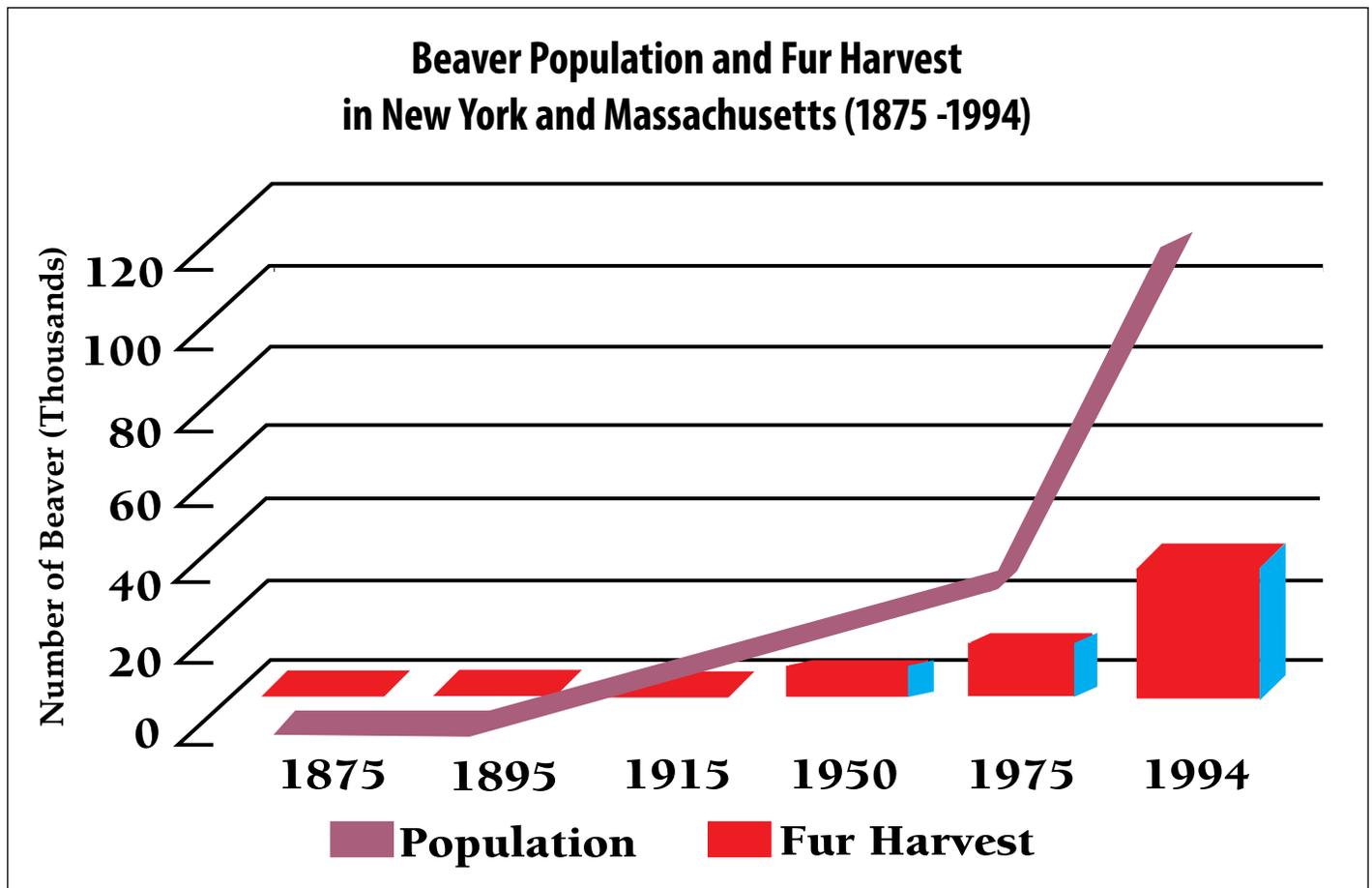
Public Wildlife Agencies Manage Our Wildlife Resources

Furbearer management programs in the United States and Canada are primarily conducted by state and provincial wildlife agencies. Current management programs respond to and respect the diversity of people and cultures and their values toward wildlife resources. In the United States, most funding for furbearer management comes from two sources: hunting and trapping license fees, and federal excise taxes on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment (federal aid). Most wildlife management is not funded with general tax dollars.

Federal aid – now amounting to over 200 million dollars in some years among the 50 states, territories and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico – has been provided since passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (also known as the Pittman-Robertson Act) in 1937. Federal funds and the assistance of certain federal agencies are also available for wildlife damage management programs within each state.

State and provincial wildlife agencies manage furbearer populations for the benefit of a public with diverse opinions.

Wildlife managers must therefore balance many objectives simultaneously. These objectives include preserving or sustaining furbearer populations for their biological, ecological, economic, aesthetic, and subsistence values, as well as for utilitarian, scientific, and educational purposes. It is sometimes necessary to reduce furbearer populations to curtail property damage or habitat degradation, or to increase furbearer populations to restore species to areas where they have been extirpated (eliminated within an area).



Although the species had been nearly extirpated prior to the start of the 20th century, beaver populations responded to applied wildlife management in a dramatic fashion as shown by this vintage graph.⁽³⁾ Like many other furbearer species, the beaver has been restored to much of its former range while sustaining considerable, scientifically regulated, public fur harvests.



Photo by NYS DEP

Many states and provinces require that the pelts of certain species of furbearers taken by trappers must be officially examined and tagged (sealed or stamped) before they may be sold. Note the orange seals on certain pelts being offered at this fur auction. This allows wildlife biologists to monitor harvest rates of some species while collecting invaluable data on population trends. When biologists need more information, regulations may be adjusted to require that trappers turn in the carcasses or certain parts of their harvested animals. This allows biologists to examine such things as reproductive rates, food habits, sex and age ratios, presence or prevalence of parasitic and/or infectious diseases, and other information that is often useful in managing furbearer and other wildlife resources.

Professional wildlife biologists meet the public's diverse objectives by monitoring and evaluating the status of furbearer populations on a regular basis, and responding with appropriate management options. Much of the information known about furbearer populations – as well as the management of furbearer populations – has been derived from trapping. Accounting for yearly variation in the numbers, sex, and age of animals caught by licensed trappers, along with variation in effort provided by trappers, is an economical way to monitor

population fluctuations. In many cases, biologists acquire information directly from harvested animals. More intensive (and expensive) research projects are initiated when additional information essential to management is needed. Many jurisdictions adjust trapping regulations in response to furbearer population changes to either increase or decrease the population in response to the public's desires.

Management plans and regulations typically restrict trapping seasons to periods when pelts are prime

and the annual rearing of young is past. Historical records demonstrate how applied wildlife management sustains regulated harvests: populations and harvests of most furbearing species have generally increased in North America during the last 100 years. Beaver, for example, were almost eliminated from the eastern United States and greatly reduced in parts of eastern Canada by the middle of the 19th century. Today they number in the millions, thriving throughout that range wherever sufficient habitat remains and the public will



Multiple Uses of Furbearers

If we look back in human history, all of our ancestors once depended on furbearers for survival. Native peoples traditionally used furbearers for food, clothing, medicines, perfumes and other items. Today, many people living in rural and suburban environments throughout North America continue to live close to the land, utilizing furbearers to maintain a sense of self-reliance, remain in touch with their heritage, and participate in a favorite, challenging, outdoor activity. In a free society, such lifestyle decisions are a matter of personal choice.

allow their presence. They have been restored to this level while sustaining a substantial, annual, regulated public harvest.⁽⁴⁾

Wildlife managers in many states and provinces have reintroduced extirpated furbearer species using traps and licensed trappers. Extirpation was ultimately caused by widespread degradation and loss of habitat associated with the colonization of North America and subsequent growth of human populations. In some instances

this was combined with excessive exploitation because there were no wildlife agencies to establish and enforce regulations designed to protect furbearer populations. Where habitat and public support are available, the reintroduction of extirpated furbearers has been remarkably successful. In both the United States and Canada, species such as beaver, river otter, fisher, and marten have been reintroduced and restored throughout much of their historical range.

The time when furbearer species could be extirpated due to excessive, unregulated harvest is long past. Today, professional wildlife biologists are responsible for furbearer management. Most have devoted years of academic, laboratory, and/or field research to the study of furbearer species. Their mission is the conservation of furbearer populations. They have been highly successful in that mission as evidenced by the restoration and current abundance of furbearer populations.



Harvested furbearers have many uses today, reflecting the utilitarian values of many of the people who harvest them. Pelts are used for clothing such as coats, hats, mittens (made by craftspeople in Maine, left) and blankets, and are also used to make moccasins, banjos, rugs, wall hangings, and other forms of folk art. Fur is also used in fine art brushes, water repellent felt for hats, and high quality fishing lures.

Some people use the meat of furbearers such as raccoon, beaver, nutria (prepared by a Louisiana chef, above) and muskrat for tablefare or as a food source for pets. It is delicious and nutritious, high in protein and low in fat.

The glands of beaver are used in perfume, and glands and tissues from these and other furbearers are used to make leather preservatives, scent lures, and holistic medicines, salves, and moisturizers. Even the bones, claws, and teeth of harvested furbearers are sometimes used to make jewelry.

• Nutria dish photo courtesy of Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

Principles of Furbearer Management

The goal of furbearer management is the conservation of furbearer populations. The main tenet of conservation is this: **Native wildlife populations are natural resources – biological wealth – that must be sustained and managed for the benefit of present and future generations.** If those wildlife populations are furbearer species, one important public benefit conservation provides is the opportunity to harvest some animals for food, fur, or both. The harvest of animals for these purposes is among the most ancient

and universal of human practices. Today, under scientific wildlife management, harvests are controlled and regulated to the extent that the survival of furbearer populations is never threatened. No furbearer species is endangered or threatened by regulated trapping. **North American wildlife conservation programs apply three basic principles in establishing and managing harvest of wild animals: (1) the species is not endangered or threatened; (2) the harvest techniques are acceptable; and (3) the killing**

of these wild animals serves a practical purpose.⁽⁵⁾

It is important to understand that the aim of professional wildlife management is to perpetuate and ensure the health of wildlife populations; not the survival of individuals within those populations. Wildlife management does not generally focus on individuals because individuals have short life spans. On the time scale that conservation is pledged to address, individuals do not endure. Populations *do*. Populations – provided with sufficient habitat

and protected from excessive exploitation – are essentially immortal. Wildlife managers apply scientific methods to maintain furbearer species as viable, self-sustaining populations.

Population Dynamics

Like all populations, those of furbearers are dynamic. They are always in a state of flux, interacting directly and indirectly with other animal, plant, bacterial, and viral populations. In response to these interactions and a host of other environmental factors – many of which are today related directly to human actions – furbearer

populations increase and decrease in density (number of individuals in any given area) and range. Wildlife managers monitor wildlife populations to determine if they are increasing, decreasing, or stable; to identify factors that affect those population trends; and to manipulate some of those factors to achieve the goals of conservation.

The laws of evolution and survival demand that the reproductive rate (the number of individuals born) of any population must equal or exceed its mortality rate (the number of individuals that die). If, over time, births do not equal or outnumber

deaths, the population will become extinct. As a result, all species have evolved to produce a surplus of young during each generation. Furbearer species are no exception; many are capable of *doubling* their populations within a single year.

Because they produce a surplus of young, populations should theoretically grow continuously. The reason they do not is because as populations grow, various **limiting factors** slow or stop population growth. Resources required for survival – food, water, shelter, and living space – are limiting factors. As a population grows, one or more

Photo by Coleen Ofenbuttel / North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission



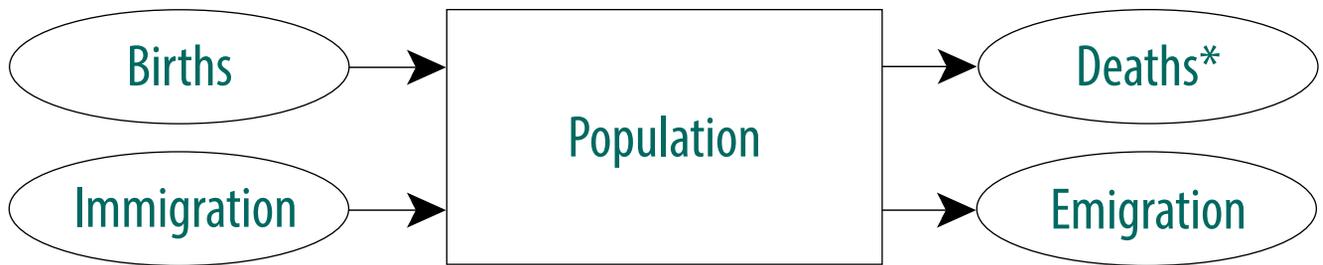
Professional wildlife biologists are responsible for furbearer management today. They have been highly successful in their mission because they use the best scientific information available to ensure the present and future health of furbearer populations. Here a state furbearer biologist records physiological data collected from an anesthetized otter captured during an ongoing research project.

Natural Resource Bank Account

Interest/Deposits

Balance

Taxes/Withdrawals



*Predation • Human Harvest • Disease • Starvation • Injury • Et cetera

In a simple example (excluding habitat-related factors such as carrying capacity), a stable furbearer population can be compared to a bank account: interest and deposits (births and immigration) increase the balance (population) every spring and summer; taxes and withdrawals (mortalities and emigration) decrease it by roughly the same amount every fall and winter. Accountants (wildlife biologists) monitor the bank statements and advise the owner (the public) on when and how much of the balance can be withdrawn (harvested) that would otherwise be lost to taxes (other forms of mortality).

of these resources may become scarce to the point that some members of the population fail to acquire them and therefore die, disperse, or fail to reproduce.

Other limiting factors include most communicable diseases and predation. The former (and often the latter) is a **density-dependent** factor – that is, it increases as the density of the population increases.

Other limiting factors are **density-independent**. These include weather extremes, habitat destruction, and other catastrophic events. These reduce populations regardless of density. Some limiting factors such as road mortality (killed by vehicles) may be both density dependent and independent. Road mortality, for instance, is likely to increase as population density increases; however, it also will increase as more roads are built, regardless of population density.

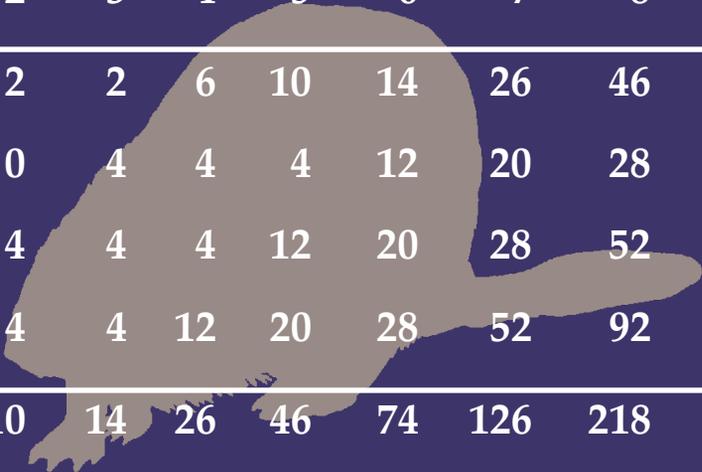
Healthy furbearer populations cycle (increase and decrease about equally) on an annual basis. Most increase in the spring and summer with the birth of young; decrease in the fall and winter as natural mortality and emigration increase. Annual cycles are most dramatic in furbearer populations with high reproductive rates. Muskrat populations, for example, can decline by 75 percent during winter – and rebound completely by the following fall!⁽⁶⁾

Banking Resources

Wildlife managers normally set furbearer trapping seasons to allow use of a portion of the individuals that would otherwise be lost to disease, starvation, predation, and other mortality factors. The standard regulated harvest is **compensatory** mortality: it replaces mortality factors that would otherwise have reduced the population by a similar amount. A scientifically regulated,

annual harvest can be sustained indefinitely because it removes only the surplus, leaving sufficient reproducers to restore the surplus.

As a simplified example, imagine a stable furbearer population as a bank account. The balance (population) is a continually shuffled stack of bills (individuals). The account accumulates interest (the birth of young) every spring. Taxes (predation, disease, etc.) are always taking a few bills out of the pile. If the interest is allowed to accumulate, taxes increase every winter. However, if the interest is withdrawn (hunted or trapped) by the owners (the public), taxes do not increase. Either way, if taxes and withdrawals do not exceed interest, the balance stays about the same or increases from year to year. Wildlife managers are the accountants who advise the owners on when and how much interest can be withdrawn from the account.



Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Adults	2	2	2	6	10	14	26	46	74	126
2 Yr Old	0	0	4	4	4	12	20	28	52	92
1 Yr Old	0	4	4	4	12	20	28	52	92	148
Kits	4	4	4	12	20	28	52	92	148	252
Total	6	10	14	26	46	74	126	218	366	618

In the absence of limiting factors such as inadequate habitat, disease, predation, and human harvest, beaver populations are capable of very high rates of growth. Regulated trapping helps control furbearer population growth and reduce furbearer damage at no cost to the public, and does not threaten the viability of furbearer populations.

Furbearer Population Management

Wildlife biologists manage furbearer populations in much the same way they manage other fish and wildlife populations such as bass, deer, and bears: they monitor the populations, determine the best management goals for each population (i.e. should it be increased, decreased, or stabilized in the best interests of the public and conservation), and then set harvest regulations/restrictions accordingly. Under most circumstances, the aim is to prevent population declines over time.

Under some circumstances – when a furbearer population is causing damage by threatening the survival of endangered species, damaging fish and wildlife habitat (as often occurs with introduced invasive species), or creating a hardship for landowners or agricultural producers – it may be desirable to reduce furbearer populations within some areas. In these situations, wildlife managers may adjust trapping and hunting regulations to increase the

harvest beyond surplus production. When population reduction is the objective, the harvest adds to the annual mortality rate. This controlled **additive** mortality will cause the population (or at least its growth rate) to decline.

Conversely, there are situations when it is desirable to increase furbearer populations. These occur when efforts are being made to restore an extirpated species, or when a severe population reduction has taken place. In such cases wildlife managers might restrict or prohibit harvests for a time to encourage a rapid population increase.

The beaver is an excellent example of a furbearer that warrants intensive management. Wetlands created by beaver are highly productive systems with an abundance of water and nutrients. They support a huge diversity of plants and invertebrates, and provide habitat for hundreds of fish and wildlife species. If the management objective is to maintain species abundance and diversity, it is prudent to manage beaver for its positive wetland values.

However, beaver populations often require control to reduce conflicts with humans. Although problems with beaver flooding roads and damaging property are widespread, the problems would be more intense, and the economic impacts greater, without the harvests of beaver during regulated trapping seasons. Almost half a million beaver are harvested from the states and provinces in any given year.⁽⁷⁾ This reduction is important in controlling the growth of beaver populations and reducing property damage. It does not threaten the viability of beaver populations or their positive wetland values.

Muskrat, nutria, and beaver are the only furbearers in North America that, like deer, can significantly lower the quality of their habitat (by consuming a high percentage of the vegetation) if their populations are not maintained at an appropriate level. Additionally, lowering or even eliminating nutria populations may be a legitimate goal in making marsh habitats more suitable for native wildlife species (nutria are not native to North America) and in preventing

erosion and the loss of marsh vegetation.

Regulated trapping is the most efficient and practical means available to accomplish regular population reductions, and it does so at no cost to the public.

Although the populations of some furbearer species are prone to attain high local densities and then to “crash” dramatically as density-dependent limiting factors (e.g., food availability and disease) are activated, most furbearer species become relatively stable once their populations reach a given density. However, that density may be

beyond what the human population can tolerate. If the level of human-furbearer conflicts (or conflicts with other wildlife species and habitats) becomes too great, population reduction can be a responsible management alternative.

While furbearer population reduction is not a goal for most furbearer management programs, population reductions in specific areas can control the frequency of furbearer conflicts with humans, lessen predation on rare, threatened, or endangered species, or reduce negative impacts on habitats and property.

The case of the piping plover, a beach nesting bird, provides a good example of how furbearer population reductions can assist in the restoration of a rare species. The piping plover, a federally listed threatened shorebird protected by both U.S. and Canada endangered species legislation, is vulnerable to predation by foxes and other predators while nesting. Trapping in and around piping plover habitat has reduced local predator populations, allowing enhancement of the dangerously low plover population, while the predators can be utilized as valuable, renewable, natural resources.⁽⁸⁾

Trapping Protects Rare & Endangered Species

Foothold traps are sometimes used to capture rare or endangered species unharmed so that the animals can be introduced into favorable habitats to reestablish healthy populations (see page 48). However, foothold and cable restraint traps also play an important role in protecting the health and viability of many established or newly re-established populations of rare and endangered species. These traps are particularly important management tools for protecting rare or endangered species from undesirable levels of predation caused by fox and coyote; neophobic predators that will typically avoid entering box or cage traps.

The following is a partial list of endangered or threatened species in North America and the furbearer species that have been managed to protect them through the use of modern foothold or cable-restraint traps:

Rare Species Under Restoration

American Marten
Black-footed Ferret
Blanding’s Turtle
Columbian White-tailed Deer
Desert Bighorn Sheep
Aleutian Canada Goose
Attwater’s Prairie Chicken
Brown Pelican
Sandhill Crane
Louisiana Pearlshell
Mule Deer
Sage Grouse
Steller’s Eider
Whooping Crane
Least Tern
Piping Plover
Spotted Turtle

Species Trapped to Aid Restoration

Fisher, Bobcat, Coyote
Coyote, Badger
Raccoon, Striped Skunk, Opossum
Coyote
Cougar
Arctic Fox
Coyote
Coyote
Coyote
Beaver
Coyote
Coyote
Arctic Fox
Coyote, Red Fox
Red Fox, Raccoon, Coyote, Opossum
Red Fox, Raccoon, Coyote, Opossum
Raccoon, Striped Skunk, Opossum



Photo by Linda Welch

Tern and Chick

The target animals trapped during these operations to reduce habitat damage or predation on the rare species are either removed or relocated after capture. The trapping may be carried out by federal, state, or provincial wildlife biologists and animal control agents, or by private, regulated trappers.

The Role of Trapping in the Conservation and Protection of Seabird Nesting Colonies in Maine

Many islands along the coast of Maine provide critical habitat for colonial-nesting seabirds. The Maine State-threatened Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill, Great Cormorant, and Arctic Tern, plus the federally-endangered Roseate Tern, rely on abundant food resources and suitable nesting habitats to maintain their populations. In addition, other species of conservation concern that nest on Maine's coastal islands include the Laughing Gull, Leach's Storm-petrel, Common Eider, Common Tern, and Black Guillemot. The Maine Legislature has designated many of the seabird nesting islands in Maine as "Significant Wildlife Habitat," an indication of the conservation value of these nesting islands.

In recent years, mammalian predators such as mink and river otters have made their way out to several of these key seabird nesting islands, located 2-5 miles from the mainland. The response of the birds to the arrival of the mammalian predators on the breeding colonies often varies with the stage of nesting. For example, mammalian predators that arrive at seabird colonies during the incubation period will typically cause the birds to abandon the island for the entire season. However, mink and river otters that arrive on the island during the chick-rearing period can cause significant mortality to chicks and adult seabirds, as by this stage the adults are committed to remain on the island and try to raise their chicks. At National Audubon Society-owned Stratton Island, this situation resulted in more than 500 terns (adults and chicks) being killed by mink in less than a week.



Photo by Linda Welch

The conservation of colonial-nesting seabirds, particularly those on isolated islands such as this Atlantic Puffin, may sometimes require the local reduction of predatory furbearers that gain access to these crucial habitats.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established in the early 1970s in an effort to protect and restore nesting seabird populations and help contribute to regional and international seabird conservation goals. Factors limiting seabird population growth and recovery include: availability of food resources, habitat degradation, competition, human disturbance, and avian and mammalian predation.

Between 2007-2014, Maine Coastal Island NWR personnel trapped 14 mink on Eastern and Western Brothers Islands. Common Terns, Black Guillemot, Common Eider, and Leach's Storm-petrels nest on the Brothers Islands. Mink have preyed upon all four species and have destroyed hundreds of nests. Burrow-

nesting seabirds such as Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills, Black Guillemots, and Leach's Storm-petrels are highly susceptible to mink predation, as adult birds are easily killed in their burrows. With the exception of the Black Guillemot, these species only lay one egg per year and will not re-nest in a given year even if the nest-predator is removed. The trapping effort on these two islands has successfully maintained an average of 350 nesting pairs of seabirds over the course of the management period.

Another important island seabird nesting colony is located on Eastern Egg Rock, owned by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and cooperatively managed with National Audubon Society. Eastern Egg Rock, 5 miles from the mainland, supports approximately 800 pairs of Common and Arctic terns and federally endangered Roseate Terns, including 45% of the total number of Roseate Terns that nest in Maine. Eastern Egg Rock is also one of only four Atlantic Puffin colonies in the U.S.. During 2012, an adult otter and her pup were observed denning in what had recently been an active puffin burrow. When the otters were removed, it was determined that the young otter had puffin feathers in its stomach.

The use of modern traps and trapping systems has been a valuable tool in helping to support the long-term investment of state and federal agency staff who have been working effectively to protect and restore nesting seabird populations and help contribute to regional and international seabird conservation goals.

Regulated Trapping on National Wildlife Refuges

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt ordered that a small shell- and mangrove-covered island in Florida's Indian River be forever protected as a "preserve and breeding grounds for native birds." Paul Kroegel, a sometime boat builder, cook and orange grower, was hired to watch over this three acre sanctuary. His mission was clear: protect the island's pelicans from poachers and plume hunters. With this simple promise of wildlife protection, the National Wildlife Refuge System was formed.

The System now encompasses more than 92 million acres in the United States managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as wildlife refuges, wildlife ranges, wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas, and other designations for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife, including those that are threatened with extinction. The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is:



"To administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."

Regulated trapping is recognized as a legitimate activity and sustainable use of wildlife resources within the Refuge System, and has been an important tool for the accomplishment of refuge management and restoration programs for many years. A comprehensive evaluation of Refuge trapping programs conducted by the Service in 1997 documented the importance of this activity in helping Refuges meet the mission stated above. The study examined mammal trapping programs on the Refuge System that occurred between 1992 and 1996.⁽¹²⁾ The study identified 487 mammal trapping programs on 281 National Wildlife Refuges during the 5-year period.

The Service report went on to say: ***"This report demonstrates the importance of trapping as a professional wildlife management tool"*** and ***"Mammal trapping also provided important benefits for public health and safety and recreational, commercial, and subsistence opportunities for the public during the period."***

Eleven reasons for trapping on Refuges were identified in the following order (most common to least common):

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. recreation/commercial/subsistence | 2. facilities protection | 3. migratory bird protection |
| 4. research | 5. surveys/monitoring | 6. habitat protection |
| 7. endangered species protection | 8. public safety | 9. feral animal control |
| 10. population management | 11. disease control | |

A variety of trap types were used in these programs: quick-kill traps were used on 171 refuges, cage traps were used on 157 refuges, foothold traps were used on 140 refuges, cable restraint devices were used on 74 refuges, and other devices were used on 66 refuges.

The variety of trap types used reflects the diversity of environmental and weather conditions; refuge-specific needs, objectives and regulations; and of course the different wildlife species which are found from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to wetland areas of Gulf Coast Refuges to the forest lands of Refuges in Maine. Trapping activities on Refuges are regulated; the public who participate are required to be licensed and to follow many enforced rules to ensure that their activities are conducted appropriately and in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

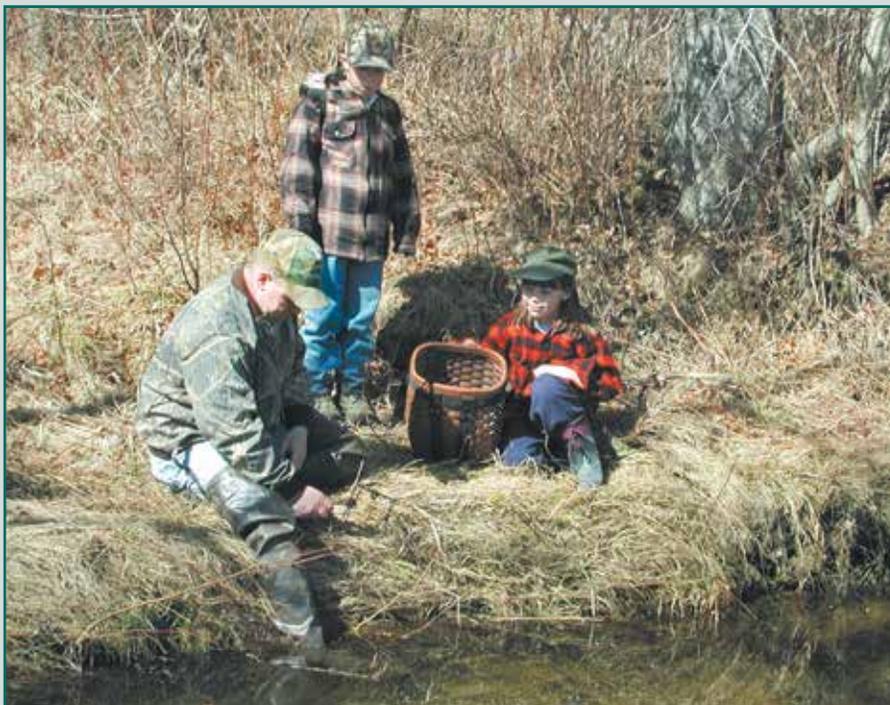


Photo by Tom Decker

Protecting America's Important Wetlands with Regulated Trapping

Wetlands represent some of the most vital and diverse types of fish and wildlife habitat, and also provide a multitude of benefits for society, including water purification and flood storage and prevention. Two of America's most eminent wetland systems – coastal Louisiana and the Chesapeake Bay – have been threatened by the expansion of a non-native rodent, the nutria, native to South America. Nutria are large, semi-aquatic rodents with high reproductive rates.

The coastal wetlands along the gulf coast of Louisiana are among the most productive and important fish and wildlife habitats found in the United States. The largest expanse of wetlands in the contiguous U.S. occurs in Louisiana, comprising 25% of the freshwater marshes and 69% of the saltwater marshes of the Gulf Coast. This translates, respectively, to 15% and 40% of the total amount of these important ecological areas remaining in the United States. Louisiana's wetlands provide a multitude of functions and important values including:

1. Habitat for a diverse array of fish and wildlife species including **15 million water birds, 5 million wintering waterfowl, 1.5 to 2 million alligators, and 17 threatened or endangered species;**
2. Groundwater recharge, reduction of pollution, and nutrient and sediment reduction;
3. Storm buffer, erosion control, and protection from floods;
4. Commercial and recreational marine fisheries with a total economic effect of \$ 3.5 billion

In the State of Louisiana over 3 million acres of coastal marshes now exist. However, these coastal wetlands are threatened by degradation and destruction through overpopulation of nutria, an exotic rodent found throughout these wetlands. The Gulf Coast nutria population originated during the 1930s when captive animals were released or escaped into the wild. These animals established a population and began to thrive in coastal wetlands. Nutria weigh an average of 12 pounds each, average 4-5 young per litter, and have several litters each year. They are herbivores that eat wetland plants and vegetation, and they will pull and eat plant roots that anchor into the marsh. High populations of nutria foraging on marsh vegetation have resulted in vast areas of marsh becoming entirely void of plants. When a marsh is denuded of plant life by nutria, it is called an "eat-out" that may result in catastrophic damage to the habitat. When vegetation is removed from the surface of the marsh, the very fragile organic soils are exposed to erosion through tidal action. If damaged areas do not revegetate quickly, they will become open water as tidal scour removes soil and thus lowers elevation. Frequently, the plant root systems are also damaged, making recovery through regrowth of vegetation very slow.



Photos courtesy Louisiana Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries

Coastal wetlands in Louisiana are threatened by high populations of nutria, which can denude or "eat out" large areas of vegetation (above), leaving fragile marsh soils susceptible to erosion and destruction. Inset of fenced area shows what healthy marsh vegetation should look like.



Photo courtesy Louisiana Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries

Nutria are large, semi-aquatic rodents with prodigious appetites. They are not native to North America and are an invasive species. Regulated trapping of nutria helps prevent erosion of fragile wetlands while providing trappers with valuable food and fur.

The first region-wide aerial survey to estimate nutria herbivory damage was conducted in 1993 because reduced trapping resulting from lower fur prices allowed nutria, and eat-outs, to increase. In 1998, the coast-wide aerial surveys were implemented on an annual basis in the spring of each year following the trapping season. The number of eat-outs and the severity of the damage continued to increase, with only a small portion of the damaged acres demonstrating vegetation recovery. In 1999, wetland damage in Louisiana attributable to nutria was conservatively estimated to exceed 97,271 acres. The estimate is conservative because only the worst, most obvious damage can be detected from aerial surveys. The number of acres being impacted was certainly much higher.

The long term effect of these eat-outs is permanent. Vegetation damage caused by overpopulation of nutria aggravates other erosional processes. Coastal marshes are being lost at an alarming rate as a result of erosion, subsidence (lowering of land), saltwater intrusion, and the lack of silt-laden river water available to continue the process of marsh-building. Once gone, these acres of productive marsh cannot be replaced, and all their positive benefits and values are lost with them. Nutria also cause damage to rice and sugarcane fields, as well as to drainage canal dikes and roadways. In some areas they have severely reduced the success of wetland restoration efforts by feeding on planted grasses and trees.

Because of the tremendous destruction of this important habitat type that is home to literally hundreds of species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, control of nutria is among the top priorities of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). Regulated trapping is the predominant method used in management of nutria populations. Licensed trappers harvest nutria during regulated seasons. If nutria are valuable enough, licensed trapper effort – and therefore nutria harvest – increases, resulting in reduced herbivory damage to the coastal wetlands.

To enhance this economic incentive, LDWF implemented a coast-wide program through the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection Restoration Act (CWPPRA) in 2002 to reduce the nutria population in the wake of a worldwide fur market collapse. The methodology of this program was to offer a \$5.00 incentive payment to registered trappers during the nutria trapping season for every nutria tail turned in to a certified collection station. The goal of this program was to harvest 400,000 nutria annually to reduce nutria herbivory in coastal wetlands. The program has been very successful in reducing nutria populations and damage to wetlands in coastal Louisiana. Since the first year of the control program, 2002-2003, an average of 331,987 nutria have been harvested per year and the number of damaged acres continues to decrease in areas of high hunter/trapper effort. Since the program's implementation, the 82,080 damaged acres documented in the 2002-2003 season have been reduced to 4,624 after the 2012-2013 season. The total harvest of nutria over the 11 seasons has reached 3,570,163. Such controlled and managed utilization of wildlife allows managers to protect coastal wetlands by keeping nutria populations at levels suitable with existing habitat conditions.

Trapping to Eradicate an Invasive Species

While regulated trapping conducted primarily by licensed members of the public for cultural, utilitarian, and management purposes was used to control nutria in Louisiana, professional government agents charged with resolving wildlife-human conflicts were employed to eradicate nutria from the Chesapeake Bay. Trapping by government agents is typically directed at quickly reducing the density of a local furbearer population (or sometimes to remove a specific animal or two) that is causing significant property, livestock, and/or other kinds of damage; presents a significant threat to public safety; or directly threatens the continued survival of rare or endangered species. Because it is conducted by government personnel for animal control or wildlife research purposes, is not typically subject to season or harvest restrictions, and does not involve the sale of pelts, this type of trapping is not comparable to conventional regulated trapping. However, the tools and the skills involved are essentially identical.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services (WS) program provides leadership to help resolve wildlife conflicts (see page 24). In 2002, the agency was recruited to participate in a Chesapeake Bay Nutria Eradication Project. Nutria are invasive, non-native, South American rodents first released into Dorchester County, Maryland in 1943. Nutria did not evolve in Maryland's wetland ecosystems, therefore no natural controls (nutria predators/diseases/browse-resistant plants) exist to limit their growth and expansion.

Consequently, succeeding population increases and range expansion resulted in established populations in at least eight Maryland counties and unknown expanses of Delaware and Virginia. Populations on 10,000 acres of the Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CMNWRC) Blackwater Unit grew from less than 150 animals in 1968 to as many as 50,000 in 1998. Populations found in the remainder of the Chesapeake Bay region were incalculable, but may have exceeded several hundred thousand nutria.

Loss or degradation of Maryland's coastal marshes has expanded to alarming proportions, not only affecting wildlife, but also citizens of the Chesapeake Bay region. It is estimated that between 45 - 65% of Maryland's wetlands have been lost since the 1700s. Several factors influence wetland loss in the Chesapeake Bay watershed including sea-level rise, salt water intrusion, land subsidence, groundwater withdrawal for irrigation, erosion (flood, tide, and wind driven), and herbivory by overabundant wildlife including invasive species. Nowhere has this trend been more dramatic than at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) where approximately 50% of its emergent marshes (5,000 acres) have been converted to shallow open water habitats since the introduction of nutria.

Nutria foraging behavior damages or destroys the root mat that binds the marsh together and maintains existing elevation levels. When this fibrous network is compromised, emergent marshlands are quickly reduced to unconsolidated mudflats. These areas, in turn, are highly susceptible to erosion, and are eventually converted to open water systems. This downward-

spiraling progression influences the distribution and status of hundreds of other marsh species.

The region's marshlands function as sediment and contaminant traps, and are nursery grounds for the largest and most productive estuarine ecosystem in North America. The health of the Bay proper is chiefly dependent on the quality of its marshes and tidal wetlands, hence the degradation of these habitats was estimated to cause millions of dollars in lost fisheries and related revenue every year. In an effort to determine the relative impact of nutria versus other factors contributing to marsh loss, fenced exclosures (30 meters square) designed to exclude Nutria were erected in damaged marshes throughout Blackwater NWR in the mid-1990s. Very quickly, damaged wetlands protected from continuous nutria herbivory began to recover, while adjacent wetlands continued their precipitous decline. This experiment identified nutria herbivory as a key catalyst leading to the rapid conversion of emergent marsh to open water habitat. It also suggested that eradicating nutria could enable some partially damaged marshes to recover on their own.

In 1993, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) established the first multi-agency task force to investigate potential approaches to combat feral nutria populations. During the following 10 years, the task force established a Nutria Control Partnership and developed a draft eradication plan. Passage of the the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 authorized sustained federal funding of the Project. From 2002 until 2006, the WS program



Photo by USDA Wildlife Services

An aerial view of a fenced enclosure designed to exclude nutria demonstrates that marsh recovery is relatively rapid if the nutria are removed from the system. Such results provided scientific proof that eradicating the invasive species could help restore the marshlands.

was recruited to assess the feasibility of eradicating nutria. WS employees successfully applied eradication tools (trapping and hunting) and strategies across 100,000 acres in Dorchester County. Since then, WS has expanded the eradication zone to include portions of several counties in Maryland and adjacent sections of Delaware and Virginia. To date, all moderate to high-density populations have been reduced to near zero on over 150,000 wetland acres. The Project now includes the entire Delmarva peninsula and has been renamed the Chesapeake Bay Nutria Eradication Project (CBNEP).

Emphasis has now (2014/2015) shifted from large-scale aggressive reduction of high-density populations to a more focused

detection and removal of remaining low-density populations on the Delmarva Peninsula's remaining 350,000 acres of potential nutria habitat. After this is accomplished, all areas will be monitored vigilantly for 2-3 years before eradication can be proclaimed.

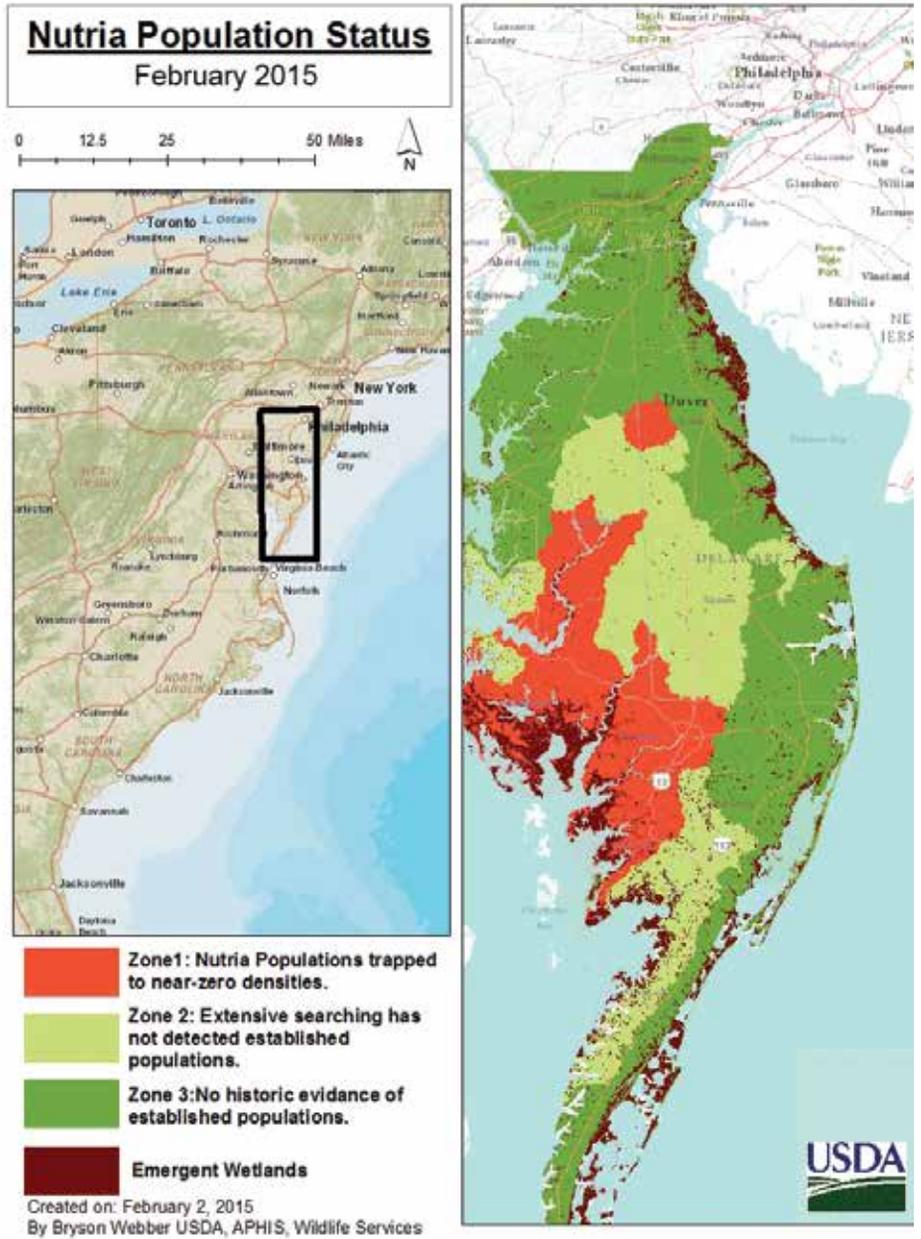
The Project combines modern technology and science with the traditional skills of hunting and trapping. Trapping has proven the most efficient and effective control tool available, and accounts for over 80% of nutria harvested by the CBNEP. Hunting accounts for the remaining animals taken. After populations have been dramatically reduced by trapping, hunting with the aid of dogs is an important strategy to remove isolated individuals.

Although demanding, it is not difficult to quickly trap large numbers of animals in areas with established populations. Conversely, it is extremely challenging to locate and remove the last few nutria. Not all nutria are susceptible to capture in each trap device and no single trap type or harvest tool will take all individuals. To accomplish the goal of eradication, a variety of tools and strategies are necessary. Of the nutria that were trapped, approximately 79% were taken with quick-kill traps and 19% with foothold traps. The remainder were captured in cage traps or with cable restraints. Although quick-kill traps account for the majority of captures, foothold traps are irreplaceable in some environments and situations. After the bulk of a population is

eliminated with kill traps, foothold traps become crucial in the removal of remaining animals.

The CBNEP is now entering its final phase. Efforts are concentrated on identification and removal of small, disjunct populations and isolated individuals. It has become glaringly apparent that regardless of all the technological advances in modern society, eradication would not be possible without the systematic utilization of time honored and tested trapping skills and equipment.

Below, photos of the habitat at Cod's Point Marsh on Chesapeake Bay taken before (left) and after (right) the successful nutria eradication program show the drastic damage the invasive species was causing, and the dramatic recovery of the habitat following elimination of that species. While trapping was not the only technique used to remove the rodents, it played a very significant role. In this case, traps and highly experienced trappers proved to be a very effective tool in the eradication of the invasive species and the habitat damage it caused. It must be understood, however, that the year round "eradication" trapping (and shooting) required to achieve this accomplishment has a far different goal than standard regulated furbearer trapping.



Photos by USDA Wildlife Services



Wildlife Services – A Leader in Managing Human-Wildlife Conflicts

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services (WS) program provides leadership to help resolve human-wildlife conflicts. Program activities include agriculture, property, and natural resource protection; threatened and endangered species conservation; public health and safety; and wildlife disease surveillance and management. WS managers, biologists, and researchers address conflicts using an integrated approach and rely on a variety of methods and techniques, including trapping (see pages 22-23).

Historically, most WS trapping activities were focused on livestock protection, but today the program's biologists and technicians also use a wide variety of traps to protect native species, remove wildlife from areas where they cause damage or pose a risk (such as at airports), and conduct monitoring, disease surveillance, and research. For instance, WS airport biologists often trap and relocate raptors from airports; field specialists trap predators to enhance the survival rates of endangered and threatened species such as the California least tern, sea turtles, and Steller's eider; researchers trap and radio-collar a variety of species for ecological and behavioral studies, and rabies biologists may trap, sample, and release as many as 7,000 meso-carnivores annually to monitor rabies management activities.

Foothold traps remain one of the most important capture techniques used by wildlife professionals. WS field biologists and technicians rely on trap research conducted by the WS National Wildlife Research Center and others to enhance efficiency and to conduct successful wildlife damage management projects throughout the United States. For more than 50 years, WS has engaged in collaborative research to improve animal traps and trapping systems. Most of this effort has focused on improving the humaneness, efficiency, selectivity, and safety of traps, with results leading to greatly improved designs for foothold and box traps, snares and cable restraints, trap monitors, and trap tranquilizers.

Beginning in 1983, WS researchers tested padded jaw traps and subsequently worked with a trap manufacturer to produce a trap for coyotes that reduced injuries while still effectively capturing animals. During the 1960s, researchers, field specialists, and others recognized an occasional need to sedate animals captured in foothold traps. WS researchers identified and tested a variety of drugs for use in a tranquilizer trap device that could reduce stress and potential injury to the animal caused by the trap, and also prevent animals from escaping. From that research, the sedative propiopromazine hydrochloride (PPZH) was registered and is currently used in some areas where coyotes and wolves are caught in foothold traps for research purposes.

Researchers and field specialists have also worked with trap manufacturers and others to assess and modify pan tension devices for traps, improve predator capture devices using cable restraints, and develop trap monitoring systems. WS also

funds and is actively involved in the national effort to evaluate traps according to international standards for animal welfare and to develop "Best Management Practices" guidelines for trapping furbearers in collaboration with state wildlife management agencies and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

WS and various partners continue efforts to develop, improve, and effectively use traps and capture devices to help ensure that trapping remains a valuable and effective wildlife management tool.

Wildlife Services experts use a variety of traps, including foothold traps like this one, for wildlife management and research. During Nutria eradication efforts (see following section), quick-kill, foothold, and cage traps all played a part in the success of the program.



Photo by USDA Wildlife Services

Trapper/Agency Cooperation Protects Canada Lynx and Trapping Traditions

Trapping in areas where furbearing animals co-occur with threatened or endangered species presents unique challenges and requirements for both the trapper and the state wildlife agency that issues the trapping license. Under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), the unintentional or incidental trapping of a federally protected species, even if the animal is not injured, is prohibited and considered a “take”. The ESA defines take as: “To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct ...”. The trapper, state agency, and the federal government all have responsibilities for minimizing the take of a federally protected species. These responsibilities can be formalized through agreements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), typically with a Habitat Conservation Plan Permit. This permit is issued when the USFWS is assured that sufficient measures will be undertaken to minimize and mitigate for the incidental take of a federally listed species.

The Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) is a federally threatened species. Thirty-three years before the Canada lynx was listed as threatened, the State of Maine, through its legislature, took the first step to protect this species by closing the bounty on lynx and prohibiting the hunting and trapping of lynx. Since that time, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) initiated a number of measures to decrease the chances that a lynx will be incidentally trapped, including modifying its trapper education program, providing outreach materials to trappers, and instituting regulatory changes that modified how traps can be set or placed. Maine trappers have worked hand-in-hand with MDIFW in developing methods to reduce incidental take and in promptly reporting lynx that are incidentally trapped.

In Maine, lynx are most likely to be incidentally caught by trappers targeting coyotes and fox with foothold traps, and occasionally by trappers pursuing marten and fisher with quick-kill traps. To minimize the chances of lynx being caught in traps, MDIFW biologists worked with the USFWS and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to



Photo courtesy of John Organ

Biologists with Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife examine lynx kittens during research work to monitor the population and reproductive status of the species in the state.

develop the booklet “How to Avoid the Incidental Take of Lynx”^(12a). MDIFW also passed regulations that restricted the size and placement of quick-kill traps and the use of visible bait and attractants when trapping. Even with these efforts, a few lynx are incidentally caught each year in foothold traps. Most lynx can be released with little or no injury thanks to the foothold trap design, the trappers’ immediate notification of a capture, and MDIFW’s deployment of wardens and biologists to assist with the release and examination of captured lynx. Perhaps the best example of the trapping community working with MDIFW to minimize the take of lynx is the development of lynx exclusion devices, which further protect lynx from quick-kill traps while providing more options for trap placement (i.e., on the ground or in elevated sets). The Maine Trappers Association approached MDIFW with the idea of building a box or cage over the quick-kill trap that had an opening that would allow a marten or fisher to access the baited trap, but would prevent a lynx from reaching the trap. MDIFW tested various configurations of this device and found them to effectively exclude lynx. These exclusion devices are now being legally used in Maine.



Photo by Maine DIFW

Maine’s wildlife biologists conducted a 12 year research project starting in 1999 during which 85 adult lynx were captured with foothold traps, fitted with radio collars, and released unharmed. As a result, biologists were able to learn much about lynx habitat use, movements, home range, reproduction, and survival. They also discovered that fisher – a species harvested by trappers in the core lynx range during a regulated season – killed about 10% of the collared lynx. This information would have been unobtainable if traps were not allowed for harvesting furbearers or research.

The Maine Trappers Association approached MDIFW with the idea of building a box or cage over the quick-kill trap that had an opening that would allow a marten or fisher to access the baited trap, but would prevent a lynx from reaching the trap. MDIFW tested various configurations of this device and found them to effectively exclude lynx. These exclusion devices are now being legally used in Maine.

MDIFW has been sued twice by groups who wished to stop the further incidental trapping of lynx. In response to these lawsuits, MDIFW developed an Incidental Take Plan and received a Habitat Conservation Plan Permit in fall 2014. For lynx, this Plan provides assurances that the measures MDIFW already had in place to minimize the take of lynx will be maintained, and it also provides provisions for MDIFW, in consultation with USFWS and trappers, to further protect lynx if necessary. Maine’s trappers have been consulted throughout this process and have provided valuable input. The Incidental Take Permit, in combination with MDIFW’s Plan, provides assurances to the general public and to Maine’s trapping community that trappers can continue to pursue their avocation without detriment to Maine’s lynx population.



Photo courtesy of John Organ



A red fox displays the fatal results of sarcoptic mange. The disease is density-dependent in that the mites which cause it must be spread by direct contact with an infected animal or its bedding. When population densities are high, animals come into contact more frequently, and diseases such as mange spread rapidly.

Disease Control

The influence of trapping on the occurrence and spread of wildlife diseases has not been established definitively, despite claims by both opponents and proponents of trapping. However, disease occurrence in wildlife populations is often associated with high densities of animals.⁽⁹⁾ Reducing local densities of furbearer populations through harvests can reduce disease transmission and potential for human contact. While the disease

may persist in the population, the intensity of outbreaks may be reduced. In a study conducted in Canada, severity of fox rabies outbreaks were reduced by heavy, government-funded trapping, while normal furbearer harvests showed little effect. However, it was also noted that high levels of regular trapper harvest in southern Ontario decreased the severity, if not the frequency, of rabies outbreaks in red foxes.⁽¹⁰⁾ Intensive, government-funded trapping was also shown

effective in controlling an epizootic of skunk rabies in Alberta.⁽¹¹⁾

The only definitive statements that may be made on the subject of disease control at this time are that regulated trapping will not (and is not designed to) eradicate diseases; very intensive trapping may help control diseases; and the relationship of normal furbearer harvests to disease occurrence and intensity in wildlife populations is not yet well understood.



Photo by Coleen Offenbuttel / North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

The Facts on Regulated Trapping

People have continuously used furbearers in North America for clothing, food and religious ceremonies for the past 11,000 years. Furbearer resources had a greater influence than any other factor on European settlement and exploration of the continent. Many cities and towns in North America, including Quebec, P.Q., Albany, NY, Chicago, IL, St. Louis, MO and Springfield, MA, were founded as fur trading centers where Europeans bartered with Native Americans for furs. The trapping and trading of furbearer resources is a heritage that still continues as an important component in the lifestyles of many people in our society. Whether in an industrial, urban, rural, or remote setting, trapping and fur are still of

cultural and economic importance and furbearers continue to be utilized and managed as abundant, renewable natural resources.

The economic impact of managing furbearer resources is enormous: the multi-billion dollar fur industry annually generates millions of dollars to North American trapper households, wholesalers, processors, garment makers and the retail clothing industry. There are also economic values derived from reduced damage to property and agriculture; personal uses of fur, hides, meat and other products; license revenues; goods and services sold to the public who trap and hunt; and the enhancement of economic activity and the redistribution of money into rural communities. Many

remote communities in Alaska and northern Canada are dependent on the sale of pelts.⁽¹³⁾ Trappers in South Carolina report that 9.3 percent of their family income is derived from trapping.⁽¹⁴⁾ The food value of furbearers can be equal to or greater than the market value of their pelts. Even in an industrialized state like Massachusetts, 28% of trappers report they use furbearers as a food source for themselves or their pets.⁽¹⁵⁾

In addition to economic values, trapping has many social values. In Vermont for example, gardening, child care, fire wood gathering, harvesting of wild foods, home and automobile maintenance, animal husbandry, and community volunteer work are bartered for trapping and furbearer products in

Trapping is a Lifestyle

Historically, people in the United States and Canada looked to the land to secure food and provide for their households. Being independent, self-sufficient and hard working, providing for one's family, being a steward of the land — these values and lifestyles are traditionally and distinctly part of the fabric of our society and culture, and they remain present today.

Trapping is an annual seasonal activity in which many people in North America currently participate. Sociologists and other researchers have begun to document the importance of trapping in the lives of these people who still look to the land — including the utilization of wildlife — as part of their lifestyle. This lifestyle is often not understood by the larger segment of society whose members no longer hunt, trap, fish, raise their own vegetables, cut their own firewood or look to the land in other ways to provide for their households.

People who trap in the arctic and sub-arctic regions of the continent often fit our image of traditional trappers. In Canada and Alaska more than 35,000 aboriginal people participate in the trapping of furbearers. These trappers are motivated by the need to secure sustenance (food and clothing) for their families. Fur trapping can be particularly important to them due to the remoteness of their communities, and may provide an essential source of income during certain times of the year. Many of the cultural values and traditions of these people are passed along from generation to generation through the seasonal rituals of trapping. Trapping teaches their youngsters survival and subsistence skills and provides a meaningful fall and winter activity that helps instill a sense of responsibility to their families and communities.

The attitudes of trappers in the more developed areas of North America mirror the motives of their northern contemporaries. Approximately 270,000 families in the United States and Canada derive some income from trapping, but households that embrace a trapping lifestyle are often not apparent in suburban areas with a diverse mix of cultures. Researchers have documented and described a very vibrant trapping culture even within the urbanized northeastern United States. People who trap in this region list several motives for why they participate in trapping: lifestyle orientation, nature appreciation, wildlife management, affiliation with other people, self-sufficiency, and income (sometimes complimentary, sometimes critical, to the household budget). A universal theme expressed by many trappers is that trapping is a principal component of their lifestyle: it defines them and has deep meaning as an enduring, central life interest.

Trapping in today's society has often been referred to as "recreational" in the context of a "sport," yet as the sociological studies have revealed, the term is a misnomer. It fails to consider the motives of the hundreds of trappers surveyed. People who trap tend to express strong support for conservation programs and environmental protection. They may also cut firewood, raise their own vegetables, hunt and fish. For these people, the opportunity to harvest fish and wildlife contributes to a sense of self-reliance and independence. Studies in New England and elsewhere reveal that trappers barter furbearer pelts, products and trapping services (to remove nuisance wildlife causing property damage) in exchange for childcare, automobile repair, vegetables and other goods and services.

Whether they are aboriginal people living in Canada and Alaska, or people living in suburban or rural areas of New England, Louisiana, or industrialized southern Ontario, a common link among all trappers is that they value the capability of the land to produce wild animals and plants they can use to bring sustenance into their households (e.g. meat for food, pelts for clothing, and/or money to buy household goods). For many, trapping is an integral part of their life, a link to the land, a crucial element in their relationship to nature. With proper management of wildlife resources, people today can still choose to participate in this lifestyle as societies have done since the beginning of time. This is a unique opportunity and experience for people in the United States and Canada that can no longer be pursued throughout most of Europe or the rest of the industrialized world.⁽¹⁶⁾



Photo by Scott Smith, NYS DEC

some communities.⁽¹⁷⁾ This “hidden economy” may have social and economic significance in many rural communities all over the continent.

Trapping, along with the heritage and self-sufficient lifestyle it represents, has a cultural and social role in today’s society and is much more than a “consumptive use” of wildlife. **Trapping can instill a strong appreciation for wildlife and the environment.** Sociological studies show that trappers have an exceptional degree of factual understanding of animals and are outstanding and unusual in their knowledge of wildlife. Trappers, through their outdoor experience and use and knowledge of wildlife, are unique. The relationship they have with land and wildlife underlies a strong sense of stewardship for the environment.⁽¹⁸⁾

Traps & Technique

The capture and harvest of furbearers has changed markedly since early times. Modern trapping

is not comparable to the reckless exploitation of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Today trapping is heavily regulated, involving some of the most complex laws that deal with wildlife, enforced with stiff fines and penalties that ensure the integrity of the activity. Overall, the regulations are designed to protect furbearer populations and make trapping as humane and efficient as possible.

Many people unfamiliar with modern trapping think of traps as big, powerful devices with jack-o’-lantern teeth on the jaws. This stereotypical image of the trap is based on the obsolete designs that were used to capture bears many years ago. Those old bear traps are collector items today. Such dangerous and destructive devices have no use in modern furbearer trapping. Today, sizes and types of traps and their use are regulated, and many sizes and types of traps are no longer allowed. Trappers must check their traps within specific time intervals and are restricted

or prohibited from setting traps in certain areas. Most jurisdictions require that live-restraining traps be checked daily.

Trapping is Highly Regulated

Within the United States and Canada, state, provincial or territorial fish and wildlife agencies have legal authority and pass laws governing furbearer resources. There are various types of laws that apply to trapping within each jurisdiction, and they are enforced by local environmental police, conservation officers and/or game wardens. Laws that regulate trapping by various means include the following:

- ◆ Mandatory licensing of trappers
- ◆ Mandatory daily checking of traps
- ◆ Mandatory trapper education
- ◆ Restricted seasons for trapping
- ◆ Restrictions on the size of traps
- ◆ Restricted areas for trapping certain species
- ◆ Restrictions on the types of traps
- ◆ Mandatory tagging of traps to identify owner

Professional wildlife biologists monitor the populations of furbearing animals. Scientific studies are conducted to ensure that these species are managed properly. In addition, research focused on the traps themselves identifies which traps work best with each species, and which need improvements. New and improved traps are continually being developed.

Environmental Police Officers, Conservation Officers or Game Wardens enforce trapping laws and regulations throughout the United States and Canada.



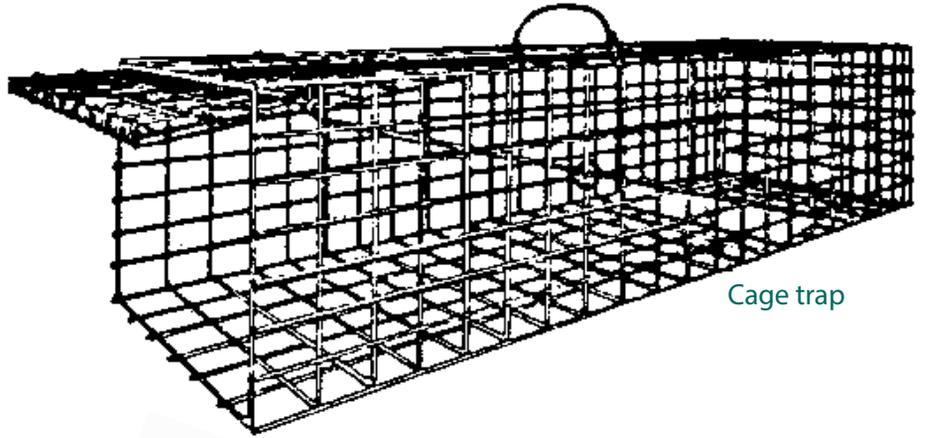
Photo by Bill Byrne

Basic Trap Designs

Modern traps fall into two main categories: quick-kill type traps and live-restraining traps. Kill type traps are designed to quickly kill the captured animal, much like a common mousetrap. Live-restraining traps can be separated into cage traps, foothold traps, and cable restraint systems.

Cage traps: Cage traps are baited wire enclosures with one or two doors that close and lock when the animal steps on a pan or treadle. They work well for animals that are not averse to entering holes or cages, but are ineffective for capturing wary species such as foxes and coyotes. Cage traps come in a variety of sizes designed to catch animals from mice to raccoons. They are, however, expensive, bulky, heavy to handle, and are not practical or efficient in many trapping situations.

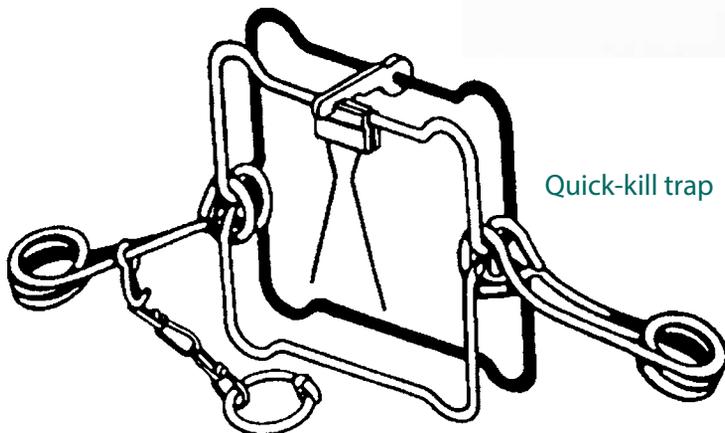
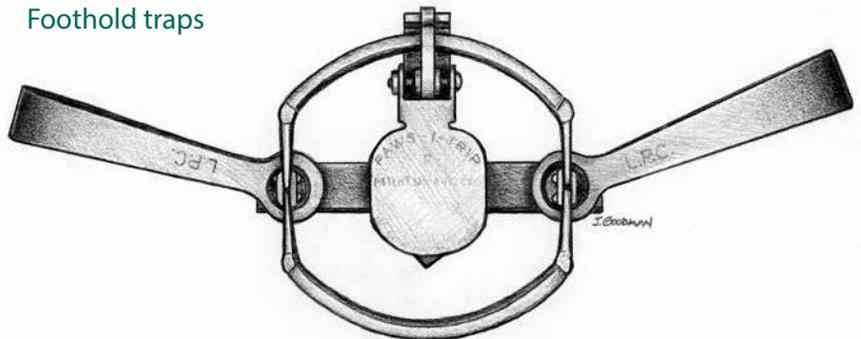
Foothold traps: Foothold traps typically have two metal jaws, sometimes covered with rubber, that are closed by springs released when the animal steps on the trigger pan. Other specialized foot encapsulating devices – such as the “EGG” trap and other species-specific designs (see pages 32 and 34) as well as passive or spring-loaded cable restraint devices – are also available for use in certain states and provinces.



Cage trap



Foothold traps



Quick-kill trap

There are four basic trap designs – cage, quick-kill, foothold, and cable restraint – and many variations of each. Cage traps (top) are live holding traps that restrain an animal in a portable cage. Kill-type designs (left), also known as quick-kill traps, dispatch furbearers quickly with a hard blow to the head, neck or body in the same manner that a common mouse trap kills a mouse. Foothold traps (three models above) are live-restraining traps that typically have a set of spring-activated jaws designed to close on an animal's foot across or just above the foot pad. They are not designed to close on an animal's leg, as is commonly believed, and hence are properly called foothold, rather than leghold, traps. Set under water, they can also function as kill traps.

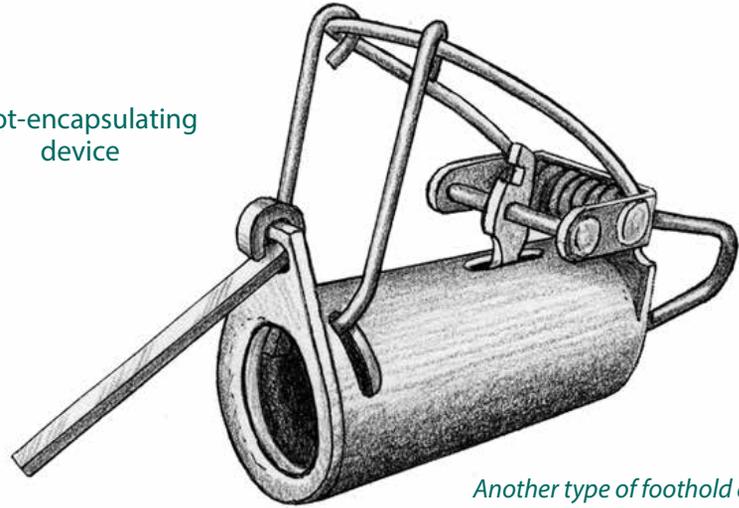
Typical foothold traps are categorized by the type of spring (e.g. coil, jump, or long spring), and are made in different sizes appropriate for catching animals as small as weasels and as large as coyotes and lynx. When set, the jaws of foothold traps typically range from 3 1/2 - 7 inches in spread. These traps are designed to hold an animal by gripping the toes or foot (not the leg, as is commonly believed) across or just above the foot pad. This prevents the captured animal from slipping the trap off its foot. As an option, foothold traps can be set in water to submerge a captured animal, and can thereby function as kill traps.

Cable restraints: Cable restraint devices are specialized types of snares that employ modern modifications such as flexible cable, relaxing locks, and breakaway stops and fasteners to restrain animals without injury. Trappers use cable restraints to capture fox, coyote, and wolf by suspending the loop within a travelway used by the species of interest. The loop is usually held in place by a piece of light wire. As the animal enters the device, its own forward progress draws the loop tight around the body. The animal is then held alive when the trapper arrives to check the set. These devices can also be set underwater to function as kill sets.

Choosing the Appropriate Trap

Choice of trap style depends on the specific situation and the furbearer species that is being targeted. Cage traps or foot-encapsulating traps are an excellent choice for raccoon, skunk and opossum when trapping near residential areas in wildlife damage management situations. Quick-kill type traps are very

Foot-encapsulating device



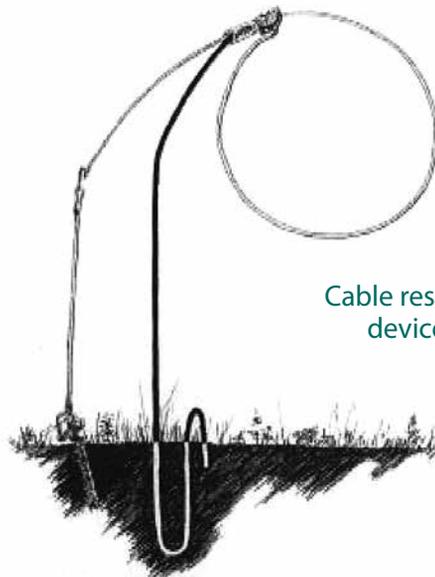
effective when used for marten, mink, fisher, muskrat, otter, and beaver. Kill-type traps are considered to be efficient and humane because animals rarely escape, and loss of consciousness and death are rapid. However, kill-type traps do not allow for release of “nontarget” animals (animals the trapper does not want to harvest). Also, fox and coyotes will rarely enter kill-type traps. For these species especially, foothold traps remain the most effective trap (and allow for release of nontarget animals).

Foothold traps do not have to be big and powerful in order to hold an

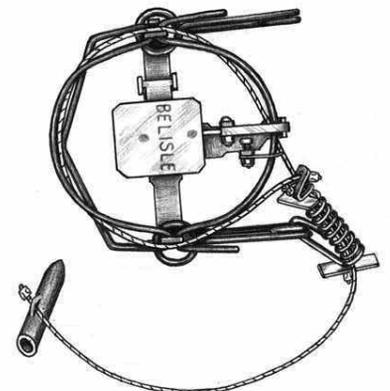
Another type of foothold design is the foot-encapsulating trap. These include the egg trap pictured on page 34, as well as the design illustrated above. They are very effective for capturing furbearers such as raccoons that will readily reach into cavities.

Cable restraint traps, like those illustrated below, are specialized types of snares designed to restrain furbearers until the trapper arrives to check the set. They are particularly effective for capturing coyotes, foxes, and other canids that won't enter cage traps, and may be suspended at specific heights to collar individual species, or can be incorporated into a spring device (below, right) to catch and hold animals with a foot cable that functions in much the same way as a foothold trap.

continued, page 36



Cable restraint devices



Each trap design is superior to the others for specific applications, species, and situations.

Research & Development

Improving Traps with Science

Wildlife agencies, as well as the public who trap, have long been interested in developing and refining traps and trapping techniques to further improve the welfare of furbearers captured for research, wildlife damage and disease control, fur and food. The overriding goal has been to design traps that will hold target species unharmed, or in the case of kill-type traps, dispatch them as quickly as possible. Foothold, cable restraint, cage and kill-type trap designs have all been improved substantially in these respects over the past 100 years, and new and improved models are replacing older designs. While the production of a new trap once required little more than some imagination, engineering and marketing skills, today most trap improvements are confirmed using sound scientific information.

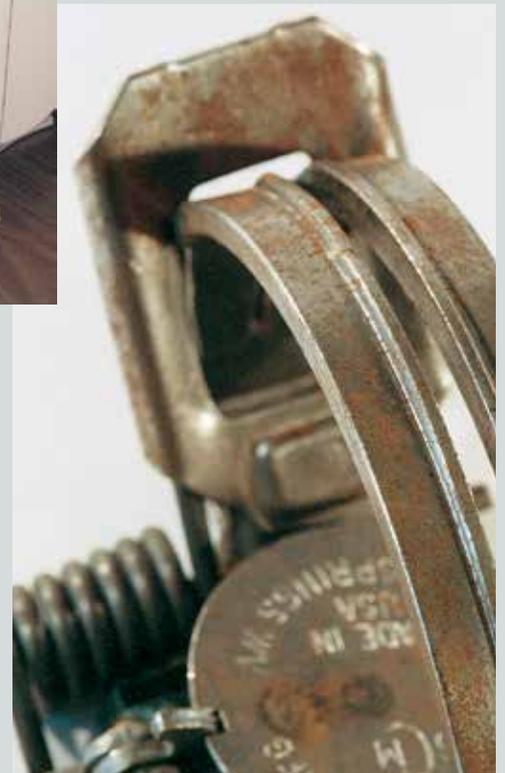


Modern trap evaluation is a comprehensive process that typically begins with mechanical evaluation, followed by computer simulation (left). Continual research has resulted in design modifications. These include double jaws (above), offset jaws and wide-edge jaws (combined on the trap below).



Photo courtesy Fur Institute of Canada

Trap performance can only be verified through a comprehensive process that evaluates all components of a trapping system. In order to ensure the scientific credibility of results, trap research programs must incorporate appropriate study designs and include rigorous multi-stage testing. Today, various stages of trap research may include: (1) mechanical evaluation of traps; (2) trap performance testing using computer simulation models; (3) study of how animals approach traps; (4) trap performance testing in fenced enclosures; (5) trap performance testing in the field; and finally (6) confirmation tests utilizing independent trappers. Many trap designs have been evaluated to this degree and tested under a variety of conditions throughout the United States and Canada. These evaluation studies have provided important contributions to animal welfare by improving the performance of trapping systems.



Ongoing scientific research aimed at the development of improved traps has resulted in entirely new designs such as the egg trap (at left in photo), a modern foot-encapsulating design used specifically to take raccoons and other predators that will readily reach into cavities. Soft-catch (at right in photo) is a modern update of a traditional foothold design. This trap system not only incorporates specially padded jaws, but also a shock-absorbing spring and double swivels proven to reduce the chance of injury to captured animals.

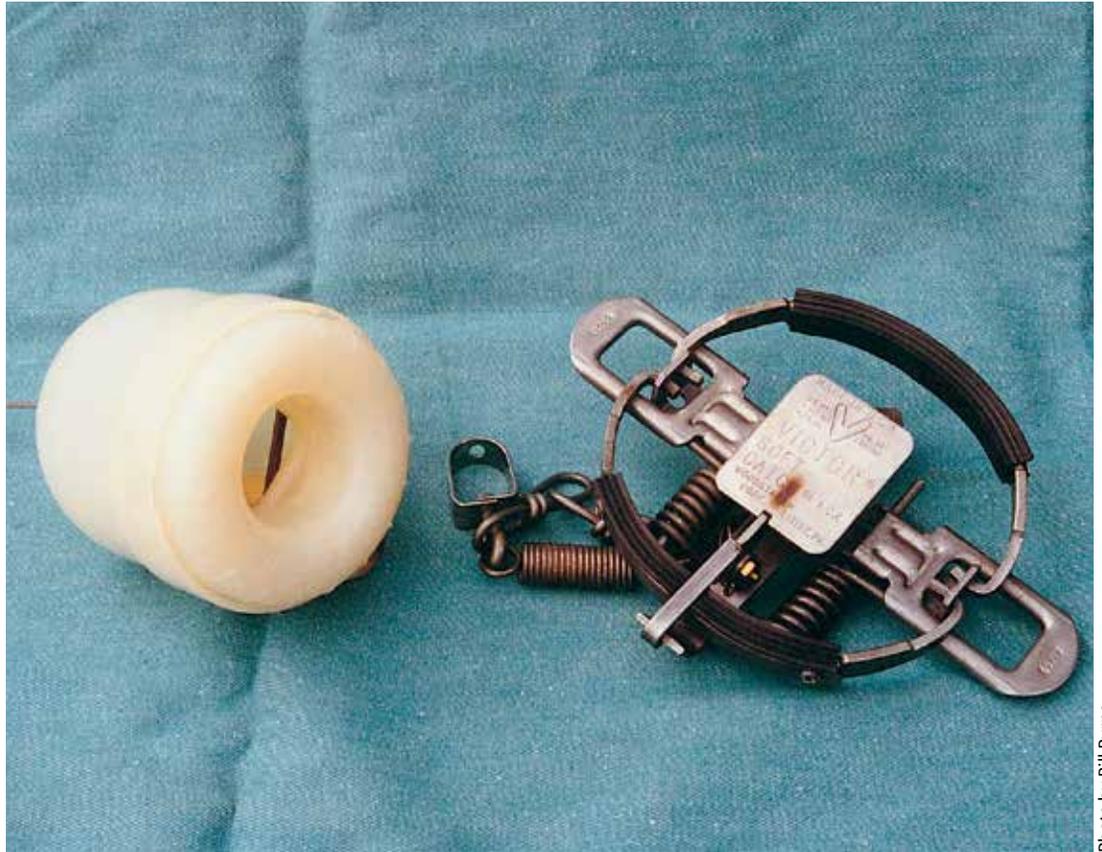


Photo by Bill Byrne

While many people and organizations talk about improving trapping, only a few have provided funding for developing new traps and improving older designs. Trap research in North America has been funded jointly by the governments of Canada and the United States, the International Fur Federation, state and provincial wildlife departments, and the Fur Institute of Canada. Wildlife agencies utilize the research findings of trap studies funded by these organizations to assess and incorporate new information into trapping regulations and trapper education programs. While research has provided the information to develop and test entirely new trap designs (such as the “EGG” trap, the synthetic (non-metal) jawed Rudy trap, and the Belisle foot snare) for particular species, modifications to existing kill traps and foothold traps are also of great importance. Adjusting chain length, adding swivels and shock absorbers to the chain, providing for adjustable pan tension, and/or replacing jaws with offset, laminated or padded jaws can improve the welfare of captured furbearers, and researchers continue to explore other new and innovative design possibilities. Everyone is interested in using the best technology available for the responsible capture of furbearers.

Performance evaluation and the testing of killing and restraining traps in both the United States and Canada follow methods approved by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). These testing standards ensure that countries have internationally comparable data for evaluating trap performance. Modern trap evaluation is conducted in a framework that applies science to ensure the use of humane and safe traps whether for scientific study, animal management programs, protection of endangered species, or the sustainable utilization of wildlife resources by the public.

Trap research efforts today are well coordinated among the state and provincial wildlife agencies, cooperating Universities and federal agencies in the United States and Canada. Wildlife biologists, statisticians, engineers and specially trained wildlife technicians oversee trap-testing efforts conducted in North America. In the United States, 41 state wildlife agencies have participated in a coordinated national trap-testing program. In addition, the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services program has conducted important research on improving trapping devices. In Canada, trap-performance testing, research and development is coordinated by the Trap Research and Development Committee (TRDC) of the Fur Institute of Canada (FIC) with participation of all provincial/territorial wildlife agencies and trappers from across Canada. Much of this work is conducted at the Fur Institute of Canada’s Trap Research Center which is located within the Alberta Innovates Technology Futures research facility in Vegreville, Alberta. This is the most comprehensive and extensive trap research center in the world. Trap evaluation and testing programs under field conditions are often conducted in cooperation with provincial/territorial wildlife agencies and cooperating trappers. Research findings from the FIC-TRDC program are used both in the United States and Canada.

Using Science To Identify the Best Traps for Animal Welfare

Best Management Practices

State fish and wildlife agencies and USDA's Wildlife Services program are conducting a national effort to develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for regulated trapping in the United States. This effort is identifying and promoting the very best technology available to capture wildlife.⁽¹⁹⁾ These BMPs address five specific points relative to the use and performance of traps. These components are: the welfare of animals, the efficiency of the traps, the selectivity of the traps, the safety of trappers and other members of the public, and the practical application of various types of traps.

BMPs provide the information that will help make a trap and trapper function together in a manner that is safe, humane, effective, and selective. These documents describe the different types of traps and what training may be needed for people

who trap with them. BMPs are being recommended to all state fish and wildlife agencies for incorporation into regulated trapping programs and trapper education.

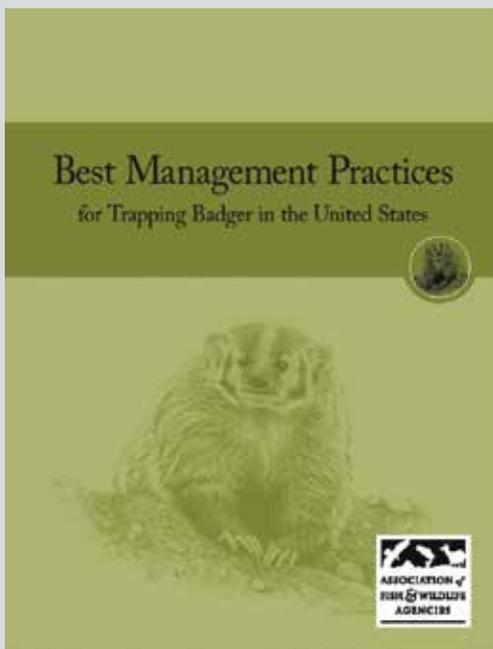
State wildlife biologists cooperating with specially trained wildlife veterinarians are designing and conducting trap research projects to identify the best traps available. All types of traps are being tested, including cage traps, cable restraint devices, foothold traps and killing type traps. Trap testing programs involving dozens of trapping systems are being conducted from Alaska to Maine to Louisiana. Since 1997, millions of dollars have been spent on trap testing programs to initiate the development of BMPs. State fish and wildlife agencies have dedicated thousands of hours of wildlife professionals' time to the successful completion of these projects. The testing is conducted under actual trapping conditions, on working trap lines, by experienced

trappers accompanied by trained wildlife technicians.

Everyone — managers, biologists, veterinarians and the public who trap — is interested in using the best technology available for the responsible capture of furbearers. Working towards this goal, state wildlife agencies will persist in their trap research efforts and continue developing BMPs. Basing BMPs on sound scientific and biological data will measurably improve the welfare of captured wildlife in the United States. As of 2014, 23 BMP documents have been developed. They are available at http://fishwildlife.org?section=best_management_practices.

Testing Traps in Canada

Canadian wildlife authorities are undertaking an approach similar to the BMPs through a cooperative effort among provincial/territorial agencies. The Canadian Trap Certification Protocol uses parameters of trap efficiency, humaneness and safety to approve traps for use in Canadian trapping and furbearer management programs. This program is coordinated by provincial wildlife agencies. Under the program, any provincial government authority may certify a trap according to the procedures prescribed in the Protocol. All traps used to capture furbearing species in Canada were certified according to the Protocol by 2007. The provincial/territorial agencies have agreed that all other authorities will mutually recognize the certification of a trap by any one authority. As trap testing results become available, additional traps will be certified for use in capturing various species.



Traps are subjected to intensive scientific evaluation in a continual effort to develop the best possible designs. As of 2015, 41 state fish and wildlife agencies have participated in the effort to develop BMPs. All 50 state fish and wildlife agencies support the development of trapping BMPs.

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animal. A foothold trap of the right size, correctly set, will typically catch and hold the target animal without significant injury. Cable restraints are often the best tool during late winter months when snow and freezing conditions may render traditional foothold traps ineffective.

Trappers Are Selective

The placement of the trap in relation to the lure and/or bait (as well as the type of bait or lure) greatly affects the selectivity of the trap set. An effective trapper wants to catch the animal targeted, instead of a nontarget species. Knowledge of animal behavior allows placement of traps on the target animal's line of travel such that, in many cases, the trapper needs no bait or lure at the set (blind set). Different lures used at other sets are usually attractive only to certain species of furbearers, and can be used to draw the target animals to the set. Trappers strive for knowledge of the target animal's habits to allow efficient capture while avoiding nontarget animals. This is the essence and challenge of trapping. The personal satisfaction and even



Photo by Dan Harrison

Foothold traps need not be large to be effective, as demonstrated by the trap used to capture this coyote. Foothold traps typically capture and hold animals with little or no injury and have been used to capture river otter, red wolves, and gray wolves (below) for reintroduction and restoration efforts in portions of the United States. The foothold trap is the only effective device, except for snares, for capturing certain furbearers such as coyotes, wolves, and foxes, and it remains one of the most important and effective capture devices used by wildlife professionals and fur trappers alike.

the economic return depend on having this knowledge and efficiency (see “Trapper Education”, facing page). With the selection of the right size trap, trapping location, the correct setting of pan tension, and the proper use of the device in

concert with lure and bait, trappers are extremely selective in what species their traps will capture. So, while traps as devices have some degree of selectivity, trappers further improve that selectivity.

Concern has been expressed over the relative risks of trapping to pets. As stated above, proper trap selection and placement will minimize nontarget captures. Trappers generally seek landowner permission (required in many jurisdictions) when trapping on private land, and scout for animal sign and presence before the trapping season. Most trappers avoid areas with evidence of domestic animal use because it interferes with opportunities to capture target species. Pets that are allowed to range freely and unsupervised are at greater risk from predators,



Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



The art of trapping is often a family tradition, handed down from generation to generation.

automobiles and other health threats than they are from traps. Regardless, in the few instances when pets or domestic animals are accidentally caught in foothold or box traps, they can usually be released unharmed.⁽²⁰⁾

trapper to become efficient; that is, to be able to set the proper trap in the appropriate manner and catch the intended animal. Certainly trappers are continually learning, but there is a base level of knowledge

that is much easier to learn from an experienced trapper than by trial and error on one's own. Trapper education programs have been instituted across North America and

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Trapper Education

There was a time when new or young trappers could easily find a friend or relative to teach them how to trap. To become effective, the trapper must learn animal behavior, wildlife habitat, types of traps, trap preparation, sets and lures for different animals, and care of the pelts. This knowledge allows the

Acquiring the base knowledge from experienced trappers starts beginners off right. To ensure that all new trappers know the proper skills and understand the activity, its many regulations, and their role in scientific wildlife management, first-time trappers in many states and all Canadian provinces and territories are now required to complete an official trapper education program.



Values* of Furbearers

Economic Values:

Many people benefit economically from the use of furs and other furbearer products.

Many people suffer economic loss from damage or depredation caused by furbearers.

Ecological Values:

Furbearers as predators and as prey help keep ecosystems in balance.

When ecosystems become unbalanced and the existence of certain species is endangered, predation by furbearers may increase their risk of extinction.

Beaver, and to a lesser extent, muskrats, alter habitat, often to the benefit of many other wildlife species. They, along with nutria, can also degrade habitat to the detriment of fish and other wildlife.

Cultural Values:

Trapping is a part of our cultural heritage. Its traditional skills, including respect for and knowledge of the outdoors, are passed along in many families from generation to generation.

Some members of the public retain a cultural heritage of utilizing furbearer meat to directly sustain their families and pets. Many use furbearer products and trapping to barter for other essentials.

Biological Values:

Furbearers can help us better understand human health problems, such as effects of environmental pollutants.

Furbearers can pose risks to humans through exposure to diseases and parasites.

Aesthetic Values:

Many people enjoy fur and furbearers.

Many people enjoy observing and photographing furbearers and their works (beaver ponds).

**Values can be both positive and negative.*



Photo by Thomas Decker

The art of trapping is a lifelong learning experience, often requiring trappers to enter habitats few people ever visit. Trapping may instill a strong appreciation toward wildlife and the environment. It typically fosters an exceptional understanding and knowledge of animals and a close relationship with the land. Here a trapper in New England checks a quick-kill trap set underwater in a beaver pond

Selectivity of the Trap-Trapper Unit

A trap is a mechanical device that, once set, will close only on objects heavy enough to release the pan or trigger. Observing this, those unfamiliar with trapping may assume that traps are not selective; that they will catch anything. This is not a correct assumption unless the trapper — the person required to set the inanimate device in the first place — is removed from consideration. Trap and trapper are part of the same equation; one cannot function without the other. Once this relationship is acknowledged, it is recognized that the trap-trapper unit is actually very selective in terms of what it will catch. Regulated trappers and wildlife researchers invariably set their traps in such a way that only the species (or sometimes even only the individual animal) they are targeting is likely to be captured. The numerous techniques trappers use to ensure their trap sets are selective include the following:

- ◆ **Location:** Where a trap is located determines to a great extent what animals are likely to enter it. Traps may be located underwater, in trees, near den sites, travel routes and loafing areas, or within other specific habitat types where nontarget species are never found or are unlikely to be found.
- ◆ **Type of Trap:** The use of certain types of traps virtually eliminates the chance that certain species will be captured. Foxes and coyotes, for instance, will rarely enter cage or kill-type traps. Foot-encapsulating devices are generally effective only for racoon, skunk, and opossum.
- ◆ **The Size of Trap:** The size of the trap determines to some extent what size animals it will capture.
- ◆ **Pan Tension:** Pan or trigger tension is adjustable on many traps. As a result, traps are often set so that only relatively heavy animals (such as beavers or coyotes) can spring them. Conversely, tension adjustment (and “breakaway” devices on cable restraints) may be set to release larger animals while safely holding smaller ones.
- ◆ **Lure or Bait:** Specific baits and lures, often used in conjunction with trap sets, are attractive to specific species of animals. Sweet corn, for instance, is attractive to raccoons, but not to bobcats. Lures in the form of urine or scent gland extracts are particularly attractive to the species from which the scent is derived; may even repel other species.
- ◆ **Position of Trigger:** Trigger configuration on kill-type traps can be set to allow nontarget species to pass through without setting off the trap.
- ◆ **Trap Set:** How a trap is handled or placed influences what animals can be captured. Wary species will avoid any trace of human scent, while others such as raccoons and skunks may be attracted to it. Fencing or other obstructions placed around a trap can prevent some species from approaching the trap.
- ◆ **Timing:** The timing of when traps are set during the trapping season can influence which gender and what age class of animals will be captured.

These same elements, all of which make traps highly selective in terms of what animals they will capture, are used not only in fur harvest trapping, but also in the live capture of animals for research and conservation programs, and for problem animal control and property damage situations.

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are mandatory in half of all states and all Canadian provinces and territories to ensure that beginning trappers acquire this fundamental knowledge before they set traps on their own.

In 2005, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) standardized the curriculum by developing performance guidelines recommended for all first time trappers and producing course materials and videos to implement the course. Standardizing the course allows for reciprocity across North America so that a government issued



Photo by Serge Larivière

A Cree trapper from Mistissini, Quebec, prepares an underwater trap set for beaver. Trapping is a crucial income producer in many remote communities.

certificate from any jurisdiction is accepted as proof of successfully completing the course in any jurisdiction.

The AFWA Trapper education program teaches basic trapping techniques in both field and classroom situations with a strong focus on the responsible treatment of animals, trapping regulations, the avoidance of nontarget animals, safety, selective trapping, trespass laws, ethical trapper behavior, and best management practices for trapping or BMPs (see page 35), which specify the most-effective outdoor trapping techniques and

A novice trapper learns how to set a foothold trap during a state trapper education class.

give practical tips on managing equipment.

Trappers are taught how to select and set the smallest and most effective traps for whatever furbearer species they wish to target. Many resources are available for free on the AFWA website (www.fishwildlife.org/) including the trapping BMP documents, the student manual, and an online course which covers the entire curriculum in Trapper Education. These programs are strongly supported by experienced trappers who often teach the courses in conjunction with wildlife agency personnel. The ethical and even spiritual ideals of trapping to take every animal with dignity, admiration, and respect are widely embraced. Information taught to beginning trappers provides them with a larger view of their role and the importance of trapping in an effective, responsible, and ethical manner.



Photo by John Olson

Trapping and Public Safety

Opponents of trapping frequently charge that people, especially children, are in danger of being caught and injured in traps. These charges naturally tend to heighten public concern about trapping. However, a nationwide search for

all recorded incidents of human injuries resulting from traps during the past 20 years documented only three that were associated with legal furbearer trapping.⁽²¹⁾ None resulted in serious injury. Trapping does not threaten public safety because the size, placement and use of traps are regulated to ensure the safety of humans and animals (see box, page 30).



The art of trapping frequently involves family and always requires a great deal of healthy, outdoor activity.

Photo by John Olson

Furbearer Management Options

The use of traps and trapping in furbearer management programs other than traditional fur harvesting can be divided into three major categories: **Wildlife Damage Management**, **Wildlife Research**, and **Reintroduction of Extirpated Wildlife**. Among these categories, which may be broad or narrow in geographic scope, there are a number of options, along with trapping, that wildlife biologists can consider to achieve the management objective. Selection of any option must take into account its practicality, effectiveness, legality, safety and cost. Typically, a combination of two or more techniques is used in most management situations in order to achieve maximum effectiveness and cost efficiency. The various technique options available to wildlife biologists for the three categories of furbearer management programs are presented below:

Options for Wildlife Damage Management

Wildlife damage management is typically undertaken as a response to a citizen's concerns over animals causing loss or other damage to personal property or resources. Livestock predation by coyotes and foxes, flooding by beavers, and agricultural crop damage by raccoons and muskrats are common examples of wildlife damage. Several management options, both lethal and nonlethal, are available, but no single method or combination of methods is applicable in all damage situations.⁽²²⁾

Management options to curtail various forms of wildlife damage include the following:

Guard Animals

Animals, such as guard dogs, llamas and donkeys, have been used to protect livestock from coyotes and other predators. Guard dogs are typically special breeds, such as Great Pyrenees and Komondor, that are imprinted after birth on the livestock breed they are assigned to protect. Neutered males are most commonly used. Success has been achieved in some areas with guard dogs, although they are expensive and last an average of only 3.3 years due to the rigors of life in the outdoors. Their effectiveness is best in a paddock situation, and diminishes on open pastures. Use of guard dogs can require a great deal of attention by the herder, particularly on an open range, where more effort is required to ensure the dog is properly fed and attended. Guard dogs may indiscriminately kill other species of wildlife (such as deer fawns) they encounter.⁽²³⁾

Llamas and donkeys have an advantage over dogs in longevity and feeding, but have also been documented injuring and killing sheep. More research and experimentation is necessary before their effectiveness can be fully evaluated.⁽²⁴⁾

Risk to humans from all types of guarding animals can increase a livestock owner's liability.

Exclusion / Habitat Modification

There are a number of management techniques that, under the proper conditions and with adequate funding for installation and routine maintenance, can be used to prevent or reduce various types of wildlife damage.

Water Flow Devices:

Specially designed "beaver pipes" are placed in road culverts or through beaver dams to reduce water level and associated flooding. These pipes must be placed in such a manner that the beaver cannot sense the sound or flow of water (which triggers their instinct to dam the flow), or must have adequate baffles to prevent the animals from blocking the flow. In situations where the gradient allows installation and function, beaver pipes can be effective at reducing beaver flooding. The devices may be expensive, however, and require routine cleaning and maintenance. Site characteristics may nullify the effectiveness of these devices in some situations.⁽²⁵⁾

Exclusionary Fencing:

Fencing can be installed in front of, or around, the intake of road culverts to physically prevent beaver from plugging the culverts. Exclusionary apparatus is a preventive measure that varies markedly in expense and ease of installation, requires regular maintenance, and does not regulate water level.⁽²⁶⁾

Livestock Fencing:

Permanent or portable fencing, including electric fencing, can be used as a barrier to prevent predators from killing or damaging livestock. Fencing must be a minimum of 5.5 to 6 feet high and frequently maintained in order to exclude coyotes.⁽²⁷⁾ The cost of fencing has limited its application because many people who own sheep or other livestock simply cannot afford to fence an area large enough to adequately pasture their animals.



Photo by Guy Connolly USDA/APHIS

There are many options to deal with damage caused by furbearers, but the effectiveness, efficiency, and cost associated with a particular option will determine its appropriateness for a given damage situation. When coyotes kill sheep and other livestock, farmers may resort to fencing (exclusion), but it must be high, or it will be ineffective (above).

When fencing is impractical (as it can be due to cost) specially bred guard dogs (above, right) or other guard animals are options, but these too have their drawbacks (see text).

A well constructed baffle pipe (right) can help control flooding damage caused by beaver, but it requires regular maintenance and will not work in many situations.



Photo by Thomas Decker



Photo by Bill Byrne

Contraception

Past research has shown that hormone injections or implants can be successful in controlling the reproduction of individual animals. The technique requires repeated injections or surgery; consequently it is extremely expensive and difficult to apply to large numbers of animals. Some fish and wildlife agencies and animal welfare groups are now supporting research to develop a wildlife contraceptive that is inexpensive, relatively easy to administer, and long lasting.

New advances in genetic engineering have opened the door to *immunocontraception* as a possible solution. Immunocontraception uses vaccines that target specific hormones or reproductive tissues. This research is in its infancy, and field experiments have been limited. While immunocontraception may have some value as a wildlife management tool in the future, it is not available today and will remain a rudimentary tool in the near future.⁽²⁸⁾ To put this in perspective, zoo

veterinarians and reproductive biologists interested in controlling the reproduction of captive animals have not yet developed an effective contraceptive vaccine for most species. Some of the technical problems include:

- Safe and effective application requires animals to be individually vaccinated.
- Delivery systems (e.g. dart guns and blow guns) have limited range, making it necessary to

get within close range of every animal targeted for the vaccine.

- Two or more boosters may be required to cause infertility.
- Application that would be extensive or effective enough to control population growth may never be possible.
- Legal hurdles of government environmental and drug regulatory agencies and assessment of overall environmental impacts may delay availability for many years.

Most wildlife damage situations require immediate control of offending animals. Immuno-contraception will not eliminate damage in the short term: sterile beavers still have functional teeth and will cut trees and build dams.

Oral Vaccines

Oral vaccination programs have been conducted in the U.S. since the mid-1990s for the purpose of reducing the number of terrestrial mammals infected with rabies. The ultimate goal is to eliminate specific variants of the rabies virus to prevent their spread. Oral vaccination has been successfully used in Canada and Europe, and to date has resulted in the elimination of canine rabies in coyotes, the near-elimination of a variant of rabies in gray foxes, and has prevented the appreciable spread of raccoon rabies in the U.S.⁽²⁹⁾ Field tests with a new vaccine continue to refine our understanding of the benefits and risks of oral rabies vaccination.

Determining the safety, cost, and overall effectiveness of the oral vaccine approach to control the spread of rabies, as well as the effect of using trap-vaccinate and trap-ethanize programs around local

outbreaks of raccoon rabies, is important to science-based wildlife disease management, and assessing the effectiveness of oral vaccination programs during epizootic and enzootic outbreaks is also important in evaluating management approaches.

Various rabies vaccines and delivery systems have been evaluated throughout North America with differing degrees of success. Currently, oral rabies vaccination (ORV) field trials continue in the eastern United States,^(28a) where rabies in raccoons has proven more complex and difficult to control than rabies in coyotes and gray foxes in Texas. ORV zones to create barriers to prevent the spread of rabies in raccoons have had mixed results.^(28b)

For example, the ORV zone to prevent raccoon rabies from spreading to Cape Cod (MA) was breached in 2004, as was a portion of the ORV zone in northeast Ohio. Intervention in both incidents has proven successful, with no rabies detected for 4 years in the Ohio contingency action zone where the outbreak occurred. However, further research is required to continue to test new bait-vaccine combinations and baiting strategies that increase the chance for improved performance to address rabies reservoir species in selected areas in the U.S..

In addition to protecting public health and safety, ORV programs may also directly influence population levels of predator species. Predator-prey interactions, and the indirect long term survival strategies of prey species, remain unknown. As such, predator-prey relationships warrant consideration regarding the use of ORV. Although raccoon rabies is a relatively new disease (first appearing in West Virginia in 1977) in much of the eastern

U.S., it is unknown if it is additive or compensatory to other known historic disease mortality factors such as canine distemper.

Toxicants

The use of toxicants (poisons) to control wildlife damage involves killing animals causing damage with specific, Environmental Protection Agency-registered pesticides. Historically common in use, toxicants were misused widely enough to create public concern that has now greatly restricted their availability and use.⁽³⁰⁾ There is a great deal of variation in how individual states and provinces regulate and control toxicant application, in addition to federal oversight. There are some toxicants that can be applied by private citizens, but concerns over public health and safety and nontarget animal exposure restrict many applications to licensed government officials. Despite limited use, toxicants remain a valuable tool to wildlife managers for special projects and emergency situations.

Shooting

Shooting the depredating animal or animals requires one or more shooters to stake out the area where the damage is occurring. Shooting can be a highly selective control method, provided that the shooter correctly identifies the offending animal, and is positioned for an accurate, killing shot. Shooting nocturnal animals such as coyotes, raccoons and beavers is difficult and may require expensive night vision equipment to maximize efficiency. Shooters – particularly those targeting coyotes – must also be skilled hunters: the wary nature of the animals requires a shooter to have considerable knowledge of the animal's sign and habits in

order to be in position for a shot without the animal being aware of the shooter's presence. Shooting often requires several days of effort for each damage situation, making it costly and limiting the number of damage situations that can be dealt with. Where damage occurs in close proximity to roads or buildings, shooting may not be a legal option, particularly at night.

Trapping

Use of traps to solve wildlife damage problems involves the capture of the animal or animals causing damage. The effectiveness of trapping to solve wildlife damage problems can depend on the skill and experience of the trapper. Knowledge is required to accurately determine what species is causing the damage; what trap type is required to ensure effective capture with minimal potential for injury to the animals; and where and how the trap(s) should be placed so as not to capture nontarget species. Trapping does not require the trapper to be present when the damage occurs, allowing several damage situations to be addressed simultaneously. If the species causing damage is a furbearer and the damage occurs during the legal fur trapping season, a licensed fur trapper may be willing to remove the offending animals at no cost. If foothold, cage, or cable restraint traps are used, the trapper has the discretion of releasing trapped animals unharmed.

Traps used by either agency personnel or registered trappers recruited to assist with programs, may be used in conjunction with other techniques to address wildlife damage problems. Trappers from Ontario have played a key role in efforts to prevent the spread of raccoon-strain rabies into Ontario.

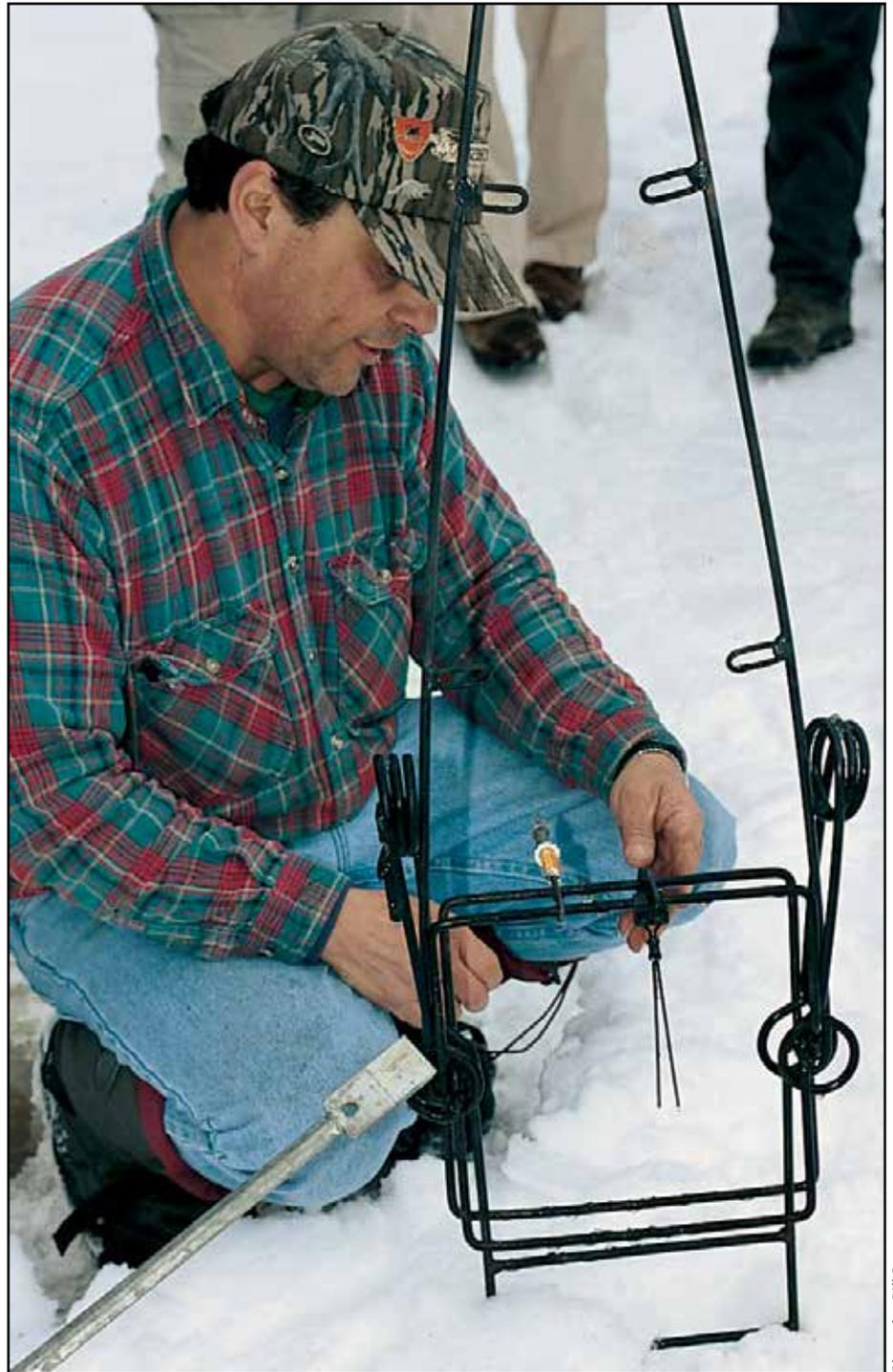


Photo by Bill Byrne

A certified trapping instructor demonstrates how to set a quick-kill beaver trap beneath the ice. This set includes a special frame that allows the trapper to raise and lower the trap to various depths.

No Action / Tolerance

This would be a decision to let the damage occur uncontested; “live with the damage” so to speak. Such a decision would have to balance many factors. In some cases, the wetlands created by beaver provide valuable functions to society

and wildlife, and these must be balanced against economic losses to individuals and communities. Rabies outbreaks that periodically reduce certain furbearer populations may temporarily reduce property damage and benefit some wildlife populations (such as birds and

turtles that incur heavy nest predation by furbearers), but also present a public health threat requiring public education programs and expensive medical treatment for individuals thought to be exposed to the disease. Ultimately, society's level of tolerance towards wildlife damage will determine where no action can prevail.

An increased public understanding of wildlife natural history and behavior will often lead to a more tolerant view of wildlife. Providing information regarding wildlife species causing damage may decrease the need and urgency for corrective action. However, the magnitude and tolerance of damage is highly variable among the public. Threats to public health and safety or substantial damage to public and private property often reach unacceptable levels. When this threshold is crossed, management techniques must be employed. Wildlife managers do not want to see society's tolerance reach the point that furbearers become perceived as pests and threats, rather than as valuable natural resources that should be enjoyed, appreciated and perpetuated.⁽³¹⁾

Options for Wildlife Research

Research on movements, survival rates, habitat use and other life-history factors is often needed to develop management programs to ensure a population's continued existence, or to find solutions to wildlife damage problems. This may require the capture, marking, and immediate release of animals that are subsequently monitored for extensive time periods. Options for capturing wildlife include:



Photo by Coleen Offenbuttel

Professional wildlife biologists conducting research and restoration programs involving various furbearers often use foothold traps as their primary capture devices due to this design's effectiveness, reliability, affordability, and proven record of causing zero or insignificant injury to captured animals.

Live-Trapping

Cage Traps: Cage traps are the largest, heaviest, and most expensive capture devices, limiting the number that can realistically be used on any given research project. Though generally less useful than foothold and kill traps, cage traps have proven effective for capturing fisher, marten, raccoon and beaver, less effective for capturing bobcat. They are ineffective for capturing coyotes, foxes, wolves and river otter, although a specially designed cage trap for beaver equipped with additional modifications has had limited success in capturing otter.⁽³²⁾

Foothold Traps: Foothold traps have proven effective for capturing fisher, bobcat, lynx, raccoon, beaver, river otter, foxes, coyotes, and wolves unharmed. In the Northeast, over 343 coyotes, 844 red and gray foxes, 76 bobcats, 49 fishers and 79 river otters have been live-captured

with foothold traps and released unharmed during research projects conducted from 1980 to 1994.⁽³³⁾ Eighteen lynx and over 50 coyotes were captured in foothold traps and released unharmed during a multi-year research study in Maine. The small size, light weight and relatively low cost of foothold traps makes them highly desirable for field research. Recent advances in foothold trap design and use have enhanced selectivity and minimized injuries related to capture. This includes cable restraints designed to capture and hold animals such as wolves, coyotes, and bobcats by the foot or body.

Chemical Immobilization

Chemical immobilants have been used successfully to safely handle wild animals. In many cases the animals are restrained prior to

injection of the chemicals. Restraint methods include trapping the animal or treeing it with hounds.

Dart guns, powered by compressed air or powder charges, provide an effective remote delivery system for chemical immobilants, but they are much more limited in range and accuracy than conventional firearms, while having similar constraints (see *Shooting*, page 43). It is generally easier and less costly to capture animals with other techniques. Dart guns are efficient for animals that predictably gather in specific areas.

Alternatives to Capture

Significant advances in mammal survey techniques that do not involve capture and handling of animals have been made in recent years. The appropriateness and efficacy of these techniques (more information can be found in Long et al.^(33b)) vary depending on the species being studied and the objectives. The most substantial information on a population of wildlife is obtained through monitoring animals fitted with GPS collars. With an adequate sample of animals (number of animals monitored for an extensive time period), information on birth rate, mortality, survival rate, density, habitat use, and other life history factors can be estimated with a reliable level of precision. This technique does, however, require the capture (and typically annual recapture) of animals.

Field research techniques that do not require the capture and handling of the animals include:

Camera Trap Surveys: Remote camera traps have seen increasing use in wildlife studies as cost per camera unit has become more affordable and monitoring techniques have

been developed. Typically, a camera is strapped to a tree or other object and a sensor in the camera unit will take a photograph when triggered by movement. They are most often used to determine distribution of a species and movement patterns. Camera traps, ranging from several to dozens, are placed on the landscape. Attractants are often used to lure the animals to the cameras, but they can also be deployed without attractants. Population estimation is possible. Traditional methods require each animal to be individually recognized. This is difficult to accomplish with most mammal species, particularly since movements are mostly nocturnal, making distinguishing features difficult to discern. Some studies have been able to use optical recognition software to identify individual animals. Scientists have developed sophisticated modeling techniques to estimate population density that do not require individual recognition, thereby increasing the ability to estimate populations with cameras.^(33a)

Hair Snares: Advances in DNA extraction have made the identification of individual animals from hair samples possible. Typically, bait stations are established on the landscape to attract carnivores. To get to the bait, the animals have to pass through barbed wire that will snag hairs. Recovery rate of DNA from hair samples can vary from quite low to reasonably high depending on the age of the sample, presence of intact hair follicles, and environmental conditions. Some species, such as bears and fisher, are readily attracted to hair snare stations; others, like coyotes, are difficult to attract to them. Establishing hair snare stations and collecting samples is labor intensive, and the genetic analysis is relatively expensive.

Scat Dogs: Advances in DNA extraction have also made the identification of individual animals from scat samples possible. Specially trained dogs will traverse the landscape with a human handler, searching for the scats of certain



Photo by Serge Larivière

Trapping has long been a cultural tradition in many Native American communities, and it continues to provide income and self-sufficiency for many like this Cree couple.



Traps of several designs have proven crucial in the restoration of many furbearer species to parts of their range where they were formerly extirpated. Examples include river otter (above), gray wolf, and red wolf. If animals cannot be captured and transported, they must expand their ranges on their own, a task that may be impossible given topography and man-made barriers. If furbearers cannot be captured for biological examination, it is virtually impossible to determine basic population data such as sex ratio and age structure, crippling the ability of government wildlife agencies to meet their public resource protection mandates.

species. The scats are collected and locations recorded with a GPS unit. Subsequent recovery of DNA will vary with age and condition of samples, and environmental conditions. Training and preparation of the dogs is labor intensive, but this can be a very effective technique for determining food habits and estimating population size.

Bowhunter Surveys: A number of state fish and wildlife agencies have recruited bowhunters to report the occurrences of furbearers they observe while big game hunting from elevated tree stands. Because of their cryptic nature, bowhunters are often able to observe a variety of wildlife species. Observations of species such as bobcat can be used as a crude index to population and abundance trends over time. Data from these surveys cannot be used to estimate population size, however. A major drawback is that these surveys are diurnal, and carnivores and other furbearers are most active at night.

Use of these survey methods that do not require actual capture and handling of animals is increasing and

we can expect more sophisticated techniques to emerge in the future. However, species conservation will still require us to instrument animals with monitoring and location devices such as GPS collars in order to generate more reliable data.

Ultimately, if no effort was made to capture wildlife for research or fur harvesting, wildlife biologists would have to rely on information derived from the number of road kills and damage complaints, and/or from the “remote survey” techniques described above, to draw inferences about furbearer population characteristics. This can be analogous to assembling a puzzle with many missing pieces. Management actions would have to be extremely conservative because available information would lack the sensitivity needed to detect shifts in population trends in a timely enough manner to allow responsive actions. An inability to capture wildlife would greatly reduce the ability of government wildlife agencies to meet their public resource protection mandates that have been established by law.

Options for Wildlife Reintroductions

In some areas the public desires to reestablish wildlife species. Fisher, marten, river otter, wolf, and beaver are some of the species that were once extirpated from many parts of North America and subsequently reintroduced by capturing individuals from areas where they are abundant, and releasing them in suitable but unoccupied habitat.

These reintroductions involved the use of foothold and cage-type traps. For instance, since 1976, more than 4,000 river otters have been captured in foothold traps, relocated, and released to restore populations in 21 states.⁽³⁴⁾ If biologists did not facilitate expansion, species would have to enlarge their current ranges into unoccupied habitat on their own. The length of time necessary for this depends on species mobility and distance. In many cases range expansion is difficult or impossible due to insurmountable geographical features or human-created barriers such as major roadways and urbanized landscapes.

Trapping for Research and Reintroduction Programs

Modern foothold traps have been – and continue to be – used successfully to capture a wide variety of wildlife species in order to study the characteristics of individuals and populations. In fact, research conducted with the use of foothold traps has provided much of the information leading to our present understanding of biological and ecological phenomena. Wildlife biologists typically use these traps to capture animals that are then instrumented with radio-collars and released unharmed. The released animals are then carefully monitored, revealing information on their movements, habitat requirements and reproduction that can be acquired in no other way. The coyote pictured on page 36 is one of many captured with foothold traps, examined and released.

The river otters pictured right were all caught with foothold traps in marshes in Louisiana where they are abundant, and were released unharmed into areas of Missouri to restore otter populations where they no longer occurred. Similar otter restoration programs have been successful in 22 other states including Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, Iowa and New York. Many states now have thriving river otter populations thanks to capture and reintroduction efforts made possible by the use of foothold traps. These are the same traps used by the public to harvest furbearers.

Foothold traps and cable restraints are generally the only effective traps for catching elusive species such as wolves, coyotes, and foxes. As a result, they are almost always the trap of choice when any of these famously wary species are targeted for capture by either the public or wildlife researchers. Lynx reintroduced in some western states were captured with foothold traps in Canada (Yukon). Another example is the ongoing, important role foothold traps are playing in the restoration of several endangered wolf populations. Red wolves are captured, examined and relocated to reestablish new populations; Mexican wolves are captured for a captive breeding program that will provide healthy animals for a reintroduction program; and stock-killing gray wolves are captured and relocated to reduce damage and maintain public support for their continuing restoration.



Photo by Jim Rathert Missouri Dept. of Conservation

These live-trapped river otters, about to be released as part of a restoration program, were captured unharmed using long-spring foothold traps (below, left) with offset jaws.



Otter Restoration Around the Nation

State	Number Released	Years
Missouri	845	1982-1992
Tennessee	487	1983-1994
Kentucky	355	1991-1994
Illinois	346	1994-1997
Indiana	303	1995-1999
North Carolina	267	1990-1995
Iowa	261+	1985-2000
West Virginia	249	1984-1997
Nebraska	159	1986-1991
New York	279+	1995-2001
Ohio	123	1986-1992
Pennsylvania	153	1982-2000
Colorado	86	1976-1991
Maryland	80+	1990-2000
Arizona	46	1981-1983
Minnesota	21	1980-1982
Oklahoma	20	1984-1985
Kansas	19	1983-1984
Virginia	17	1988-1989
Vermont	58	1989-1992
South Dakota	34	1998-2000
New Mexico	33	2008-2010

Midwest Wolves - Once Endangered, Now Recovered!

An amazing wildlife success story involves the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) of the Great Lakes region. Within the lower 48 states, this is the only place where wolves were never totally extirpated. The presence of this mysterious wild carnivore led Midwestern conservationists such as Aldo Leopold, Sigurd Olson, and Durward Allen to voice concern and promote conservation efforts toward their protection and recovery. Such interest provided the foundation of research on wolf-prey relations and the initial use of radio telemetry with wolves. Public awareness and support, combined with a better understanding of the species, established the foundation for recovery and management.

Under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 wolves in northeastern Minnesota were classified as endangered which eventually led to the 1978 Eastern Timber Wolf Recovery Plan and a revision of the same in 1992. This plan outlined levels of protection, conservation efforts, and criteria for what was hoped to be full recovery of Great Lakes wolves. As wolves dispersed from Minnesota and began to appear in northern Wisconsin and the upper peninsula of Michigan they held full endangered

species protection. Key to understanding birth and death rates, dispersal movements, and home range size, individual wolves were captured, fitted with radio collars, and tested to answer an assortment of biological questions. Foothold traps were crucial to this effort and resulted in the restraint and safe release of hundreds of wolves over the last half-century.

Experienced trappers learned how to selectively capture wolves and to do so without harm to the animals.

An important issue in the recovery of a species like the gray wolf is public acceptance of the animal. This is especially true of those individuals and families that could be affected by its presence. As predators, wolves use other mammals for food, and a few individual packs may resort to the occasional take of domestic pets or livestock. It was apparent that public support for recovery would hinge upon the flexibility to address individual problems. When the wolf's classification in Minnesota was shifted from federally

Wolf Classification in Wisconsin

Federal Classification	Year	State Classification
Endangered	1967	
Endangered	1974	
	1975	Endangered
	1999	Threatened
Threatened	2003	
Endangered	2004	Protected
Delisted	2005	
Endangered	2007	
Delisted	2008	
Endangered	2009 (May)	
Delisted	2009 (July)	
	2012	Game species

endangered to threatened, state agencies, when necessary and under federal permit, could selectively trap and dispatch problem wolves. Once Wisconsin and Michigan wolf populations exceeded minimum restoration goals, a change in classification from endangered to threatened allowed for similar control programs across all three states.

Wolves in the Great Lakes region are now the responsibility of the individual states' fish and wildlife agencies and tribes. Although close monitoring of this low density species will continue far into the future, each state has approved management plans that include public outreach efforts, research needs, and conservation efforts such as surveys, habitat management, reasonable control of problem wolves, and regulated harvest.

One of the key components of research and management of wolves is the foothold trap. Through wolf trapper education workshops, citizen trappers learn about trapping ethics, trapper responsibility, how to set their traps most effectively to minimize injury to the animals, and respect for fellow trappers. To show respect for the animal and respect for others is critical to the future of regulated harvest by citizens. Wolf restoration in these Lake States is truly a success story, the first of complete recovery of the "Endangered" gray wolf in the lower 48 states. Through continued, careful management, this once endangered animal will remain an important and charismatic component of the natural ecosystems of the Great Lakes region.



Regulated trapping may play a role in reducing conflicts and maintaining wolf populations at levels closer to social carrying capacity, while also allowing the utilization of this sustainable resource.

Animal Welfare

The concept of “Animal Rights” is distinct from the concept of “Animal Welfare.” Animal Rights is based on personal values and philosophy, while the agenda for Animal Welfare is based on science. The Animal Rights and Animal Welfare agendas represent entirely different perspectives on human/animal coexistence.⁽³⁵⁾

Animal Welfare proponents believe that human use of animals is appropriate as long as practical measures are taken to ensure that human use does not cause any undue pain and suffering to

animals. Wildlife biologists and all responsible trappers and hunters are staunch supporters of Animal Welfare.

Animal Rights proponents oppose any human use of animals. They believe animals have the same rights as humans, and therefore should not be used, eaten or owned by people.⁽³⁶⁾

The primary concern of Animal Welfare advocates is the well-being of animals. The primary concern of Animal Rights advocates is the moral obligation of people. The well-being of animals is a secondary

concern for Animal Rights advocates.⁽³⁷⁾

Professional wildlife biologists advocate Animal Welfare. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), noting that “the worldwide growth of the animal rights movement threatens all traditional uses of animals,” adopted the following position in 1989:

“The AFWA acknowledges that humans have an inseparable relationship with all other parts of the natural world. Furthermore, humanity is answerable to another



Photo by Bill Heatherly Missouri Dept. of Conservation

Adaptable and always ready to take advantage of any food sources, raccoons can reach extraordinarily high population levels in developed areas, a situation that increases public health problems, property damage and predation on other wildlife species.



Coyotes frequently prey on livestock and house pets throughout North America. Regulated trapping helps to minimize this depredation by removing individual problem animals, and the animals that are removed are utilized as valuable natural resources rather than destroyed as useless pests.

set of laws and concepts that is uniquely a product of human society. Animals cannot be subject to those laws and concepts and therefore do not have the rights of humans. It is agreed, nonetheless, that animal welfare is a realistic and desirable concept which we support. Humanity does have responsibilities to animals: ensure ecological integrity, preserve genetic diversity and sustain species and ecosystems. All animals use other animals for their existence. The responsible human use of animals is natural and appropriate.”

Professional wildlife biologists have concerns about the implications of the Animal Rights philosophy. Human use of, and dependence on, renewable natural resources, including animals, may foster stewardship over those resources. Millions of acres of wildlife habitat have been acquired, protected and managed for wildlife by public and private natural resource

management agencies. Much of this has been made possible through funds generated by licensed hunters, trappers and anglers who collectively have a stake in the perpetuation of wildlife resources. Under the Animal Rights agenda, there would be no wildlife management, and subsequently, many species of wildlife would decline or become extirpated without the protection afforded by management. Other species would explode into burgeoning populations, escalating human-wildlife conflicts.

As our society becomes more urban, we become removed from natural systems and the processes that function within them. Our understanding and appreciation of those natural processes diminishes. We no longer have to harvest our own food, and as a result, we do not see the death involved in processing meat. We do not notice the loss of habitat, pesticide use

or lethal control of animals required to produce crops and livestock. We do not witness the destruction of habitat required to extract nonrenewable natural resources that are the basis for most of the synthetic materials we use.

Rural components of our society recognize the high turnover in many wild animal populations that have naturally high death rates. The

death of an individual animal is not shocking when one realizes that it is a normal, natural, and regularly occurring event, and that species have adapted reproductive strategies to compensate for these natural losses. These reproductive strategies evolved over millennia under a suite of mortality factors, including human predation. When a human uses a wild animal, the death is therefore natural, and an interest in the preservation of the wild animal population is often fostered.

We should all be aware that our lifestyles – regardless of where we live, our economic status, or our degree of “environmental correctness” – are closely and inexorably linked to animals. Animals have always provided the material and spiritual sustenance that maintains us as individuals and societies. Our need and use of them for food, clothing, art, medicine and companionship are eternal, our dependence on them complete. We must continue to support conservation efforts that ensure sustainable use.

Calamity by Design: The Prohibition of Regulated Trapping

In 1996, following a “model” developed by a national animal rights organization for getting trapping ban initiatives passed by town, county, and state governments, a coalition of animal rights organizations gathered the signatures required to place a statewide anti-trapping referendum before the voters of Massachusetts on the November ballot. The coalition spent \$1.2 million on an ad campaign featuring graphic images that presented a misleading representation of regulated trapping in the state. The campaign further implied that traps in common use in Massachusetts had teeth and were a threat to pets and children, despite the fact that toothed traps had not been legal to use for many years; only softcatch (padded jaw) foothold traps were allowed for use on land; and no case of an adult or child being caught or injured in a legally set trap had ever been recorded in Massachusetts.

The referendum passed overwhelmingly in the eastern, more developed part of Massachusetts, and also in scattered urban centers throughout the state. The new law drastically limited the types of traps that could be used, essentially making box or cage traps the only legal trap type. It even banned the use of effective trap types (such as softcatch footholds) for research purposes.

Prior to 1996, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW) managed the beaver population through education, research, and regulated trapping. Following passage of the anti-trapping referendum, the beaver harvest dropped from 1,136 beaver (1995-1996 season) to 98 beaver (1997-1998 season). Consequently, over the next 5-6 years, the beaver population went from an estimated 24,000 beaver to nearly 70,000 beaver statewide.



Photo by Bill Byrne

The flooding of roads is a common form of beaver damage, but the activities of this furbearer may also result in loss of timber resources and the flooding of septic systems, basements, and croplands. All of these can be safely and efficiently addressed through the use of sound management programs that incorporate the use of traps and trappers.

The massive increase in the beaver population also resulted in a drastic increase in beaver-related complaints. In response to the increased number of complaints and concerns regarding public health, safety, and property damage, the

Massachusetts Legislature passed – and the Governor signed – a new law in July of 2000. It modified the restrictions on beaver and muskrat traps in an attempt to provide relief for residents suffering from flooding impacts caused by these species.



Photo by Bill Byrne

Beaver are considered a “keystone species” in that their tree-felling, dam-building activities create an entire succession of habitats crucial to the success of a great variety of wildlife species. This is why it is important to wildlife conservation that the public value beaver as furbearer and ecological resources, rather than perceive them to be expensive pests.

The new law established an emergency permitting process through local Boards of Health to allow certain people to use “restricted traps” to address public health or safety problems caused by beaver or muskrat. Management authority was essentially removed from the MDFW and given to local Boards of Health. Emergency permits to remove beaver using quick-kill traps (traps that were among the specific targets of the original ballot referendum) are now issued at the town level, with no reporting requirements to the state’s wildlife management authority. The permits can only be issued after damage has occurred. the restricted traps cannot be used to prevent damage.

There are many consequences to the sequence of events that occurred in Massachusetts. The most obvious was the drastic expansion of the beaver population and the resulting increase in complaints. Due to the proliferation of beaver, many residents of Massachusetts now view the animal as a pest that needs to be

eliminated, rather than a valuable natural resource. The MDFW can no longer proactively manage the beaver population; instead, the law established a re-active approach to damage and public health or safety concerns. In 2003, the MDFW conducted a survey of local Boards of Health and found that 86% of the Boards that responded to the survey saw evidence of increased illegal activity (such as illegal destruction of beaver dams/wetlands) due to beaver-related issues since 2000.

Since management authority was essentially transferred to local Boards of Health and there are no requirements to report their statistics back to the MDFW, the MDFW can no longer even estimate the statewide beaver population due to a lack of accurate harvest information. Also, prior to the trap ban, beaver could only be harvested during a specific season. The current system allows year-round take, even when young are dependent and the fur is not prime, thus encouraging the waste of the resource and likely

decreasing animal welfare. What is known is that from 2008 to 2012 an estimated 63-70% of the beaver taken in Massachusetts each year were harvested under emergency permits from local Boards of Health, under which quick-kill traps are legal to use. Thus we now have a situation where the traps banned for public use are still taking the majority of beaver in Massachusetts!

The law that was established in 2000 to alleviate some of the problems caused by the initial referendum only addresses the use of quick-kill traps for beaver and muskrat, and only allows for the use of those traps when an immediate threat to public health and safety exists. There are many other species for which quick-kill traps are an effective trap type, but these traps are not legal to use in Massachusetts and their use – and the use of all other traps that restrain an animal by gripping any part of its body – can no longer be authorized by the MDFW.

For example, a trapper can use only box or cage traps to capture coyotes during the trapping season. Canids are notoriously wary of anything new in their environment – meaning they cannot be readily induced to enter a cage of any kind – so it is not surprising that from 2001-2012 an average of just 2.5 coyotes per year were harvested statewide by trapping. Soft-catch footholds or other live-restraining devices such as cable restraints are not legal for the MDFW to use for coyote research or to help manage problem coyotes in urban settings, where shooting is often the only method available to remove problem animals.

Until the ability to regulate all trap types is returned to the state agency with wildlife management authority, Massachusetts will continue to experience problems related to furbearer population management, research, illegal beaver destruction, and nuisance wildlife management.

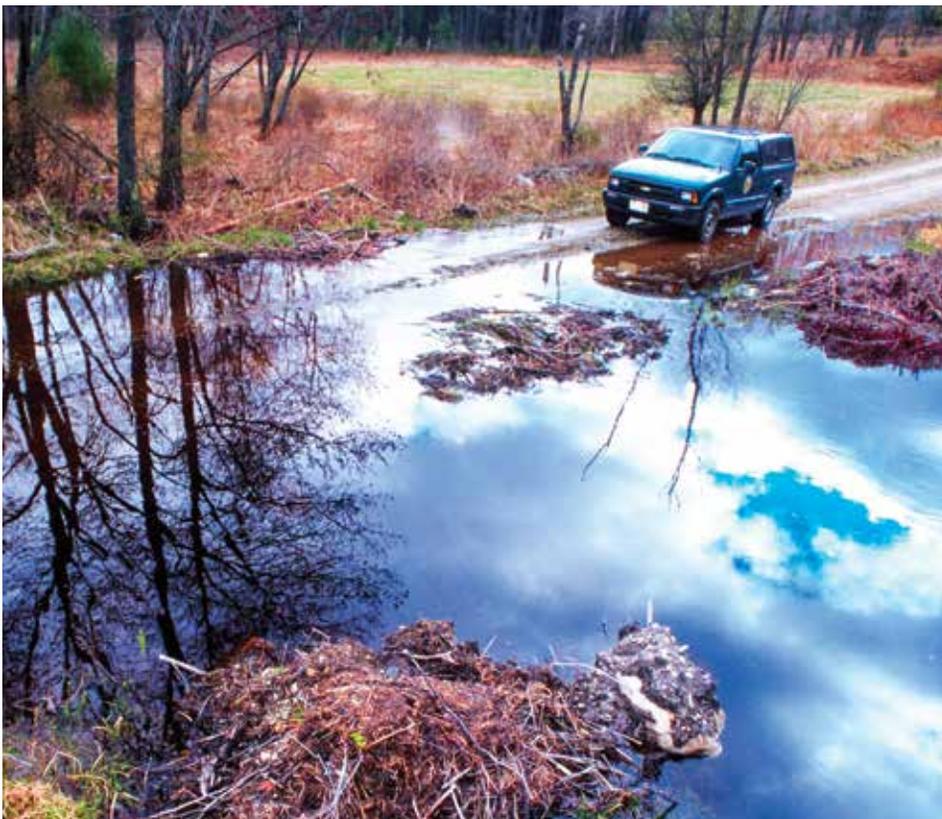


Photo by Bill Byrne

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is a concept described by Dr. Valerius Geist of the University of Calgary. It is a retrospective look at the key principles that collectively led to the unique successes in wildlife conservation in the United States and Canada. The Model has seven principles:

Wildlife Resources are a Public Trust

Markets for Game are Eliminated

Allocation of Wildlife is by Law

Wildlife Can Only Be Killed for a Legitimate Purpose

Wildlife is considered an International Resource

Science is the Proper Tool to Discharge Wildlife Policy

Democracy of Hunting is Standard

Furbearer management and conservation fits squarely within the parameters of the Model. Some may question why markets for game species such as deer and elk were eliminated, while markets for furbearers were developed. Unregulated market hunting in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, coupled with habitat destruction, led to the near extinction of many game species and it was necessary to eliminate markets in order to save them. Unregulated trapping led to the reduction and local extinction of many furbearer species by the mid-19th century. Furbearer populations rebounded and expanded their ranges in the 20th century due to recovery of habitats, including cleaner water, and protections on species. In Massachusetts, for example, beaver were extirpated prior to the Revolutionary War. They reentered Massachusetts in 1928, and by that time people had settled areas that previously were prime beaver habitat. Conflicts between beaver and humans ensued, and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MDFW) had a choice to treat individual offending animals as pests and destroy them, or allow regulated trapping as a means to keep the beaver population at levels compatible with coexistence with humans. The MDFW chose the latter approach consistent with the principle that wildlife is a public resource, regulated fur markets and legal harvest seasons in the 20th century didn't pose a risk to species survival, and the use of fur for fiber and clothing is considered legitimate in society. During the course of the 20th century most bounty systems for "nuisance" wildlife were eliminated and replaced with scientifically managed harvest seasons. State furbearer biologists in different regions of the U.S. meet annually with Canadian counterparts to collaborate on management challenges. The result has been the elevation of furbearer species from pest status to that of valued resource in many instances. The conservation and sustainable use of furbearers is one of the hallmarks of the Model.⁽³⁸⁾

Ballot Referendums: Confounding Wildlife Management

Ballot initiatives are a process by which voters can adopt laws outside the legislative process (often referred to as “direct democracy”) separate from the manner in which elected officials form laws in the legislative process (referred to as “representative democracy”). Ballot initiatives are an allowable mechanism for passing laws in approximately 24 U.S. states⁽³⁹⁾. The founding fathers contemplated the merits of having a national ballot referendum process when drafting the U.S. Constitution, but decided upon representative democracy at the national level. One of the reasons they did not adopt a referendum ballot process is they believed the voting public did not possess the knowledge or expertise to understand the measures they were voting on (both the intended and unintended consequences). They expressed concern that important unanticipated effects of referenda may not be discovered due to lack of deliberative debate. They also believed that a national referendum system would abuse minority rights of citizens, often described as the “tyranny of the majority”^(40,41).

Direct democracy as a means of legislating has been fiercely debated for over a century in the U.S.. Some view these initiatives as a last resort to pass laws if legislators fail to act on an issue. Ballot initiatives begin with proposed language crafted by groups or individuals outside the legislature and are placed on an election year ballot for a Yes or No vote.

The Wildlife Management Perspective

State fish and wildlife agencies have principal authority over wildlife, including the establishment of seasons, bag limits and the manner and method of devices used to take wildlife. During established open seasons species such as beaver, raccoon, coyote, foxes, muskrat and others are harvested in a manner designed to achieve objectives including sustainable population levels, limited human-wildlife conflicts, and other goals. Landowners generally have legal authority to protect their property from wildlife doing damage once damage has occurred. However, most of the population control designed to limit damage occurs during the regulated open seasons where wildlife is harvested for their pelts, meat, bones, or glands. Control of animals causing damage occurs during regulated seasons as well.

Colorado, Oregon, California, Arizona, and Massachusetts have passed ballot initiatives that prohibit particular trapping or hunting techniques, often under the pretense of protecting the public and pets⁽⁴²⁾. Foothold traps were banned in Massachusetts after a campaign portraying them as cruel and a danger to pets, even though all foothold traps with the exception of one (a rubber-padded trap) were already illegal to use on land.

Ballot initiatives as a means of prescribing wildlife management, however well intentioned, will typically generate unfavorable results for both the public and wildlife because the deliberative process of weighing costs, benefits, and collateral effects is eliminated. Unintended consequences such as increased wildlife damage and safety concerns have resulted (e.g., Massachusetts page 52). Hunting and trapping is heavily regulated with laws, the public (hunters and trappers) exhibits high compliance with those laws, and they are enforced by state and federal officers. Trapping and hunting techniques are not generally familiar or known to the voting public. An unintended collateral effect to limiting wildlife management by ballot initiative can be increased wildlife damage, with the additional effect of removing the best means to control the damage. This can result in frustration by some who may resort to vigilante actions to remove wildlife they perceive as pests. Unregulated vigilante-style responses are detrimental to public trust mandates of state fish and wildlife agencies who strive to maintain sustainable wildlife populations for the benefit of current and future generations. Ballot initiatives are not only contrary to our model of democracy, they can be devastating to scientific, responsible wildlife management.



Photo by Coleen Olfenbuttel

An insidious aspect of referendums, aside from introducing politics to scientific wildlife management, is that they can deprive cultural minorities (such as trappers and farmers) of traditional, sustainable, income-generating activities.

A Final Word

Professional wildlife management has successfully restored, preserved and ensured the continuing viability of wild furbearer populations in North America. The harvest and utilization of some individuals within those populations by the public does not threaten the continuing survival of those populations. In fact, the harvest and use of some individuals has contributed most of the funding to study and manage those populations, including protecting the habitats and ecosystems critical for their survival.

Without regulated trapping, wildlife managers could not adequately or economically monitor furbearer populations; they could not undertake the restoration programs that have restored so many species to areas where they have not prospered for centuries; they would have fewer options to offer the public significant relief from agricultural and property damage, or to protect human health and safety; and they could not ensure the continued public use of furbearer resources.

Furbearer management is a complex scientific subject. The Wildlife Society — an international nonprofit scientific and educational organization serving professionals in all areas of wildlife ecology, conservation, and management — has published a policy on traps, trapping, and furbearer management that best represents the views of wildlife biologists.

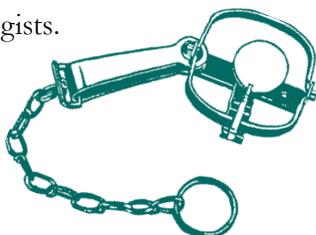


Photo courtesy North Carolina Trappers Assoc.



The Wildlife Society Position on Traps, Trapping, and Furbearer Management

Internationally accepted principles of natural resources conservation stipulate that resource management activities must maintain essential ecological processes, preserve genetic diversity, and ensure continued existence of species and ecosystems. Government-regulated trapping in North America is consistent with all three criteria and is a versatile, safe, effective, and ecologically sound method of harvesting and managing furbearers.

Trapping is part of our cultural heritage that provides income, recreation, and an outdoor lifestyle for many citizens through use of a renewable natural resource. Both trapping and hunting provide opportunities for fostering stewardship values and connecting to the out-of-doors. Trapping is often vital to the subsistence or self-sufficiency of peoples in remote regions who have few other economic alternatives. It is also a primary tool of most wildlife damage management programs and an important technique in wildlife research. Regulated trapping is an important way for biologists to collect information about wildlife, including information about wildlife diseases such as rabies that can also affect people. Threatened and endangered species also benefit from regulated trapping. For example, foxes, coyotes, and nutria are trapped in certain locations in order to protect sea turtles, black-footed ferrets, whooping cranes, and other rare species from predation or damage to their habitats.

Despite the values of trapping, portions of the public oppose it, or at least perceive problems with some aspects of it. Some object only to certain trapping methods, particularly foothold traps on land, but others have moral objections to killing animals. Much opposition to trapping is associated with urban-oriented cultures, particularly those dominated by tertiary (service oriented) employment. Those who approve of, practice, or benefit from trapping are primarily from rural cultures or areas where primary (land-based) employment predominates. This dichotomy of lifestyles and values, combined with a general lack of objective information about trapping, creates barriers to understanding and resolving controversial issues associated with trapping.

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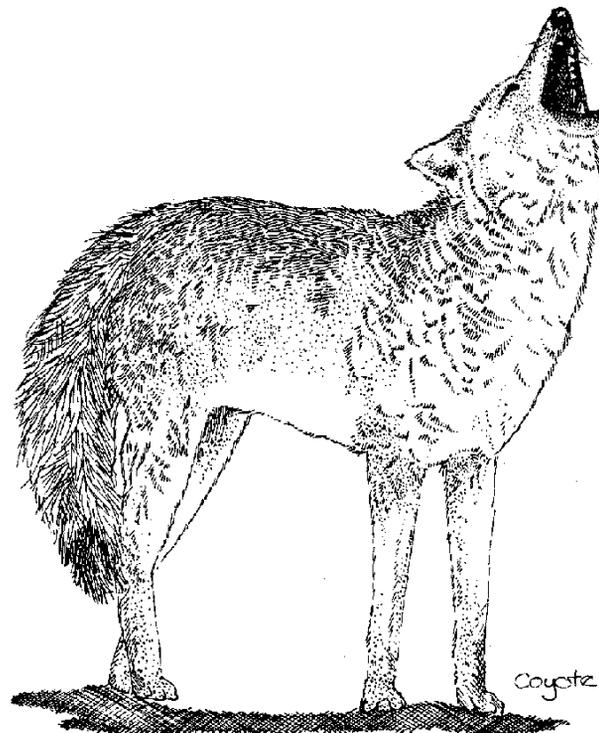




Photo by Coleen Olfenbuttel / North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Furbearers are an abundant, sustainably managed resource. Harvesting them and preparing the pelts properly for market is challenging, time-consuming work, but for many living in rural and suburban economies it can be an important source of annual income, a way to maintain a sense of self-reliance, and a method to develop and retain a strong bond with our human heritage and the natural world.

Sharnelle Furs
151 West 28th street
New York, NY 10001

**Dear Council and committee Members,
My name is Marcelo Czarniak and I am a NYC resident in Keith Powers
District.**

**The proposed legislation ignores the importance, dignity and history of
viable, sustainable business in support of ideological biases that have been
inappropriately levied on the Fur business. Fur trade has sustained America
far before the first Europeans set foot here, having been part of the history of
the indigenous people's commerce for centuries.**

**Furriers are neither cruel to animals, nor do we represent a "niche" market.
We are a vibrant and viable business supporting and clothing the city and its
visitors. My customers include everyone from all classes, religions,
neighborhoods and walks of life. People buy fur not only for beauty, but as a
right basic to civilized peoples: to keep warm and protected from the
elements. Man-made materials also have drawbacks and the pollutants of the
environment of many of these materials are yet another environmental
concern.**

**I have been in business with my family in New York City for over forty years,
having brought my family from Argentina. We arrived here as immigrants, our
parents having fled the Nazis. Our hard work and dedication allowed my
daughter to gain a first-class education and attend Harvard. I am now
working at funding my son's education. He has dyslexia and has had to
attend special schools. My continued business is crucial to care for his
future.**

**The fur business is key in the history of the American Dream. I learned the
trade from an older generation of New York immigrants, such as Jews and
Greeks. The fur business is part of the heritage of New York. Please do not
throw away this precious history, thousands of jobs will be lost; elderly
people who can no longer be trained in new professions will be out of work
and dependent on public funds for support; families and all of the thousands
they interact and do business with will be impacted, for an ideological bias
that does not understand who we are and what we do.**

Thank you

Dear Speaker Johnson,

My name is Koullis Piliias and I'm writing this to ask you to please **NOT** ban fur in NYC as it will affect my life tremendously. As you know the cost of living in NYC is very high and I'm not sure without having a job how much longer I'll be able to stay here.

I would also like to mention that we have 22 other employees ages 50-65 who do not have access or know how to use emails. I have been working with these people for many years, most of them have been in this industry before I joined. If you ban fur in NYC they will also lose their jobs and won't be able to support their families or keep their homes. It will be definitely much harder for them to find a job at that age.

Warm Regards,

Koullis Piliias

Stallion Inc.

3620 34th Street

Long Island City, NY 11106

To Whom It May Concern:

Here is my testimony demanding the ban of fur sales in NYC:

If Los Angeles can ban the sale of fur, then NYC can and must. There's no excuse.

There are many reasons why a recent poll showed that the vast majority of New Yorkers support a fur sale ban ([poll here](#)). Banning fur sales is an issue that unites New Yorkers across party lines. The survey, conducted by Mason-Dixon, found 74% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans and 79% of independents all support the fur ban.

Again, the reasons for this are many. As the [Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association](#) has noted, the fur industry essentially tortures animals:

The production of fur relies upon inhumane methods of trapping and husbandry, which drastically compromise the health and welfare of the animals used. Millions of rabbits, mink, foxes and other wild animals are confined lifelong in cramped cages on factory fur farms, deprived of their abilities to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are typically killed via medically and ethically objectionable methods, such as gassing or electrocution.

Please do all that you can to make banning fur sales a shining landmark victory for greater empathy, awareness, and an urgent stand against cruelty. If Los Angeles can do it, what's our excuse?

Thank you for your time.

All my best,
Andrea

--

Andrea Chalupa

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to provide written testimony in SUPPORT of Intro 1476 to prohibit the sale of fur within New York City. I have spoken personally with my Council member Alan Maisel, and would also like to express my testimony here.

In this age of innovation and scientific advancement, fur is the epitome of unnecessary human cruelty in pursuit of fashion. There is no need to subject animals -- wild caught or farmed -- to a life of torture and an untimely death when high-quality faux fur exists, and when new, even higher-quality faux furs and other materials not made from animals are both created and improved upon every year.

Furthermore, we live in an age of rapid change and development with respect to jobs and industries. To claim that workers in the fur industry would not be able to find equally productive jobs in the emerging faux-fur and ever-growing fashion industry are claims made in bad faith at best, and are purposefully misleading untruths at best.

When New York City worked to ban smoking indoors, the prospect of lost jobs and lost revenues were made by the opposition, but the larger goal was to protect the health and well-being of others. So too should New York City step up to protect the lives of these animals, and not ignore their suffering in favor of those who profit from their suffering.

The fur industry has been around for a long time, but as history has repeatedly shown us, the length of time that an institution has existed does not automatically justify the continued existence of that industry.

The fur industry is unjustifiably cruel, and it's time in this great city is coming to a close, via the dollars spent by consumers on more ethical materials, and via legislation to ban the sale of animal fur.

Sincerely,
John S. Thomassen
Business owner and resident of Marine Park, Brooklyn

Hello,

My name is Sophie Hirsh, and I'm an NYC resident living at W. 29th St, NY, NY 10001. I would like to submit a testimony as to why NY should vote to ban the sale of fur.

Animals in the fur industry are treated cruelly, and slaughtering them for fashion is inhumane, especially because there are so many animal-free fabric options available. A [recent survey conducted by Mason-Dixon](#) found that 74% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans, and 79% of independents in NYC support banning the sale of fur in NYC. NYC is a pioneer in terms of doing what's right, and we can keep up that reputation by progressively banning the sale of fur in our city. I walk past a bunch of fur shops along 29th Street when I head to work every day, and would love to see those spaces turn into something new that aligns with more New Yorkers' values — that it's unnecessary to hurt animals for fur. Thank you.

Sophie Hirsh

Fur Ban Testimony Intro 1476 - District 4 Keith Powers

My name is Anna Tagliabue, founder of Pelush - a zero waste Faux Fur clothing company based in New York City.

> Today, we can accurately imitate any kind of animal fur existing in nature, and even invent new ones. We are in the middle of a Fur Revolution, or as I call it a #ReFAUXlution.

>

> Fox, mink, chinchilla, broadtail, coyote, rabbit, lamb; all these beautiful creatures don't have to be slaughtered for vanity. In many cases, their fur is used as an accent, not even providing warmth for clothing.

> Technology has rendered this obsolete, and now we can celebrate our beloved animals as inspiration, with exciting, new high-technology textiles that have replaced the need to kill animals for fur.

>

> It's very simple. There should be NO confusion about it.

> There is NO GRAY AREA. There is RIGHT and there is WRONG.

> Killing animals for fashion's sake is WRONG.

>

> How can we justify wearing real fur in the 21st Century?

>

> I have devoted 20 years of my life developing the antidote to this cruelty. Before that, I worked in the high-end luxury fashion industry selling animal furs, until I had a life changing epiphany, and realized that my industry was really a killing machine profiting from a barbaric, and antiquated trade in cruelty.

>

> I remember first discovering imitation fur textiles and immediately seeing the vast potential of such products. They are beautiful and innovative, like something from the future. I thought to myself "if we can produce something so beautiful that looks and feels like real fur, why do we have to enslave, exploit, torture and kill innocent animals for vanity?"

>

> So I began researching, and reinvented my career in fashion as a mission to not only create beautiful, functional clothing, but to ensure that are free from cruelty, suffering and blood.

> Please, respected members of New York City Council, do the right thing, make the right choice, there is no confusion. Animal fur is immoral, unethical, unsustainable, and completely unnecessary. It's very simple — IT'S WRONG.

>

> Anna Tagliabue

Dear New York City Council Members,

I am a Williamsburg resident urging you to vote in favor Intro 1476, banning the sale of fur in New York. You all have a chance to help make New York City a kinder place for animals and an example for the rest of the world. Fur is unnecessary, wasteful, and above all else incredibly cruel to the animals involved, who deserve as much kindness as any dog or cat you happen to care about. Please consider them and vote to ban fur in NYC.

Sincerely,
Steven Menegozzi

Humboldt St.
Brooklyn, NY, 11211

Intro. 1476 opinion

I am writing to register my strong support for the ban on fur sales in New York City. I believe that fur is unnecessary, cruel, and inhumane. And I believe the inherent cruelty of fur makes it unjustifiable in modern society. I respectfully urge the city council to help make New York a more humane city by banning fur sales. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Amy Kauffman
W 169th St
New York, NY 10032

Dear Speaker Johnson and City Council Members,
As a NYC voter and taxpayer I am writing to express my support for Intro 1476 and to urge the City Council members to VOTE YES for this ban.

Fur taken from cruelly trapped or "ranching" wild animals, represents one of the most primitive and ignoble aspects of an unevolved society, which is promoted by an industry that exists and profits from animal suffering and death. There can be no acceptable rationale or excuse in this day and age, for aiding and abetting this archaic Neanderthal holdover. With all that is now known about animal sentience - and their capacity to feel pain and suffer, we must move forward in educating the public and teaching our children the meaning of compassion, by example.

Please do the right thing and help end needless suffering and death.

Thank you,
Zizi Suleman
NY, NY 10003

My name is Shay Navon and I reside in Flatbush, Brooklyn - District 40. My councilmember is Dr. Mathieu Eugene. I am writing to you today to urge you to support Intro 1476 (the bill to ban the sale of fur in NYC).

Worldwide, over 100 million animals are abused and killed for their fur every year. Whether raised on fur-farms or trapped from the wild, fur-bearing animals including foxes, coyotes, wolves, bobcats, beavers, otters, dogs, cats, and raccoon dogs, have unimaginable cruelty inflicted upon them by the fur industry.

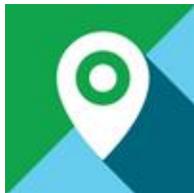
Speaker Corey Johnson has introduced a common-sense bill that would end the unnecessary suffering of animals abused by the fur industry. I applaud the City's commitment in recent years to protecting sharks from the shark fin industry, puppies from puppy mills, and wild animals from circuses. We strongly support New York City joining the dozens of designers, fashion houses, and cities in prohibiting the sale of fur apparel. Furthermore, a citywide survey, conducted by Mason-Dixon, found that 74% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans and 79% of independents support the sales prohibition.

Fur is outdated, unimaginably cruel and has no place in modern society. The fur industry is full of lies, violence and cruelty in every stitch.

Thank you, speaker Corey Johnson, for sponsoring the bill to prohibit the sale of fur apparel in new york city and to all who have supported it.

I also want to thank the city council again for their time and consideration.

Shay Navon



Shai Navon
Creative Director

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My name is Patricia Licea Guerrero and I'm one of Ms. Diana Ayala's constituents. I would like for Ms. Diana Ayala to support Intro 1476. I'm originally from Los Angeles but moved to the east coast for college and have now (to the dismay of my poor mother) stayed for work.

I'm sure you'll hear a variety of statistics and facts today explaining why the fur industry has no place in New York so I'd like to instead bring your attention to a more personal perspective.

I had my first interaction with "fur" when I was about 8 or 9 years old. My mom gifted me a gorgeous black fur coat. I loved it and wore it proudly for the first time on my way to a family party. An aunt approached me and asked me if I knew the coat could have been from a dog. I, a mere 8 or 9 year old, was horrified and admonished myself for not having considered that earlier. The coat immediately lost its allure for me for it couldn't be beautiful on anyone other than the original animal who bore the fur.

I now realize there was no way a \$20 coat from JCPenney could have been made from real fur, but my reaction was real. This story is emblematic of the changing times. If I, as a young child, turned away from this non-necessity by a passing mention of the manufacturing process, how could you all not be swayed with even more facts?

In sum, this California girl has remained warm and survived the raging northeastern winters without needing to wear fur. My generation, unlike the previous, doesn't view fur as glamorous and it WILL become a thing of the past.

--

Patricia Licea Guerrero

Dear Officer,

I hope you are doing well!

I am asking our NYC Council Members to vote against the proposed ban of Fur in NYC. It will destroy good Paying Jobs and forfeit critical tax revenue our city needs. It'll also have a devastating Environmental Impact which will negate any positive effect our Council Passed in our Green New Deal.

It's disappointing that when our City's top Legislative Body pushes an issue like the Fur Ban ahead of Life Altering Issues like: Gun Control, Crime, Pot Hole Ridden Streets, Education, Homeless Epidemic, Drug Epidemic and High Tax's among many other day to day issues we face.

When we're told that our Council Cares about the Poor, the Middle Class, the Immigrant, to Save Good Paying Manufacturing Jobs then turns around and wants to ban an Ethical Industry and Destroy one of the few Manufacturing Labors in NYC, Is Insulting. You should be Policing our Streets not our Closets. This "FUR" Ban will have a ripple effect on the Entire Fur (Def: Animals who grow hair on their Skin) and Fashion Industry, in NYC, NYS in the US, Globally and it will be devastating to many Economies.

I urge you to gather Facts, Information and stop this assault on ME the Working Middle Class. This Bill will only serve as a Giant Eraser of Jobs, needed Tax Revenue and put undue Stress on our families, friends and neighbors across many Industries. This bill does a great disservice to our Global Brothers and Sisters.

Please Vote NO on this Bill! Thank you so much!

Guilin Zhang
64ST Brooklyn ,NY11204

I am the president of The Sly Fox Inc., located in Naples Florida and Harbor Springs Michigan. The proposed NYC fur ban will impact our business gravely. We have been in the fur business for forty-two years. During this period approximately ninety percent of our fur inventory has been manufactured in NYC. The hard working and talented fur manufacturers in NYC have provided my family and dozens of our employees and their families with the bulk of our incomes. This will all come to an abrupt end with the approval of the proposed job killing fur ban. Just in parting I must ask this question ~ “Has the human become a sub-species to the extremists in NYC?”.

Sincerely,
Henry J McElhone

Dear City Council,

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed fur ban.

I work in the fur business using my mind to design beautiful creations. Banning fur would be akin to banning art. Similar to burning books or destroying paintings.

There are ways we can both exist ensuring animal welfare well still allowing art.

Please make a compromise as to ensure animal welfare without banning art.

Thank you kindly,
Greg Zuckerman

My name is Vangelis Ferdis, I came to New York from Greece 38 long years ago. Since my arrival, I have been working in the fur industry because this is the only trade that I was taught at a very young age.

After working in manufacturing very hard for many years, I was fortunate enough to open my own retail Fur business on Long Island, N.Y.

Throughout the years I have seen the high's and the low's in my business but I stuck with it since this is the only occupation I have.

I have never collected unemployment in my life and throughout the years I have employed many others and have always contributed my services and donations throughout my town.

My customers over the years have become friends!

This ban you're proposing in New York City will affect us all very much!

I am pleading that you reconsider this ban and lets find a different solution to make this industry acceptable from the aspects you're arguing about. Shutting down an industry is never good for anyone because people will be hurt directly and indirectly financially.

The majority of us are at the age that we cannot start over and or learn a new trade, so kindly reconsider this Fur Bun as it will be devastating to thousands of hard working people.

With utmost respect

Vangelis Ferdis

I have been a part of the Fur Industry since 1978 the impact on myself and others in the industry would be devastating and uncalled for .

This farce that Mr.Johnson is imposing is so ridiculous I truly do not believe he has any knowledge of the Industry at all.

This circus that was brought forth this week , I had to walk out due to the lack of truth that was being spewed.

How this was allowed was unbelievable to not only me but many others in the room. The things being said by adults, children was sickening to say the least and totally untrue.

This impacts so many companies, families , taxes coming into the city did Mr. Johnson ever look at thoughts numbers.

I would just hope he would just learn a little maybe just a little about not only this industry before he tries to get this through .

If by some chance this ever goes through its the end of an industry that pretty much started the country read a book .

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Grala

Hello, thank you for the time. My name is Richard Tax. I own a fur business in New York and all of my adult life I have been a voting New York Democrat. This proposed bill has me wondering about the direction of the Democratic party as a whole. I believe proposals such as this show just how out of touch with everyday people the Democratic party has become. Is it a coincidence, that the absolute worst qualified Republican candidate in history became our president? A man given almost zero chance at victory, a bully, a liar, a cheat, a man whose candidacy was thought of as a joke and why was he elected, I think we all know it wasn't votes for him, but against the Democratic candidate, big government and the liberal elite.

The proposed bill is anti business, especially small businesses. The bill will put immigrants and everyday working people and business owners out of work because some elected official decided he doesn't like fur, or because they are pandering to special interest groups. This proposed ban is the face of big government over legislating. This should not be a governmental issue at all. If the bill passes, it will put people out of work, decrease tax revenues, cause more unleased buildings, bring hardship down on families and limit our ability to educate our children at college without them taking on burdensome loans. I know our mayor has recently mentioned a run for the presidency, and it is also well known that Speaker Johnson has much higher aspirations than the city council. I hope you gentlemen are ready for questions at the debates from your Republican counterparts, such as why you closed down businesses of hard working Americans, was it either for your own personal preference or because of pandering to special interest groups? What will be your answer. This is exactly the type of thing Republicans will target, correctly saying, how much the Democrats favor government interference and control and that Democrats are anti business, especially anti small business.

This entire initiative is being pushed by one fringe group, the radical lying animal extremists whose frontrunner is PETA, who believe you should not use animals for any reason, including eating meat or owning the type of pet that you desire. They call it speciesism, where an animal has the same rights as a human. Please look it up, they don't bother to hide it. And this group is in Speaker Johnson's ear, who repeats their lies and is trying to force this ban on us when there is no public groundswell for it. Just a few crazy radical extremists and their mouthpiece. Before this proposed ban was penned by Speaker Johnson, did any of you council members have constituents knocking down your doors saying "we have to stop the sale of furs in New York"? Of course you did not, as there is no public outcry for it, and even if there was, this is not a decision for the government to make. The city council is supposed to be pro small business, well ladies and gentlemen, it is time to prove it. Please vote no on this proposed and flawed piece of legislation, and that will be a vote of yes for small businesses and freedom of choice.

Dear Council Members

My name is Leonard Tax And am the president of Klondike International Furs in Manhattan. My family has been in the fur business for over 100 years in New York City and have employed and continue to employ many people, have rented and owned offices and paid taxes and voted. I urge you to vote no on this proposal.

I watched the council meeting on may 15th and am extremely disturbed by what was continually brought up and accepted as fact, where no facts were presented. At other times things that were presented as fact were just ideas and opinion. I would like to prove to you that the animal rights extremists are either uninformed or flat out lying and can not be trusted in the least.

An assertion we heard many times from the proponents of the ban was that was that trapping for any reason is unnecessary, that there is absolutely no reason for it. This is flat out wrong. State governments in our country and other countries buy traps and pay trappers a bounty to kill wild animals. Why? Because there is an overpopulation of the species. There are actually not enough animals being trapped, Therefore the government has to step in and promote trapping and hunting with bounties and by buying and giving away free traps. This completely shows that the anti fur people at the meeting were either misinformed or lying. One of their supposed experts even said there was no reason at all for trapping. This information is easy to find on the internet, through reliable third party sources. see the below links for just a few of the things that i have found:

<https://www.argusleader.com/story/news/politics/2019/04/05/south-dakota-begins-predator-bounty-program-despite-opposition-questions-pheasant-hunting/3366306002/>

<https://gfp.sd.gov/bounty-program/>

<https://www.gohunt.com/read/news/utah-changes-requirements-for-coyote-bounty-program#gs.ckff0e>

<https://www.pipestonestar.com/articles/township-beaver-bounty-increases/>

<https://www.wect.com/story/33647409/columbus-co-commissioners-vote-to-keep-beaver-bounty-at-40>

<https://www.animallaw.info/statute/ms-wildlife-bounty-chapter-5-health-safety-and-public-welfare-general>

<https://www.dglobe.com/news/government-and-politics/4557311-beaver-bounty-drop-pelt-value-and-reduction-trappers-population>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/animalia/wp/2018/08/09/why-two-countries-want-to-kill-100000-beavers/>

<https://www.latimes.com/world/mexico-americas/la-fg-beavers-tierra-del-fuego-2017-story.html>

<https://www.politico.eu/article/culling-of-animals-is-necessary/>

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/297585112_A_historical_perspective_on_the_effects_of_trapping_and_controlling_the_muskrat_Ondatra_zibethicus_in_The_Netherlands

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/pest-animals/invasive-animal-management/established-invasive-animals/integrated-fox-control-for-rural-and-natural-landscapes>
https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/trapping_furbearer_mgt_na.pdf

These is just one of the instances where lies or misinformation was given at the meeting including skinning animals alive. The people who staged those videos were animal rights activists, who bribed the workers to do it. We have the affidavits for it, and when Mr. Mark Oaten told the speaker that, that would he like to see the affidavits, the speaker did not ask to see him and went ot another line of question.. Peta is well know for this, see the following links for some of their most recent actions:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-intersect/wp/2017/06/07/peta-wanted-a-fake-cat-video-to-go-viral-it-didnt-exactly-turn-out-as-planned/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.8e017bb0ef11

<https://www.renewamerica.com/columns/miles/170208>

Please vote no against the proposed ban, these are the people pushing the agenda. Speaker Jonson said in his second appearance that the fur people should look inside them sleeves and transparency was talk about in terms of the fur buiness. well i urge you too look inside Peta, and their tactics, and their complete and total lack of transparency.

thank you

Council members,

My name is Mitchell Tax and I live in New York City and own a fur business in New York City.

We have all heard talk about many sides of this issues, but i would like to know: why is this ban proposed? as i have heard different reasons why speaker Johnson has proposed it.

Originally, the ban was proposed because of cruelty to animals. But after an African American pro fur rally last week, and again earlier this week, and then again at the May 15th council meeting, the speaker changed his tune by mentioning that leather will not be banned as the animal is eaten, but fur bearing animals are not. to quote speaker johnson:

"I think it's unnecessary to kill animals just to wear them".

So is this proposed ban against using animal skins if their meat is not eaten?? that is what speaker johnson is saying now.If that is the case then speaker johnson needs to change this bill. the meat from the following animals that are on the proposed ban are consumed by humans:

Rabbits, afghanistan lambs, chinchilla, american raccoon, chinese raccoon, canadian beaver, muskats, squirrel, opossum and mink produced in china and other poorer nations

According to peta, angora goat is not eaten and to quote "are raised specifically for their coats, and many never make it to slaughter." Again, according to Speaker Johnson's comments, angora goats should be on the list of banned animals, but they are not.

Also directly from the peta website, the following species are killed specifically for their skins.

bison	ostriches
kangaroo,	lizards
crocodiles	snakes
alligator	

But none of these animals are on the banned list.

So really, what is the basis for what is allowed and what is not allowed?

As it stands, Speaker Johnson, who has his facts and/or his agenda mixed up, decides which animals can be killed and which can't. He is saying it is cruel to raise animals for their hides, but not cruel to raise them for their meat, but doesn't know which animals meet this personal criteria

For the record, the fur farming industries has the strictest guidelines of any of the animal farmer industries.

Please vote no on this proposed ban, the information that it is based on is inconsistent, and no one knows the exactly the reason this has even been proposed including speaker johnson who proposed the ban and is pushing this agenda that is backed by special interest, extremist groups.

Desde los 18 años trabajo en fur market está profesión aprendí siempre he pagado mis taxes tengo 55 años de edad como voy a mantener mi familia si no se hacer nada mas por favor necesito mi trabajo 🙏🙏

Sent from my iPhone

MYRIAM LOPEZ myrmlop@aol.com

This testimony is submitted on behalf of Rafael Allayev.

Dear Councilmember and Committee,

My name is Rafael .I'm working as

a freelancer in fur & Craft custom shoes & Hand Bag industry.

I immigrated from Russia in 1991.

I came to this country looking for better life and

American dream.

I'm working in the fur industry for 28 years.

This industry is my livelihood.

My message to councilman and committee:

Please do not pass fur ban.

I'm 52 years old , my profession is very specific

and it applies only to fur knitted product .

It will be very hard almost impossible for me to find other job or change my carrier.

I have two kids and its very painful for me to even think that I'll not going to be able to pay my rent , medical bills and will have to be unemployed.

Now I have a job , If fur ban goes into effect it will destroy my family and my live.

Please stand for me and my family.

Thank you .

Rafaello Allayev

West 30 street ,

New York, NY 10001

DSS Management Consultants Inc.
Designers of Decision Support Systems

Wednesday, May 15 2019

Delivered in person

New York City Council

Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing

City Hall

City Hall Park

New York, NY 10007

Re: Intro. 1476-2019 – Opposition to Proposed Fur Ban

Dear Chair Rafael L. Espinal Jr. and City Council Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address your committee today.

My name is Ed Hanna; I am a principal in DSS Management Consultants Inc; a Canadian consultancy specialising in environmental and natural resource management. I have been sponsored to attend this meeting by FurNYC.

I hold a Honours Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Biology and a Masters of Environmental Engineering; both from the University of Toronto. I have practised as a private consultant for 45 years and have worked in all continents except Australia and Antarctica.

In 2011, DSS prepared a comparative life cycle assessment (LCA) of natural and fake fur for the International Fur Trade Federation (now the International Fur Federation). My submission today is based on that work.

First, let me address a pervasive issue with these types of proceedings; namely bias or at least, the apprehension of bias. Our work has been undertaken on behalf of the natural fur industry. Clearly this casts a large shadow of suspicion as to the objectivity of my

submission. As a private consultant working for government, private industry and for many environmental organisations, the risk of bias is ever present; albeit, in all directions depending on who the client is. However, my value as an analyst to any organisation ultimately hinges on the technical soundness, objectivity and transparency of my work.

For that reason, great emphasis is placed on ensuring my work meets the highest professional standard. Nowhere is this more so than with our natural fur LCA.

Our LCA:

- Is based on the best information that was available to us,
- Covers the entire life cycle of natural and fake fur from production, use and disposal (i.e. cradle to grave),
- Complies with the ISO standard for LCA, and
- Was subjected to critical peer review.

For these reasons, this LCA represents the most comprehensive and unbiased comparison of the environmental performance of natural and fake fur of which I am aware.

I have attached a copy of the executive summary of this LCA to my submission. I will not delve into all of the technical details of the LCA in the interests of time but if there are any questions about the methodology or the findings, I would be happy to respond to the best of my ability.

Instead, I will refer to Figure 6 in that report. This figure provides a concise summary of the findings but before doing so, I thought it might be helpful to explain things in a less technical and less potentially confusing manner. What I want to do is quickly walk through a cradle-to-grave narrative of the life cycle of natural fur and fake fur garments.

Most natural fur comes from fur farms. These are truly farms, not unlike other types of livestock operations. Many fur farms have been run for generations and involve similar animal husbandry practices as are common with other farms. Like any farm, the feed is produced for the animals, manure and soiled bedding is collected and used as a soil amendment and surplus livestock is sold to produce revenue for the operation. For those with a farming background, you will be familiar with the principles that govern a good farming operation; namely the goal of sustaining the productivity of the land by returning as much of the residual material to the soil as possible or using it for other purposes; that is the goal is to minimise waste. These principles guide fur farmers as well. As a result, little goes to "waste" and instead, carcasses are rendered to produce animal feed or biogas, manure and soiled bedding is used as a soil amendment, etc. Fur farmers

are constantly striving to make the reuse cycle tighter so that as little as possible escapes to the natural environment as waste and instead, good use is made of these materials.

An important distinguishing feature of many fur farms is that they also serve as waste processing operations. A major component of the animal feed is derived from wastes from meat and fish processing operations; waste that otherwise would require energy and land for disposal. In other words, fur farms provide a positive environmental service.

On the other hand, fake fur is produced in large petrochemical factories. The synthetic fossil-fuel-derived chemicals are mixed to produce thin fur-like fibres that are then woven into a backing to produce fake fur textile.

The differences between the production of natural fur and fake fur could not be more different up to this point. Natural fur is produced on farms in a rural setting using waste products as a primary input. Fake fur is synthesised by large petrochemical industries using virgin fossil fuels. Accordingly, the environmental demands of these two types of operations are much different.

After the production of both types of fur, the products enter the garment fabrication stage. There are some similarities in their life cycles at this stage. Both natural and fake fur may be dyed and cut to produce garments. These garments are then sent to retailers and sold to consumers.

A significant difference between natural fur and fake fur garments is their functional life. Natural fur garments have approximately six times the life expectancy of fake fur garments. As well, repurposing of natural fur is widespread. Old fur garments are disassembled and refabricated into new garments; thus extending their functional life even further. Fake fur garments are not repurposed and instead are disposed in landfills or incinerators after they are deemed surplus.

Finally, when natural fur eventually finds its way to landfills, it decomposes relatively quickly unlike fake fur that takes centuries to decompose.

Let me now compare the two products using conventional LCA metrics. Fifteen environmental performance metrics were used to compare the life cycle of natural and fake fur. Of these metrics, the following are of particular interest;

- Carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic air emissions

- Respiratory inorganics
- Global warming
- Non-renewable energy consumption
- Land occupation

These five metrics account for the majority of the environmental impacts associated with the life cycle of a natural and fake fur garment. Natural fur outperforms fake fur in four of these five categories; the one exception being respiratory inorganic air emissions.

These results are discussed thoroughly in our report. That discussion is summarised below.

Carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic air emissions - These emissions are 50% greater with fake fur. Much greater quantities of these emissions are associated with large petrochemical facilities compared to a farming operation. As well, these large petrochemical facilities tend to be close to large population centres so that the exposed population is greater resulting in an overall increase in the likely number of adverse health outcomes associated with these emissions.

Respiratory inorganics - Fur farms result in higher respiratory inorganic emissions due to the normal operations associated with raising livestock. These emissions of respiratory inorganics are comparable to those from other livestock operations. The risk of adverse health outcomes associated with these emissions however is low both due to the specific nature of these emissions and where the emissions occur. Fur farms are located in rural settings with a low surrounding population density. The number of people exposed is small and accordingly, the expected number of adverse health outcomes associated with these emissions is low.

Global warming - The risk of global warming is 2.4 times greater with fake fur. Our LCA does not account for the production of biogas from fur farm waste. This biogas replaces the use of fossil fuels; thus reducing the global warming risk of natural fur even further.

Non-renewable energy consumption - Non-renewable energy consumption is 2.6 times greater with fake fur.

Land occupation - Natural fur outperforms fake fur by a margin of 4:1. Natural fur has a large positive environmental benefit. There are two reasons for this. First, the functional life of natural fur is much longer than that of fake fur. Accordingly, the amount of waste requiring

disposal is much less. Secondly, fur farms provide a waste processing service. By using waste from meat and fish processing operations, fur farms reduce the need for treatment facilities and landfilling.

Overall environmental performance - The ISO LCA standard recommends against adding together the results of the 15 environmental metrics. The rationale for this direction is questionable. Nonetheless, for four out of the five most significant environmental performance metrics, natural fur clearly outperforms fake fur.

In summary, on the basis of our LCA, it can be definitively concluded that banning the sale of natural fur is not an environmentally responsible decision.

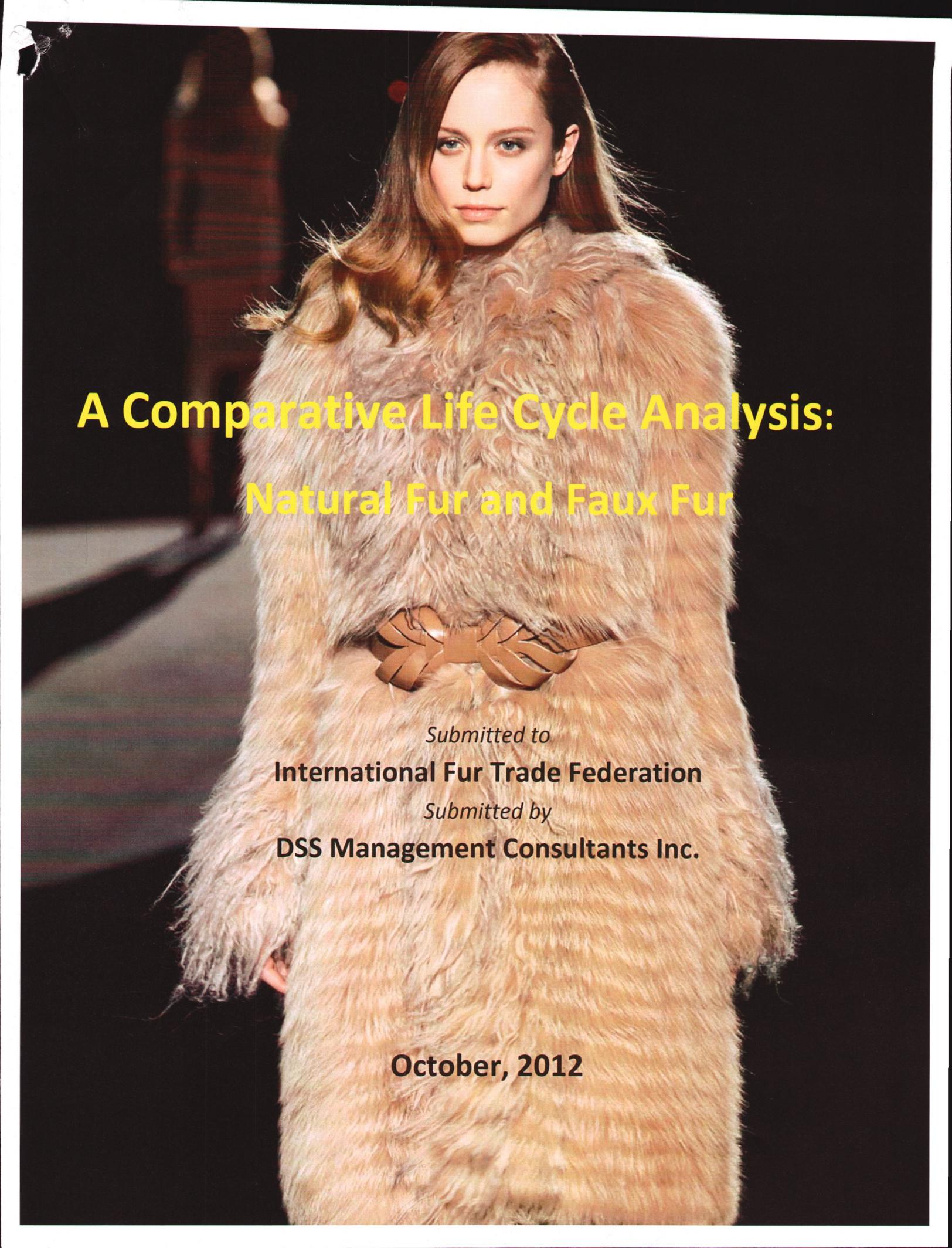
Respectfully submitted on behalf of FurNYC,

Ed Hanna

Principal, DSS Management Consultants Inc.

647-256-3460

ed.hanna@dssmgmt.com



**A Comparative Life Cycle Analysis:
Natural Fur and Faux Fur**

Submitted to
International Fur Trade Federation
Submitted by
DSS Management Consultants Inc.

October, 2012

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1 INTRODUCTION

This study was commissioned by the International Fur Trade Federation (IFTF). The natural fur industry has various public information initiatives aimed at promoting the “green” advantages of natural fur. These initiatives are based on facts; such as, natural fur is biodegradable and is not made from petro-chemicals. The industry wished to undertake a more rigorous evaluation of the life cycle demands on the environment of natural fur and faux fur. This study is in response to this need.

The practice of life cycle assessment (LCA) has advanced greatly over the last two decades. Major drivers for this development are the increased importance being given by producers and consumers to the environmental demands associated with different products and the desire of concerned consumers to purchase “environmentally friendly” products. As a result, strong market incentives have been created for producers to make environmental claims about their products. This has led to “environmentally friendly” claims being made that are difficult to substantiate or that involve “selective” assessment methodologies and analyses.

This challenge has resulted in the emergence of certification and auditing standards for “green products” associated with diverse economic sectors (e.g., forest products, organically grown produce). In parallel with these initiatives has been the demand for standardized “cradle to grave” tracking of the inputs and outputs associated with different products. LCA has emerged to provide a comprehensive accounting of the environmental demands¹ associated with different products and services.

LCA standards have been developed by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). These standards have undergone several revisions since they were first introduced in the mid-1990s. Standardisation of the LCA methodology has increased objectivity and consistency, making the results more valuable for consumers and responsible producers. Both wish to ensure that environmental claims being made about products are accurate and are not misleading. The analysis presented in this report has given due regard to the ISO LCA standard with the objective being to produce a balanced and comprehensive comparison of the two products.

Coincidentally with the evolution of the ISO LCA standard, various industrial sectors, government agencies and non-government organizations have initiated LCAs and advocated LCA requirements. This has given rise to the production of extensive LCA databases, studies and reporting requirements. These initiatives have influenced and where appropriate, have been relied on for the comparative analysis reported herein.

The primary target audience for this LCA is the IFTF and its members and those considering purchasing natural or faux fur garments.

This study provides a basis for the industry to evaluate its environmental performance and for prioritizing potential areas for improvement. This type of use for an LCA is emerging as one of its greatest long-term benefits. The supporting data and methodology developed as part of this study can be used by individual operations, by regional

¹ The term “environmental demand” is used throughout this report. Every product and service we produce and every activity we undertake places demands on the environment. These demands consist of two basic types; demand for resources (i.e., inputs such as materials, energy, water) and demand to assimilate our wastes (i.e., outputs such as emissions to land, water and air). LCA is a means to systematically track and comprehensively account for these environmental demands.

industry organisations and by the industry as a whole to guide continual environmental improvement of natural fur production operations. Such use of this LCA will generate long-lasting environmental benefits for the industry.

The generic LCA framework on which this analysis is based is shown in Figure 1. The objective is to track all significant inputs and outputs associated with each stage in the production, use and disposal of each product and to evaluate the environmental demands associated with each input and output.

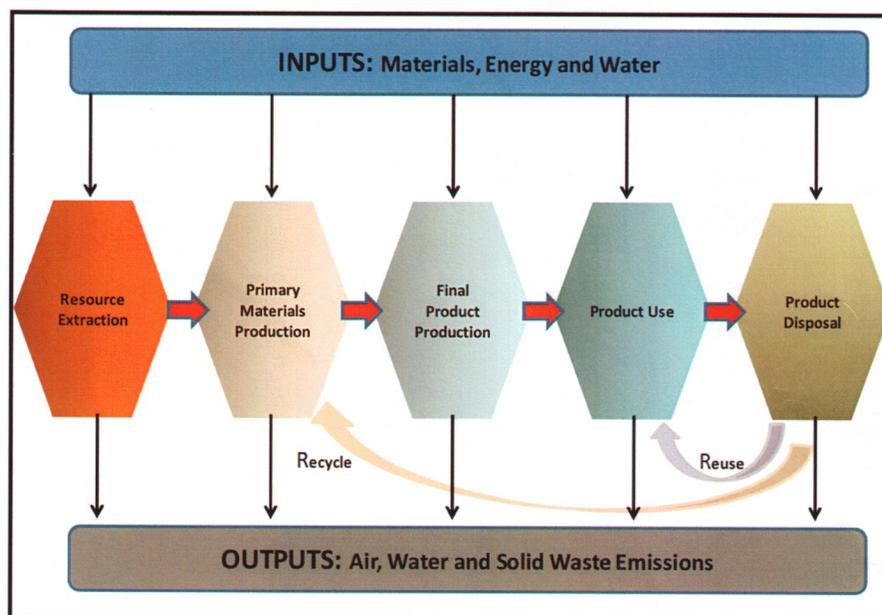


Figure 1 - Generic Stages - Production, Use and Disposal

All reasonable efforts were made to obtain and use the best available data. Large variations were evident among published results and among the responses received from surveys sent to various natural fur operations. In addition, considerable variation was evident among the survey data themselves. In some cases, few or no data were available for certain stages in the life cycle. As a result, the information on which this LCA is based is mix of primary data, published sources and professional judgement.

One of the major strategies for filling gaps was to rely on the SimaPro² software and its supporting databases (i.e., primarily the Ecoinvent³ and the Danish LCA Food databases) and the associated generic process menu included with the software. Where a specific process associated with the production of natural or faux fur was not included, the closest facsimile was selected and modifications to the standard inputs and outputs were made consistent with the known process characteristics for the corresponding natural or faux fur process.

Resolving these gaps demanded application of professional judgement. Given that this report has been funded by IFTF, the apprehension of bias is inevitable and nowhere is this more so than where professional judgement is exercised. To reduce this apprehension, considerable effort has been made to identify clearly key situations where professional judgement has been exercised and to rationalize why a specific judgement has been reached. As well, sensitivity analysis has been used to provide an appreciation of the significance of the key judgements that have been

² Version 7.3.0

³ Version 2.1

made. Clearly documenting data sources and explaining the related analysis allows independent review and confirmation of this analysis. In fact, this LCA has undergone a critical, independent third-party peer review as per the ISO LCA standard.

A number of LCAs dealing with one environmental aspect or another of natural fur have been undertaken (CE Delft, 2011; HSUS, 2009; Poulsen et al, 2003; van Dijk M. 2002; Smith, 1991). The IFTF has critiqued these LCAs and found a number of them wanting in various aspects. The overarching purpose of this comparative LCA is to provide technically sound, accurate and environmentally-relevant information pertaining to the environmental inputs and outputs (i.e., the environmental demands) associated with the production, use and disposal of natural and faux fur garments.

This LCA is based on the attributional LCA method⁴. The primary data collected for natural fur production is consistent with this method. The Danish LCA Food database which was used for some processes is based on a consequential LCA method. Given that this LCA largely includes only consumable inputs (i.e., energy and resources), does not include durables (e.g., building and structures), and the Danish LCA Food database was used for only two inputs (i.e., fish and poultry by-products), this methodological inconsistency does not affect significantly the results of this LCA.

2 LCA PARAMETERS

The scope of this LCA is limited to the production, use and disposal of natural and faux fur garments. All major inputs and outputs associated with each stage have been identified and characterised in terms of the amount and nature of each.

Functional Unit – The functional unit used for this LCA is the lifetime use of a natural-fur, full-length coat. The useful life of a natural fur coat is assumed to be 30 years. The useful life of a faux fur coat is assumed to be 6 years. To make the two products comparable, it is assumed that five faux fur coat are required to equal the useful lifetime of one natural fur coat. The composition of natural and faux fur garments is assumed to be the same except for the type of fur used.

Natural Fur Production - Primary data relating to inputs and outputs were collected for various processes associated with the natural fur lifecycle. These data were obtained through surveys distributed to individual operators. The response rate to these surveys was generally low. As a result, reliance on secondary data sources was necessary in many cases.

The original intent was to develop the life cycle for a representative/typical natural and faux fur garment. In the case of faux fur, this concept was reasonably practical; faux fur is primarily produced by large integrated chemical and garment manufacturing facilities. Accordingly the population of producers is relatively small and concentrated and only small variations in production process technology exist; at least, relative to natural fur. In short, many similarities exist among the faux fur producers and the associated process technologies. This is not the case with natural fur production.

Natural fur is produced on fur farms that are relatively small compared to faux fur production facilities. As well, natural fur is produced in a number of widely dispersed jurisdictions with local conditions varying substantially from one location to another. Accordingly the population of natural fur producers is relatively large, operates under diverse environmental conditions and requirements and the operations themselves vary significantly in many respects in terms of the production process inputs and outputs.

⁴ Refer to Finnveden et al (2009) for further explanation of the attributional LCA method.

The result is that the notion of a representative natural fur life cycle has limited practical relevance. For this reason, no claim is made that this LCA is based on a representative natural fur life cycle. Instead, the natural fur life cycle presented in this report is largely representative of current good management practices. As a result, the life cycle for some natural fur products will have higher demands than those indicated in this LCA. On the other hand, even better environmental performance may be achieved by some producers by improved deployment of current technology or the innovation of new techniques and practices. In summary, the results presented in this report represent the environmental performance that can be expected from well run, natural fur production processes.

Faux Fur Production - Faux fur fibre is produced from petro-chemicals as part of large integrated chemical manufacturing facilities. Europe, Japan and North America account for much of the annual global production. Considerable investment in lifecycle inventories has been made by Plastics Europe to characterise the petro-chemical processes associated with a great diversity of products; these data are included in the Ecoinvent database⁵ produced by the Swiss Centre for Life Cycle Inventories. The extent to which these data are representative of faux fur fibre production in regions other than Europe was not assessed.

Considerable processing is required to convert acrylic fibre into faux fur fabric. No systematic quantitative characterisation of these processes was found. Further, the actual production of faux fur fabric often occurs quite distant from where the fibre is produced; for example, China is a major producer of faux fur fabric. For these reasons, the faux fur fabric production processes were characterized largely by using the most comparable process included in the SimaPro generic process menu and modifying the inputs and outputs in accordance with other published sources.

Garment Production – The production of natural and faux fur garments was assumed to be largely comparable. The only significant difference was the nature and amount of production waste. The Ecoinvent database was used to characterise the garment production stage for both natural and faux fur garments.

Use and Disposal - The Ecoinvent database was also used extensively to characterise the use and disposal stages for both natural and faux fur garments.

Inputs - All identified inputs of materials and energy were included for both products. The Ecoinvent database includes explicit allocation and cut-off rules. These rules were accepted without modification as being appropriate for this analysis. The environmental demands associated with durable inputs (e.g., buildings, machinery, etc.) are not included; only consumable inputs and outputs (e.g., energy, process materials, wastes, etc.) are included in this LCA. The reason is that proportional to consumable inputs, the environmental demand of durable inputs is much less and is not expected to change the results significantly.

The effect of these allocations and rules is that essentially all significant inputs and outputs associated with producing inputs used directly in the production of natural and faux fur products and inputs and outputs associated with managing outputs (e.g., wastewater treatment, landfill) are included in this LCA.

Outputs - The Ecoinvent database was also used for tracking the environmental demands associated with managing the outputs from the production, use and disposal of natural and faux fur products. In other words, the tracking of outputs associated with the production, use and disposal of natural and faux fur products was characterised using a similar approach as was used for process inputs.

⁵ Weidema B., Hischer R., Althaus H.-J., Bauer C., Doka G., Dones R., Frischknecht R., Jungbluth N., Nemecek T., Primas A. and Wernet G. 2009 Code of Practice. Final report ecoinvent data v2.1 No. 2. Swiss Centre for Life Cycle Inventories, Dübendorf, CH. http://www.ecoinvent.org/fileadmin/documents/en/02_CodeOfPractice_v2.1.pdf

Impact Assessment - Impact assessment involves connecting specific environmental demands (be that resources that are consumed/extracted from the environment or wastes that are discharged to the environment) with the environmental consequences that result from these demands. In a conventional environmental impact assessment analysis, some form of “dose/response” or “cause/effect” model would be used to forecast these impacts. Such models typically are tailored to deal with the specific environmental circumstances under which production activities occur. With LCA, impact assessment is more generic and less site-specific. The objective is not to derive precise estimates of environmental impacts but rather to provide approximate indicators of the magnitude and significance associated with broad impact categories.

The Impact 2002+ impact assessment method was the primary method used in this LCA. The ReCiPe impact assessment method was used for sensitivity analysis. Both of these methods are included as part of the SimaPro software; indicator values using each method are automatically calculated by the software. Each of these methodologies has its strengths and weaknesses; most of which have been reviewed extensively in the LCA literature. These two impact assessment methods reasonably represent the current state of the art in LCA.

Impact 2002+ includes four endpoint indicators, namely:

1. Human health impacts,
2. Ecosystem quality impacts,
3. Climate change impacts, and
4. Demand on resources supplies.

These four endpoints cover the primary sustainability issues associated with these two products and provide a good basis to compare the environmental demands of the two products.

Various intermediate midpoint indicators comprise each endpoint indicator. The midpoint indicators for each Impact 2002+ endpoint are as follow. These midpoint indicators were also analysed for the two products.

Health Impacts:

1. Carcinogens
2. Non-carcinogenic toxins
3. Respiratory organics
4. Respiratory inorganics
5. Ionizing radiation
6. Ozone layer depletion
7. Photochemical oxidation

Ecosystem Quality Impacts:

1. Aquatic ecotoxicity
2. Terrestrial ecotoxicity
3. Terrestrial acidification
4. Aquatic acidification
5. Land occupation

Climate Change Impacts:

1. Global warming potential

Demand on Resources Supplies:

1. Non-renewable Energy Demand
2. Mineral Extraction



3 LIFE CYCLE DEMAND –NATURAL FUR

Figure 2 shows the flow of inputs and outputs associated with the life cycle of a natural fur coat. For each stage, all of the major inputs and outputs are identified and the associated quantities estimated.

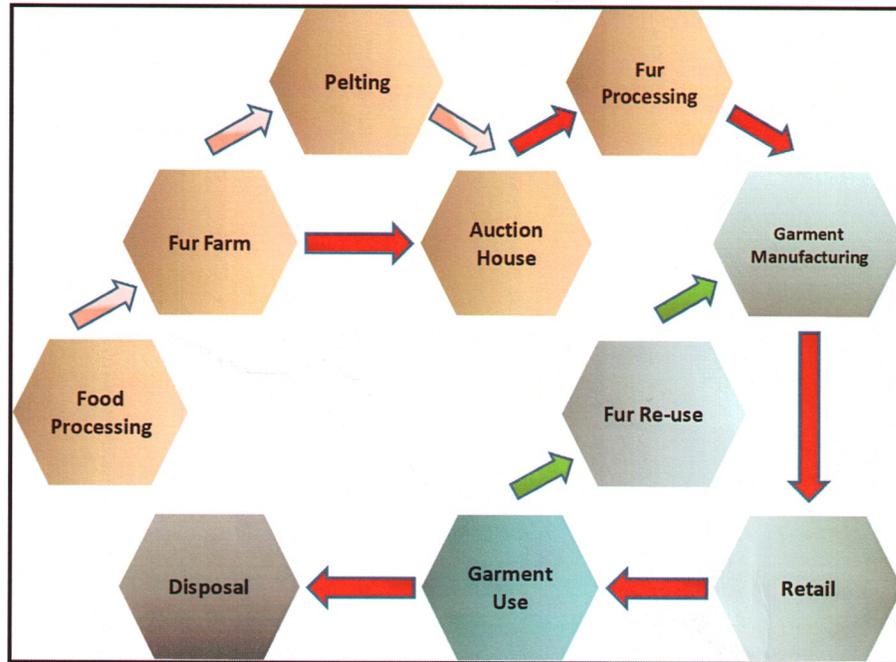


Figure 2 - Production, Use and Disposal Stages – Natural Fur

The red arrows indicate the primary flow path among the process stages. The pink shaded arrows indicate operations that may occur as part of an integrated mink farm operation or that may take place off-site⁶. The green shaded arrows indicate the potential for some of the product waste flow to be re-used.

The natural fur used to produce a natural fur coat in this LCA is assumed to come wholly from a commercial fur farm. This LCA does not include fur produced by the trapping of wild mink.

Figure 3 shows the proportional environmental demands associated with the entire life cycle from cradle to grave of a natural fur coat. The environmental demand for each major stage is shown in the bottom left corner of each box as a percentage of the total environmental demand for the entire life cycle. This figure shows the 6 most significant nodes (i.e., process stages) out of a total of 2077 associated with the production, use and disposal of a natural fur coat.

The major portion of the demand is associated with production of a natural fur coat (i.e., 49%). The annual storage of a natural fur coat accounts for the next largest share of the total environmental demand (i.e., about 30%). Retailing and dry cleaning combined account for about 21% of the demand. Reuse of old fur coats reduces the environmental demand by about 5%.

⁶ For the purposes of this comparative LCA, all of these processes are assumed to occur at separate sites and allowance is included for transportation of the materials from one location to another.

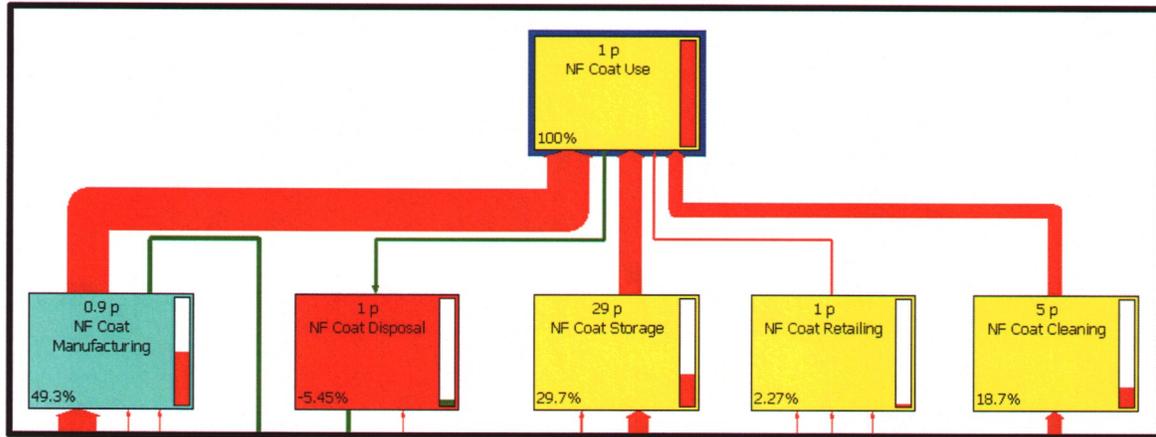


Figure 3 – Overall Environmental Demands for Natural Fur Life Cycle

4 LIFE CYCLE DEMAND – FAUX FUR

Figure 4 shows the flow of inputs and outputs associated with a faux fur coat. For each stage, all of the major inputs and outputs are identified and the associated quantities estimated.

Figure 5 shows the environmental demands associated with the entire life cycle from cradle to grave of the life cycle of a faux fur coat. The environmental demand for each major stage is shown in the bottom left corner of each box as a percentage of the total environmental demand for the entire life cycle. This figure shows the 13 most significant nodes (i.e., process stages) out of a total of 2017 associated with the production, use and disposal of a faux fur coat.

The production of the faux fur coat accounts for the largest share of the total environmental demand (i.e., over 85%). Retailing and dry cleaning account for most of the remaining environmental demand (i.e., 13%). Disposal accounts for less than 1% of the total demand and is not shown on Figure 5.

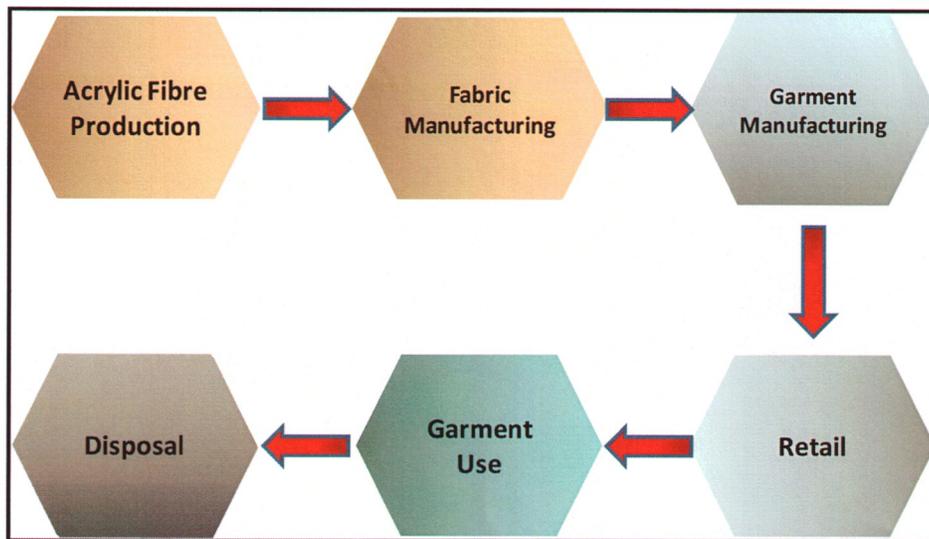


Figure 4 - Production, Use and Disposal Stages – Faux Fur

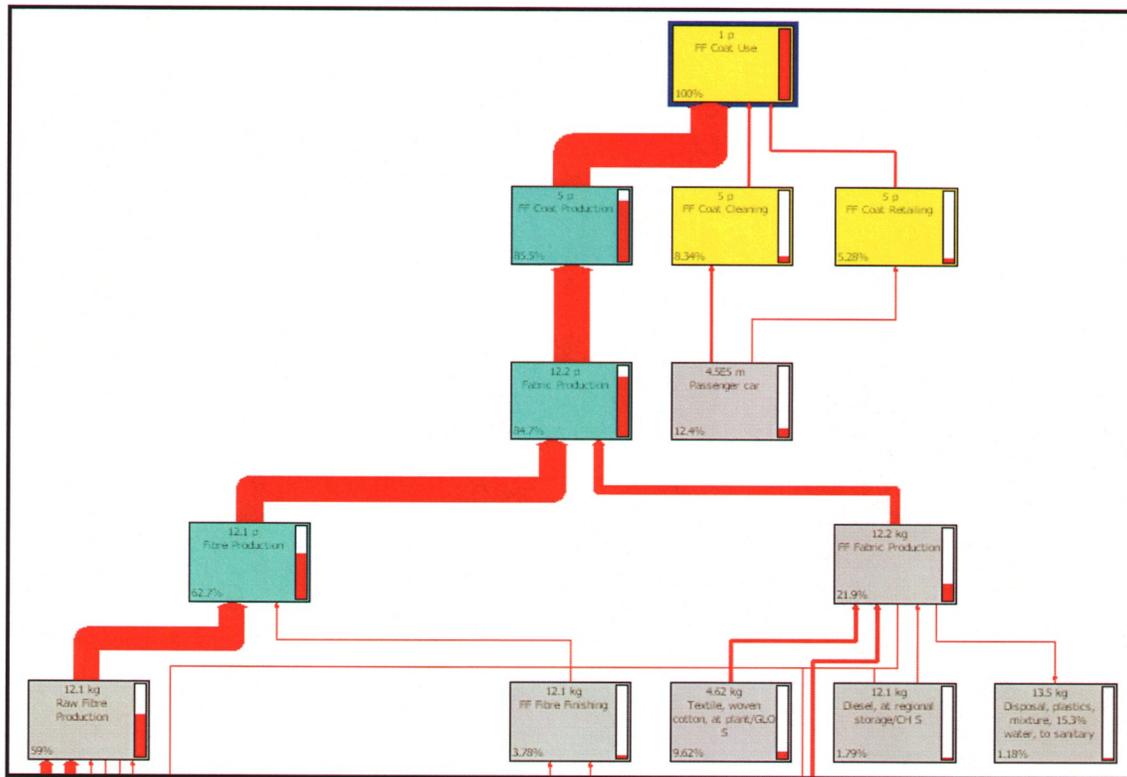


Figure 5 – Overall Environmental Demands for Faux Fur Life Cycle

5 COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT

These individual life cycle assessments for natural and faux fur were used to compare the environmental demands of the two products. Figure 6 shows the environmental demand of each product in terms of individual midpoint indicators. Table 1 shows the relative differences between the two products for each indicator as a percentage of the natural fur score for the indicator.

Out of the thirteen midpoint indicators with non-zero scores, a faux fur coat scores significantly better for three indicators, namely, respiratory organics emissions, ozone layer depletion and terrestrial acidification/nutritification. On the other hand, the life cycle of a faux fur coat results in considerably greater consumption of non-renewable energy, greater risk of potential impacts of global warming and greater risk of potential impacts from ionizing radiation. As well, there is greater risk of potential impacts from carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic emissions and greater risk of potential terrestrial ecotoxicity impacts with the life cycle of a faux fur coat.

An environmental credit associated with avoided land occupation is present only with the life cycle of a natural fur coat. As a result, the life cycle of a natural fur coat reduces the potential impacts of land occupation by 2.2 times compared to the life cycle of a faux fur coat.

These results indicate that based on the environmental demands associated with the entire life cycles of the two products, a faux fur coat is expected to result in greater environmental demands than the production of natural fur coat with respect to the majority of these midpoint indicators.

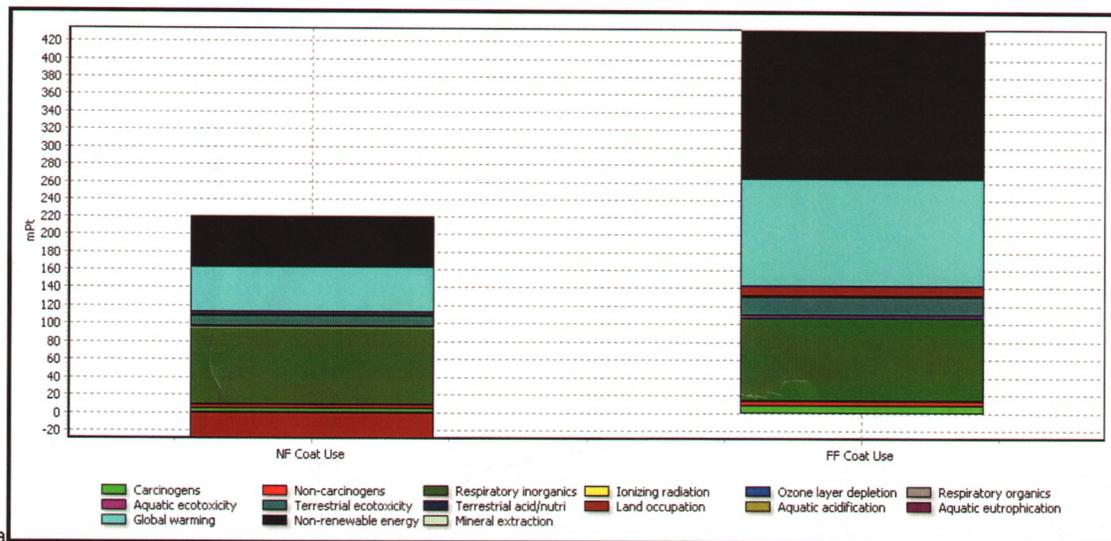


Figure 6 – Midpoint Scores; Environmental Demands for Overall Life Cycle

Table 1 – Life Cycle Scores and Percent Differences for Individual Midpoint Indicators

Impact Category	Raw Score ⁷		Percent Difference ⁸
	Natural Fur	Faux Fur	
Carcinogens	4.096	7.960	94%
Non-carcinogens	3.932	5.200	32%
Respiratory inorganics	86.971	84.131	-3%
Ionizing radiation	0.246	1.159	370%
Ozone layer depletion	0.065	0.040	-39%

⁷ All scores are reported in ‘millipoints’ units. Millipoints is an abstract unit used to express diverse types of potential impacts. Refer to the Impact 2002+ website for further details. [University of Michigan Risk Science Center - Risk and Impact Modeling - Research - Impact 2002+](http://www.umriskcenter.org/impact-modeling-research-impact-2002/)

⁸ The percentage differences are calculated by dividing the difference between the natural and faux fur scores and dividing by the natural fur score for the indicator.



Respiratory organics	0.408	0.305	-25%
Aquatic ecotoxicity	0.561	0.571	2%
Terrestrial ecotoxicity	12.017	16.874	40%
Terrestrial acidification /nitrification	4.312	1.880	-56%
Land occupation	-28.759	4.503	116%
Global warming	49.576	113.451	129%
Non-renewable energy	58.384	156.969	169%
Mineral extraction	0.050	0.056	12%

Figure 7 evaluates the two products based on their impact on four endpoint indicators, namely human health, ecosystem quality, climate change and consumption of resources. The scores for each of these endpoint indicators are derived from the more detailed midpoint indicators discussed above. Table 2 provides the specific scores for each endpoint indicator.

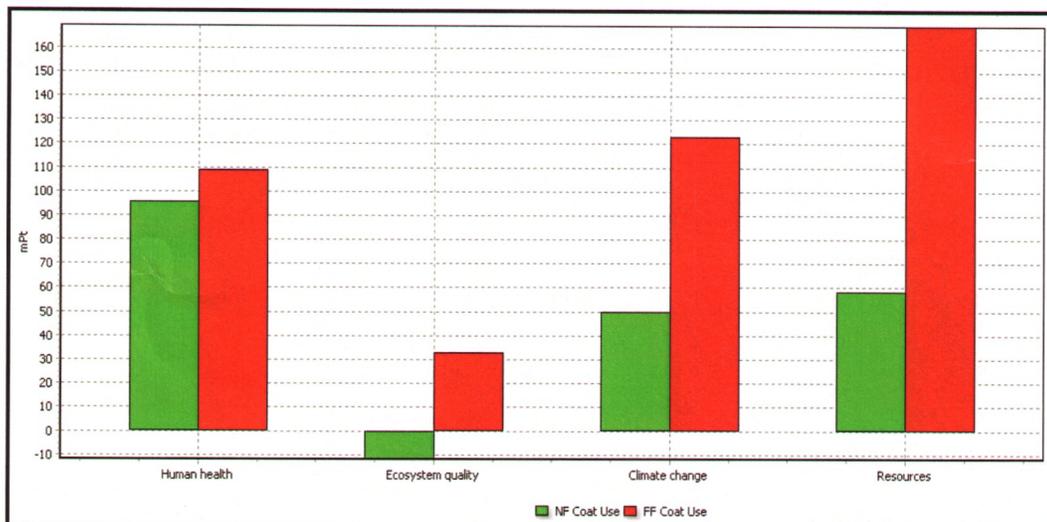


Figure 7 – Endpoint Indicators Scores for Natural and Faux Coat Life Cycles

Table 2 – Life Cycle Scores and Percent Differences for Individual Endpoint Indicators

Endpoint Impact Category	Raw Score		Percent Difference
	Natural Fur	Faux Fur	
Human Health	95.7171	98.7944	3%
Ecosystem Quality	-11.8683	23.8284	-301%
Climate Change	49.5762	113.4507	129%
Resources	58.4343	157.0249	169%

The life cycle of a faux fur coat poses 3% more risk for potential adverse human health impacts than a natural fur coat. Most of the human health risk with a natural fur coat is associated with coat production (i.e., 70%), storage (i.e., 19%) and cleaning (i.e., 12%).

The life cycle of a faux fur coat poses four times more risk for potential adverse impacts on ecosystem quality than a natural fur coat. Natural fur coat production yields benefits in terms of ecosystem quality through reductions in land occupation and reduced emissions of associated with inorganic fertiliser production. The opposite is the case with the production of a faux fur coat; 75% of the risk to ecosystem quality associated with a faux fur is related to coat manufacturing.

The life cycle of a faux fur coat poses 2.3 times more risk for potential adverse impacts from climate change than a natural fur coat. Production of faux fibre and fabric account for 78% of the climate change risk associated with that product.

The life cycle of a faux fur coat poses 2.7 times more risk for potential adverse impacts on resource consumption than a natural fur coat. Production of faux fibre and fabric accounts for 90% of the resource consumption risk.

On the basis of these four endpoint indicators, a natural fur coat outperforms a faux fur coat. However, the actual environmental performance of any product is sensitive to site-specific conditions that are not captured by broad indicators such as these. As well, these indicators do not capture all environmental risks associated with either product. For these reasons, a categorical statement that one product is superior to another cannot be made.

These results do indicate however that the production of a product like natural fur that is derived from an agricultural production system using byproducts from food processing systems if done carefully, does have advantages over the production of goods that fundamentally depend on non-renewable resources. The challenge for the fur industry is to examine critically their production cycle and to seek ways to improve the production system so that the environmental performance of natural fur will be even better in the future. This LCA provides helpful guidance as to where the greatest improvements may be possible.

6 SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

LCA invariably involves data/information gaps and uncertainties. Judgements and assumptions must be used to overcome these deficiencies. Every effort has been made to make the best judgements and assumptions possible. Nonetheless, these assumptions are sources of uncertainty that can influence the results of an LCA. The sensitivity of the projected environmental demands to some of the more significant factors that influence the results has been analysed. This sensitivity analysis deals with only a limited set of combinations of parameters; indeed, the potential number of sensitivity analysis combinations is practically infinite, particularly if multiple parameters are varied simultaneously. Nonetheless, even though the scope of this sensitivity analysis is limited, the results provide useful insights into the importance of certain key parameters and assumptions in this LCA.

For the purposes of this sensitivity analysis, key parameters have been identified; for each parameter, a potential high and low value has been estimated. Each of these values has been analysed individually and the results reported. No sensitivity testing for multiple parameters being changed simultaneously has been undertaken.

Functional Unit – A key parameter that affects all aspects of this LCA is the functional unit (i.e., the length of the useful life of a natural fur coat). The peer reviewers identified this parameter in particular as being of key importance. Two variations are analysed. The first is an increase in the useful life of a faux fur coat from six years to eight years. The second change is increase in the useful life of a natural fur coat from 30 years to 36 years.

Extending the faux fur life to eight years reduces the associated environmental demands equally among the four endpoint indicators by 20%. This sensitivity adjustment causes the preference order for one of the four endpoint indicators, namely human health, to change in favour of faux fur. The risk of potential human health impacts from the life cycle of faux fur is reduced from being 3% greater than that associated with the life cycle of a natural fur coat to being 17% less. The differences between the two products for the other three endpoint indicators remain quite significant (i.e., the difference in ecosystem quality risk increases is 3.6 times greater with faux fur; 83% higher for the risk of climate change; almost 2.1 times greater for resource consumption risks).

Increasing the useful life of a natural fur coat also does not affect the preference order for the four endpoint indicators; a natural fur coat is still preferred for all of the four endpoint indicators; however, its environmental advantages are greater (i.e., the difference in human health risk increases from 3% to 16%; the climate change and resource consumption risk difference increase by 18% and 26%, respectively; the difference in ecosystem quality risk increases by 85%.

These results show that the results of this LCA are more sensitive to the useful life of a natural fur coat than a faux fur coat. Even so, the preference order among the endpoint indicators is fairly stable with the exception of the human health endpoint indicator.

Summer Storage – Assumptions regarding summer storage of natural fur coats have relatively large environmental consequences. A key assumption is that every natural fur coat is shipped off site each year for cold storage during the warm months of the year. This assumption is recognized as being an overestimate that inflates the environmental demands associated with a natural fur coat. The impact of decreasing the number of fur coats sent to off-site storage was examined. More specifically, it is assumed that 50% of the natural fur coats are sent annually to off-site storage and 50% are stored in the consumer's home.

This change resulted in significant improvements in the environmental performance of natural fur coats. The greatest improvements were related to the reduced risk of potential impacts associated with resource consumption and climate change (i.e., 44% and 46% improvement relative to the base case). The risk of potential human health impacts

is reduced by 11%. The risk of potential impacts on ecosystem quality risk is reduced by 23%. These results provide an indication of the magnitude of the impact on the LCA results by assuming all natural fur coats are shipped off-site for storage.

Re-use Proportion – Another key assumption is that 10% of the natural fur coats are re-used. Two alternate possibilities were analysed; namely, no re-use (i.e., 0%) and 20% re-use. Eliminating re-use changes the differences between the two products slightly in favour of a faux fur coat.

Eliminating natural fur re-use increases the risk of potential impacts for three indicators. The difference for human health impacts switches from 3% greater for a faux fur coat to 7% less. The differences in the risk of potential impacts associated with resource consumption and climate change are reduced by 15% and 11% respectively. On the other hand, the difference in the risk of potential impacts on ecosystem quality is increased by 20% due to environmental credits associated with fur production. Overall, a natural fur coat is preferred for three out of the four endpoint indicators with no re-use.

Increasing the re-use fraction to 20% results in essentially the opposite outcome to eliminating re-use. The difference in the risk of potential human health impacts increases from 3% to 11%. The differences in the risk of potential impacts on climate change and resource consumption increase by 12% and 17%, respectively. The difference in the risk of avoided potential ecosystem quality impacts decreases by 20%.

In summary, eliminating re-use or increasing re-use only changes the preference order for the human health endpoint indicator.

Feed Ration Proportions – One of the key inputs to mink production is the feed ration. Two sensitivity tests were analysed. First, the quantity of feed required to sustain a harvestable mink was varied. Second, the proportions of fish and poultry waste used in mink feed were varied.

The feed ration amount assumed in this LCA is considerably higher than that reported by other researchers and is more likely to be an over-estimate as opposed to an under-estimate. The assumed feed ration for a harvestable mink is 63.4 kg. For sensitivity testing, the value reported by Poulsen (2003) has been used (i.e., 36.62 kg/harvestable mink).

Reducing the quantity of feed needed to sustain a mink affects all four endpoint indicators significantly. The difference in the risk of potential impacts increases for three endpoint indicators; namely, the differences in the risk of potential human health, climate change and resource consumption impacts are increased by 31%, 29% and 29%, respectively. On the other hand, the risk of potential impacts on ecosystem quality is decreased by 95% relative to the base case. Even so, a positive environmental credit remains. Overall, reducing the mink feed ration does not change the preference order for any of the endpoint indicators and increases the environmental advantages of natural fur for three of the four endpoint indicators.

Changing the proportions of fish and poultry in the mink feed has the greatest effect on the differences among the endpoint indicator scores. The difference in the risk of potential impacts on human health switches from 3% in favour of a natural fur coat to 24% in favour of a faux fur coat. A natural fur coat is preferred in relation to the other three endpoint indicators but the differences are reduced for all of these indicators. The ecosystem quality indicator no longer shows an environmental credit; although a natural fur coat is still preferred by a difference of 30%.

Both the amount of feed consumed by mink and the proportions of the byproducts used to produce mink feed have a significant impact on the LCA results. In particular, the nature of the byproducts used to produce the feed and their alternate management in the absence of demand by mink producers are important considerations when evaluating the environmental performance of natural fur.

Impact Assessment Method – Impact assessment methods are used to assist with interpreting the results of a life cycle inventory. Different assessment methods involve different assumptions about the environmental risks associated with different combinations of inputs and outputs. The sensitivity of the results to using an alternate impact assessment methodology (i.e., the ReCiPe method) was analysed.

The ReCiPe impact assessment methodology scored a natural fur coat as being environmentally superior for all three of its endpoint indicators and by a substantially higher margin than was the case with the Impact 2002+ method. The ReCiPe impact assessment methodology scores a natural fur coat as being environmentally superior by 68%, 9.1 times and 2.4 times better for human health, ecosystems and resources, respectively. For this reason, it is concluded that these comparative results are not exaggerated by the impact assessment that has been used.

7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The life cycle of a natural fur coat tends generally to outperform that of a faux fur coat based on the data and assumptions used in this LCA. Nonetheless, a categorical conclusion cannot be reached that one product is superior environmentally in all respects to the other due to the limitations of the data and LCA method in general. The data and assumptions used in this LCA lead to the conclusion that in general, the life cycle of faux fur coat results in greater risk of potential impacts associated with ecosystem quality (i.e., 300% greater), resource consumption (i.e., 169% greater) and climate change (i.e., 129% greater). The difference between the two products with respect to the risk of potential impacts on human health is negligible (i.e., 3% greater for a faux fur coat). A number of environmental credits (i.e., benefits) are associated with the life cycle of a natural coat. These benefits accrue in particular to natural ecosystems. The life cycle of a faux fur coat does not yield any environmental credits.

Two key sources of environmental demand associated with natural fur are the nature and quantity of mink feed and the proportion of coats shipped off site for summer storage; in particular, the primary purpose of passenger car trips to the storage facility and the proportion of natural fur coats shipped to an offsite storage facility. Considerable variation in these parameters is known to be present; as a result, determining representative values for each is of questionable practical use, ignoring the methodological challenges.

From a fur industry perspective, mink feed rations are continually being improved and these improvements will largely yield improvements in the overall environmental performance of natural fur. Much less potential exists to improve the environmental performance of faux fur. The potential for significant efficiency gains in the production of synthetic materials like faux fibre is becoming less and less. For this reason, the life cycle demands of faux fur are less likely to diminish over time compared to those associated with natural fur. By closing the loop in natural fur production, considerable further improvements are possible.

In principle, the data quality on which this LCA is based could be improved by conducting in-person surveys of individual operations. The advantages of an improved database need to be weighed against the costs of such an endeavour. This LCA provides a framework for the integration of future data as they come available. Furthermore, the results of this LCA provide a reasonable first approximation of the environmental demands of the two products.

Further insights can be gleaned most economically with the current database by conducting additional sensitivity analyses. For this reason, future investments in improving the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the database should be made only where important decisions need to be made that will benefit significantly from improved data. Wider ranging and more complex sensitivity analyses should be undertaken when a specific question or decision arises relating to the environmental demands of natural fur. The analytical framework on which the LCA model for natural fur is founded provides a ready means for the fur industry to explore alternative means to improve their

environmental performance.

This LCA offers the potential for the fur industry to adopt a continual improvement management system for its constituents. Doing so will involve developing and adopting reporting protocols, good management practices and related measures. Consideration should even be given to developing a seal of approval or eco-labelling system for certifying that natural fur has been produced according to industry best practices. This type of initiative would be an excellent complement to the industry's efforts to promote its environmental performance attributes. This LCA provides many of the building blocks needed to initiate such a program.

The LCA models developed for this analysis use the SimaPro software. Considerable effort has been invested in developing these models and entering the relevant data for each process. These models include all stages of the production, use and disposal of the two products. Once a basic life cycle model has been constructed, detailed analyses of individual processes and even individual operations can be performed with relative ease. The fur industry should maintain the natural fur LCA model and update it from time to time. This system will be valuable for supporting industry claims and for informing individual operators in terms of how they might improve their environmental performance.

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To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a luxury fashion designer for the last 15 years. Fur has been a material that I have always been proud to use. Yes - I am 100% an animal lover, pet owner, and conservationist. Sustainability and the future is important to me. Animal welfare is important to me. But the human experience is also important to me - this includes family legacy, culture, anthropology, etc.

I have always felt that my use of fur made a greater contribution to the world as a whole. Not only did my use, design, and sales help to employ thousands of families in the New York region, but also worldwide. I know that the regulations set forth on the skins I CHOOSE to utilize are farmed and manufactured with a high standard - considering the welfare of the animal, a quick painless death, and non-waste of the carcass. We often forget that not only humans need animal proteins to thrive. In regulated fur farming cultures, the entire animal is used - oftentimes as feed for other animals in our food chain - fish farms - for example.

Furthermore, eco-systems require human intervention in order to thrive as well. Fur trappers are permitted to hunt and trap animals that require population control. When there is an imbalance with predator species like alligators, coyote, and nutria, they predators begin to encroach upon human communities in search of food, due to shortage. When there is an imbalance with non-predator species, the earth begins to deteriorate do to over-foraging - this also invites predator species into those communities.

Fur plays a great role in the interconnectedness of the world - as cliché as it sounds - the circle of life. Fur is also 100% sustainable, biodegradable, and in many cases, the animals are treated with far more care than human-food-livestock - this is intentional. Farmers care about their animals and care about the quality of the harvest. If the care was poor and conditions sub-standard, then the final product is also. Compared to other materials, fur, does not harm the environment. However, faux fur, nylons, and many substitute materials certainly do.

I am a proud wearer and designer of fur because I know that I am contributing to the betterment of the world. Thank you so much for considering my testimony in hopes of supporting the countless families around the world who will be adversely affected by a fur ban. New York is the center of the fur trade because it is home to the worlds greatest manufactures - a very highly trained skillset that is nearly impossible to transfer.

Sincerely,
Brandon Sun

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My name is Kim Salvo. Normally I would find myself on a Wednesday afternoon showing our fabulous fur collection to one of our hundreds of fine retail store buyers we supply. Working with clients I have forged 28 year relationships with at a job I love. You see I am a furrier. Certainly not the typical occupation you see on Career Builder.com, but typical or not it is a job I love.

Since I was a college student at FIT the fur industry is where I hang my coat. I love my job - I love working for a real privately owned company, I love getting up 6 days a week and earning a living. I welcome the real businesses challenges we face on all levels and conquering them, and I never ever thought I would have to think of doing anything else.

It is such a rush when you can facilitate creating something so gorgeous - knowing that someone will wear it, will turn heads in it and will enjoy practically forever. It's sad that many people cannot honestly say they love their job, but those are words I can speak without any reservation. That is my passion and it makes me feel proud - That is the career Kim Salvo.

Then there's the New Yorker Kim Salvo. The woman who choose to live in Manhattan and all of its challenges. The mom who choose to raise her son though our public schools and expose him to all NYC has to offer. The active community member who finds time to make a difference. The church hospitality minister and homeless outreach coordinator; the super adult volunteer for the Boy Scouts of American and the largest Cub Scout Pack in NYC; the costume designer who volunteers her summers paying it forward to Wingspan Arts. AND the biggest fan of 311 who with a single call can report a problem or concern and in 14 to 21 business days have it taken care of (for the most part). That's who I am outside of the job I love.

So here I have my life with such balance and then on Wednesday, March 28th the Speaker and then only 4 other Councilmembers rock my world. And believe me it takes a lot to move a lady like me. And I knew I could not solve it with a call to 311.

A fur ban? Could this really be a thing? Who would ever even come up with this? Why would someone ever come up with this? What did we do? What happened? Maybe someone screwed up and we're all going to pay the price?

How can I witness everyday how hard my boss works and now BAM The New York City Council is going to make him dump the inventory he invested in and lock our door? We're not selling counterfeit knock offs – We are selling the real thing, made the real way from the right place. No impostors. No duping the consumer. How can this even be a thing?

And so my New Yorker Kim Salvo came out in full force and I started calling and emailing and facebook messaging and posting social media comments and then it dawned on me:

These people have no idea what it is like to run a business. They are clueless as to what it takes to have their own company. They never invested in anything. They are given all the money to pay for everything. How can they possibly understand what it takes to run a business - yet alone a fur business?

And so my New Yorker Kim Salvo invited each and every one of them especially as others joined the conga line in the weeks that followed as I also invited each of you as Committee Members to come and see first hand the job I have a passion for. The job I love.

Well so much for that because not a single one of them took me up on my offer. Here I thought I would open my doors and give them a Fur-101 lesson; show them what we do, how we operate, explain where our fur is sourced, how the designs are made, how a handcrafted artisan product is created. That would do it, because after all, how would they ever know about the fur industry? Obviously no one does because everyone keeps telling us to reinvent our talents into another job. Being a furrier doesn't work like that.

And so on this Wednesday afternoon I canceled 2 appointments for the opportunity to sit here, which I am gracious for that privilege and ask you - Without any background information, without visiting a fur business, without having a conversation with a furrier, without learning about what we do right here in NYC - Actually right on the very block where Speaker Johnson has his office...what were you thinking?

And so now I turn to the Committee Members ironically called "consumer affairs and licensing" - the people responsible for fair trade practices and looking out for consumer's rights - and I ask you: how can this ever be a thing? How can a legally obtained product, sourced under the strictest regulations, totally account for, sustainable before that was even a thing to use on your political agendas, hand crafted fashion product in the fashion of the world ever be banned? And then I ask - How can you annihilate an entire industry that operates the way we do?

The fur industry in NYC does not have an agenda to make everyone buy fur. Like all consumer products you either do or you don't. Plain and simple that is how you make business.

I'm going to be a New Yorker for a really long time. I also want to know I am going to have the job I love for a really long time. Everyone still has an invitation to see what we will be doing for a long time. No Fur Ban. Not now. Not ever. Not in my New York.

Thank you for your time - the career and New Yorker Kim Salvo

Hello,

As a child of a mother who has worked in the fur industry for over 30 years, her way of life has provided me the opportunity to attend the University of Notre Dame. Without her work in the fur industry, we cannot afford for my younger brother to have the same opportunities as I have. Please take into account the decades of lives you will be effecting with this decision.

Best,
Alex Zicaro



Bukharian Jewish Community Center

106-16 70th Ave 5th Floor, Forest Hills, NY 11375, USA
Phone: 718.520.1111 Fax: 718.520.5188

Dear Councilmember Koslowitz,

My name is Baruch Babaev and I am the Chief rabbi of Bukharian Jews of USA and Canada located in your district.

We find it troubling that Councilmember *Koslowitz* and Speaker Johnson would consider a bill to ban fur sales in New York City, especially where so many Jewish American business owners and consumers sell and wear fur in the Councilmember's district, and the potential for increasing antisemitism in times where attacks on the Jewish community in New York City are escalating.

A fur ban would not only lead to significant economic loss for businesses and retail stores in Forest Hills and throughout New York City, but will also cast a negative light on the Jewish American community. An exemption to allow for religious custom would give license for animal activists to isolate the Orthodox community as the only people wearing fur. Not to mention it will deprive other members of the community, including women, from buying their fur coats in their communities.

The Bukharian Jewish community has found a new home in Forest Hills, and like prior generation of immigrants who came to America are prospering through hard work. Most of the Bukharian Jews come from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, where they were persecuted by the communist governments there. They escaped to America as tens of millions of former immigrants have, for the promise of coming to the land of opportunity, where the government would not persecute them, take their choices away, and let them pursue business opportunities. I find it ironic that now small business in America are under attack, while our people escaped oppressive governments to come to this country in order to avoid such things, and to have freedom of choice in what to buy, what to wear, and what business interests they can pursue. We came to the land of freedom and opportunity, and now we are being told what we can and cannot do.

It is our choice whether to wear fur, buy fur and sell fur. For anyone, including Councilmember *Koslowitz* and Speaker Johnson, to take away are personal rights and freedom to choose is unjust and wrong and against everything this country stands for.

Sincerely,

ברוך בביאבאב
Baruch Babaev

Rabbi Baruch Babaev

Chief Rabbi of Bukharian Jews of USA and Canada



My name is Chris Kyrrou,

I have been proudly working in the Fur Industry for approximately 16 years. Within these years I have developed a love for the Industry watching the skilled and hard working artistic labor that goes into making a single garment. I find it hard to believe that people in other fields and vocations can experience the same joy and pride. It is a skilled art that I hope will always exist.

As a married man with 2 young children, I would be greatly harmed by the passing of this proposed Fur Ban. I have a large Mortgage to pay, and my family will suffer if I have to sell my family home to pay for my obligations. I work very hard 7 days a week to maintain this life I built for my family.

I respectfully ask you to protect my Job

Sincerely,

Chris J Kyrrou

197th Street

Fresh Meadows, N.Y. 11366

Dear NYC council,

I am a 19 year old self taught designer who someday wants to become the best thing. Someday throughout my furtitee career I would love to work in a industry that requires sustainable practices and the most ORGANIC material in fashion.

We all know that fashion of the second most POLLUTED industry in the world and we all know that any synthetic materials such as fake fur and faux leather are one of them. I know, we all are used to all the argument about how fake fur is bad for the environment and real fur is more sustainable, but unfortunately it is the FACTS. If you care so much about the environment then banning the sale of organic fur will still continue kill animals, but not just any animals but endangered animals from polluted over underpaid workers in industrial factors and China.

I don't live in New York nor been to New York but it is my favourite American city and sooo hopefully plsss dismis the ban of fur. I care so much in these industry despite not any of family are involved but personally I would continue as a young designer to work with organic materials such as fur, leather, wool, cashmere etc. Fur, leather and meat are still killed in the process so, what's the food harvesting animals for fur than harvesting for meat?

Thank you for your consideration.

Adel Fernandez

To the members of the New York City Council,

My name is Gina Madera. Born and in the Dominican Republic, and raised in New York City by relatives because my parents wanted me to have a better life and a proper education. I am a graduate of the Art & Design High School on 57th st on the east side and became the first of my immediate family to attend college. With the assistance of State Grants I attended FIT in Manhattan, graduating with from the first graduating class of the Furrier Program as a pattern maker. I learned all about the aspects of furs and most importantly the humane and ethical farming practices that are standard within the industry. Furs are regulated by State and Federal government, and I support having proper laws and regulations in place to make sure that all practices and processes are up to date and ethical. It seems that some people don't follow regulations and give the industry a bad name. There is always room for improvement and maybe the old standards and regulations have to be upgraded. If someone has a better way, I'm all for it, but don't make furs illegal with this proposed ban without knowing the facts!

Over the course of my career I have worked with many household name fashion designers, celebrities and customers of all walks of lives. From housewives, to teachers, to moguls. It has been my pleasure to try to do my best to provide them with the best of my skills. I have two children and as a divorced mom, my skills and working in the fur industry afforded me to care for them, maintain a home and provide a solid private school education for them. I have no Plan B should I not be able to use my degree. I can't start over now, what am I supposed to do? I cannot afford to retire, I have a mortgage and debts. I owe \$300,000 in college tuition debts which I accumulated to send my children to college to secure them a better future. That is the American dream. Do I file for bankruptcy just because you decide I cannot keep my job?

This industry is about so much more than just making product. It is about the relationships between craftspeople and their customers, its where a coat has a sentimental meaning to its owner. Whether it is a gift from a husband to his wife or an heirloom from a grandmother to her granddaughter, furs can often last for 50 years or more and are symbolic legacies passed on with pride.

I feel so betrayed by this whole situation. We are in America and why should the government have the right to take freedom of choice away from the consumer when it is already legal? That is truly anti-American. I don't want to hear about polls that don't include me and the thousands of customers I have worked with over my 37 year career in this city. You're not taking into consideration the effect this will have on our culture nor the economy of New York City, even internationally, and most importantly working families like me that have the responsibility of their families as their priority.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge you to do the right thing for your constituency and the people.

Dear Speaker Johnson,

My name is Billy Chingas and I'm writing this to ask you to please **NOT** ban fur in NYC as it will affect my life and thousands of others tremendously! It will be completely wrong economically and environmentally as people want to have faux fur instead, which will hurt the environment. Faux fur and leathers are chemically made out of plastics, coal, petroleum, PVC, polyurethane, and such!

Thank you!

To whom it should concern,

I have been in the fur industry practically my entire life . From sweeping up factory floors and cleaning windows and wrapping hangers at age 8 . Now at the still young age of 47 after going through Life till this point and working in my families business all throughout the years and between going to college and then still deciding to stay in the fur business. I cannot understand how in a country founded on freedom and in a city that touts itself as the most ProChoice cities in the word . How the nyc government can remove the right of the people to choose purchasing a specific product . At this time in my life I should not have to be looking and trying to start over in a new profession or even working the same profession with a supposedly better fabric . This ban, if it goes through will be the same as having everything that you have worked for in life and everything That you Have worked toward in life pulled Out from under You, like a natural Disaster does with a tsunami or hurricane or flooding destroys whole Community- except this would be caused by government . This has the ability to destroy Communities and families and multi generational small businesses.. the options that have been push to the table from the Anti-fur people have been to use synthetic materials. And despite the fact that these materials are new and technology advanced. They are actually plastic and plastic byproducts that Pollute the earth and stay in an ecosystem poisoning everything that grows and everything that swims in the ocean.. of your looking to ban plastic straws and ban plastic bags . Why would you be pushing for plastic garments that would sit in a landfill and never decompose . Animal skins/Fur is a natural and renewable resource and is eco friendly and has been used since the beginning of time and always will be used . The skin of the furs are comprised of the animals leather . Most of the council people and the individuals walking around on earth are wearing leather shoes . Leather belts . Leather garments . Eating beef chicken or fish . Wearing wool . The list Goes on and on and on . Medical advancements are made with the use of animals(HIV medications)(cancer treatments)etc . Humans get parts replaced with parts from animals (heart valves etc).

I could go on , but the facts are the facts . And a free nation should not be picking winners and losers for an industry. A free nation let's consumers pick the winners and losers . So if people no longer want to purchase our products why is it a multi billion dollar industry in the USA - and in the tens of billions in the world yearly..

Regards ,
Stephen F Weinberg
Famous Furs Ltd

I am a 4th generation mink farmer from Wisconsin and the fur ban would affect my livelihood here in Wisconsin. My family has raised high quality mink pelts for the past 65 years – we have award winning certified mink. We have premium quality mink because of how we treat and raise the mink- with the highest standard of care. We have been certified since conception and our practices are audited by a third party to ensure we are following the rules. It is important for our family to continue to raise and treat our animals with the best possible care.

We invite you to view our website www.zimbalmink.com and our youtube video to see what a real farm is like - <https://youtu.be/WwPsStvktks>

I urge you to oppose the ban

Thank you for your consideration

Rick Zimbal

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Rick Zimbal

Fax: 920.564.3006
rickz@zimbalmink.com
www.zimbalmink.com

Dear Members of the New York City Council and of Committee on Consumer Affairs & Business Licensing,

I am writing to share with you observations concerning proposed bill No. 1476 Version A. These observations are purely from an economics perspective and thus the international trade implications from a finance professional.

As I a life long resident of the New York metro area, a former resident of the Upper West Side in NYC, and a alumna and trained finance professionals at one of NYC's most prestigious university, Columbia University; I am concerned about the legislation put forth for hearing by the Committee on Consumer Affairs & Business Licensing. I sat through the hearing this past Wednesday, May 15 in downtown NYC to hear all sides of the issue. I respect individual's decisions to opt not to wear fur, I can also understand the emotions that surfaced to all of us who enjoy and love animals. I was, however, perplexed at the fact that neither the Honorable Council Members nor anyone in any of the panels throughout the afternoon hearing, discussed or debated what this legislation translates into or means in terms of the current trade war we as a nation are experiencing with China.

Let me illustrate my point. I just returned from a business trip to China and while one of my observations is that everywhere in that country their middle class is growing at gigantic paces; they also are tapping into different sectors to gain greater global production and manufacturing market share. This is extremely evident in the fur business as the thriving Chinese middle class is purchasing fur luxury items at a similar pace to normal goods. Such is the case for the luxury sector in China presently. A friend of mine in the fashion business in China shared with me that the issue in the production of these items is not the source i.e. the fur type; rather, the creative content or to put it in simple and current events terms, the issue is in the Intellectual Property. This is where the USA has a competitive advantage, where US producers and manufacturers are not only sustainability conscious of the entire value chain but also that items Made in the USA are the staple for world class quality.

How does this impact NYC's economy and the US trade deficit as a whole? A ban on an item such as fur means that you, the New York City Council Members, will hand over to world competitors on not a silver but rather gold platter, a multi-billion revenue generating industry in the US alone - mostly and vastly produced in New York per 2015 statistics. This point is particularly crucial at a time when our nation, the US, is negotiating on the world stage a reasonable and equitable trade agreement with China. Not only will many many local jobs be impacted and thus spending power in the city, but also potential revenues in the form of sales tax for the city.

I write this to you independent of our political beliefs, although as many of you in the Committee I too am a registered Democrat. I wholeheartedly believe in animal rights and applaud this

nation's long history of effective legislation in protecting endangered species and promoting humane treatment of pets and animals in general. That said, the US fur industry is globally known for being humane, thorough, sustainable and responsible throughout the value chain. I believe the onus of your legislation should be centered on the bad actors, not the producers and manufacturers of New York City and the state at large.

I hope you reconsider what Proposed Int No. 1476 means for a thriving global business center that New York City is; the US GDP and its competitive advantage and equally so for hard working New Yorkers.

Sincerely yours,
Sue

--

Sue A. Aguilar

Honorable Council Members,

I live in New York City and have worked in the fur industry for over 30 years. I am proud to be part of this honorable and well-regulated business. I work with stylists and celebrities to dress their clients in fur - and am proud to do so. In that capacity, everyone has their own personal style and makes fashion choices that make them happy. For those that choose to not wear fur - that choice is respected. But so too should the choices of those who want to wear fur be respected. Freedom of choice is the cornerstone of America. Everyone has the right to decide what they want to wear and eat. These are personal freedoms that no one has the right to take away. What's next - Leather? Meat? Silk? Wool? Animals used for advancements in medical research? Where does this stop???

If the proposed fur ban goes through, I will lose a job I have had for the majority of my adult life.

PLEASE consider the impact of your actions and what it will do to so many in this industry who will no longer be able to support their families.

Thank you.

Sandy Blye

To all of whom it may concern:

My name is Justin Siller and I am the co-owner of Staten Island Furrier with my father Frank Siller. Before I, my father's partner was his brother Stephen. My uncle and godfather Stephen Siller was one of the 343 firefighters who gave their lives on 9/11. Before he was a member of squad 1 FDNY he fed his family through the fur business. We are regular everyday New Yorker's. Our family business opened in November 1986. Some of our employees have been with us since the beginning. We are all family and would be devastated in so many ways by the passage of this proposed fur ban. I myself am married with three small children. I have a mortgage and school tuition. The result of banning our livelihood would most certainly be catastrophic. We are community people who raise funds for charities. Our family has a remarkable foundation. The "Stephen Siller tunnel to towers Foundation" builds homes for injured returning service men and women, pays off mortgages of police and fire fighters who have died in the line of duty, and much more. I add this info merely to portray to you what kind of people we really are. Not the barbarians that we are being cast as. Perhaps there is some common ground that can be reached. Perhaps there are practices that can be reformed. Perhaps there is a compromise that doesn't include mass job loss. Consider this email not only with an open mind, but an open heart to the human cause. There need not be haste, yet much analysis.

thank you,
Justin Siller

www.statenislandfurrier.com

tunnel2towers.org

Dear Council Members,

My name is Joseph Baiada, I am a first generation furrier but that does not tell the true story. My father has worked as a barber in the fur district since immigrating to this country in 1969. He is one of the people who would be hurt by this fur ban that you are discounting. The fur industry has had a long history in the immediate area surrounding Madison Square Garden, many of those businesses have been built on the back of the industry you are so eager to discard. The fur industry has been part of my entire life.

I have worked in the industry for over 20 years and started working part time before graduating college. I have built a life and family around my career and would be irrevocably harmed by losing my job. While skills are transferrable passion is not. I am part of a family at work a second family that has been there for me through the death of mother to the birth of my children. Those experiences have shaped a life for me that I cannot see anywhere else. The truth is I don't want to. The problem is that the choice may not be mine to make.

I heard a lot of rhetoric about training people to do something different, transfer their skills. What I didn't hear was why those same people should have to give up something that they have grown up being a part of and love doing at the whim of another's. This week I saw the side of politics so common in America today where special interests have more sway than common sense legislation. If the problem is under regulated industry why not partner with the industry instead of just shutting it down. Why make people lose something they love at the behest of special interests.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Joseph Baiada

My name is Samantha Collu and I'm asking you to please NOT ban fur.

I live in NYC and work in the industry for some time and I need my job or else I will lose my home. Thank you for your time.

Samantha Collu

I am a mink farmer from Wisconsin and the fur ban would affect my livelihood here in Wisconsin. Zimbal have raised high quality mink pelts for the past 65 years – we have award winning certified mink. We have premium quality mink because of how we treat and raise the mink- with the highest standard of care. We have been certified since conception and our practices are audited by a third party to ensure we are following the rules. It is important for our family to continue to raise and treat our animals with the best possible care.

We invite you to view our website www.zimbalmink.com and our youtube video to see what a real farm is like - <https://youtu.be/WwPsStvktks>

I urge you to oppose the ban

Thank you for your consideration

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Melissa Benton

melissab@zimbalmink.com

www.zimbalmink.com

I am a 3rd generation mink farmer from Wisconsin and the fur ban would affect my livelihood here in Wisconsin. My family has raised high quality mink pelts for the past 65 years – we have award winning certified mink. We have premium quality mink because of how we treat and raise the mink- with the highest standard of care. We have been certified since conception and our practices are audited by a third party to ensure we are following the rules. It is important for our family to continue to raise and treat our animals with the best possible care.

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I urge you to oppose the ban

Thank you for your consideration

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Donna Gibeault
Insurance Specialist

donnag@zimbalmink.com

www.zimbalmink.com

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I urge you to oppose the ban

Thank you for your consideration

Jarred Hoitink jarredh@zimbalmink.com

To Whom it May Concern,

My father has been in the fur business since 1975 and with my mother have owned their own small fur retail business in Denver, Colorado since 1987.

My father moved my family to Denver in 1987 with a contract to work for a large, local furrier. When he arrived, his contract was broken, leaving my parents with 2 mortgages, 3 mouths to feed and no income.

Taking no money from the state, my parents opened a fur retail boutique in October 1987, right after the stock market crashed. Needless to say, times were tough, birthdays and holidays ceased, but we all persevered.

Through my father's prior relationships working with New York manufacturers and wholesalers since 1975 he was able to acquire merchandise.

My mother had a knack for marketing, and they were both relentless to get their business off the ground and to live the American dream as business owners, on the basis of what founded the United States' economy, the fur trap and trade.

Since 1987, they have never looked back. The fur business put food on the table, educated their children and allowed them to make an impact every day on the American economy.

To put a fur ban in New York City or anywhere else would be devastating.

They are the sole providers to 2 of their children and 2 of their grandchildren; 1 child being disabled, 1 working for the business who provides for her children as a single mother.

This ban is plight that will not only take away 10s of thousands of jobs, hundreds of millions in tax dollars, but it's taking away CHOICE and bullying people in one way of thinking. The fur business was an easy target because it went after women, who are easily bullied, and wealth which has become a four letter word in America.

What would be next? Steak? Leather? No animal testing for terminal diseases such as HIV and Cancer? How will all the plant based foods be fertilized without animal byproducts?

The human suffrage in the country is beyond compare looking at major cities such as Seattle, San Francisco and New York, but we are concerned about breeding minks who live 3 years on a farm and 1.5 years in the wild? The fur industry has been the most regulated industry in the US since the 50s long before meat and the likes. Real environmentalists understand the need to control animal populations in the wild which is why trapping still occurs, and it is done as humanely as possible, just like the down industry, shearing and again, R and D for new medications.

In addition, real fur is biodegradable, most of the fast fashion including fake fur is only contributing further to clogging our water ways and polluting our oceans.

Regardless of all the facts, it still comes down to jobs and choice. People like my father who have worked in this industry for 45 years will not be able to find a new job at age 70, nor will his long time employees. We give women the right to choose about the their own bodies, why should any politician be able to dictate what people can wear, or in this case, what they can't wear?

Do your research, read these testimonies, do the right thing and see how many lives and jobs will be impacted. We are constantly sending industries overseas, and it's usually do to political lobbying and over regulation.

#nofurban

connoisseur98@gmail.com

I am a 4TH generation mink farmer from Wisconsin and the fur ban would affect my livelihood here in Wisconsin. My family has raised high quality mink pelts for the past 65 years – we have award winning certified mink. We have premium quality mink because of how we treat and raise the mink- with the highest standard of care. We have been certified since conception and our practices are audited by a third party to ensure we are following the rules. It is important for our family to continue to raise and treat our animals with the best possible care.

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I urge you to oppose the ban

Thank you for your consideration

--

Joe Zimbal

Zimbal Mink

joez@zimbalmink.com

www.zimbalmink.com

My mother will be out of a job. i am afraid i will not be able to go to collage or even live in the same house that i have been living in my whole life.

Constantine Zicaro

Dear Speaker Johnson,

The fur business in New York is full of small business owners who employ many immigrants. Taking away the right to sell fur is taking away our choice to choose. As a first generation American coming from entrepreneur immigrants, I feel like this is a disgrace and a direct attack to us. There are more problems in the city of New York that needs to be resolved. Animal cruelty is placed on a higher pedestal than humans being treated like animals in the justice system. I strongly urge that you focus on what actually will help change New York. I was born and raised here. All I see is an increase of homelessness, more people on social welfare and the gap between rich and poor is tremendous. Please focus on what matters.

Warm Regards,

Emily Hu
Sales Associate
J Mendel
Bergdorf Goodman
[754 Fifth Avenue](#)
[New York, NY 10019](#)

Have been a fur merchant for 42 years. By being put out of business i will not be able to pay my bills.normal business practice is having a line of credit from a bank. Will be sued personally . Will also not be able to pay our mortgage and health insurance. Have paid high city taxes for so many years and to be destroyed personally as well as business would be a shame. We love our craft and have been singled out as an industry and taking away freedom of choice.

Alan Prizant

I am a 4th generation mink farmer from Wisconsin and the fur ban would affect my livelihood here in Wisconsin. My family has raised high quality mink pelts for the past 65 years – we have award winning certified mink. We have premium quality mink because of how we treat and raise the mink- with the highest standard of care. We have been certified since conception and our practices are audited by a third party to ensure we are following the rules. It is important for our family to continue to raise and treat our animals with the best possible care.

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I urge you to oppose the ban

Thank you for your consideration

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Jason Zimbal
Operations Specialist

Plant: 920.452.2806
jasonz@zimbalmink.com
www.zimbalmink.com

I am a mink farmer from Wisconsin and the fur ban would affect my livelihood here in Wisconsin. My family has raised high quality mink pelts for the past 65 years – we have award winning certified mink. We have premium quality mink because of how we treat and raise the mink- with the highest standard of care. We have been certified since conception and our practices are audited by a third party to ensure we are following the rules. It is important for our family to continue to raise and treat our animals with the best possible care.

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I urge you to oppose the ban

Thank you for your consideration

--

Aaron Strassburger
Zimbal Farms Inc.
920-207-1352

Hello. My name is Astanda Golovko. I am 16 years old and I am a New York City resident. I am writing this testimony on behalf of every person who resides in New York City.

Personally, I am an animal lover. However, there is a line, and it needs to be drawn. Our environment, our jobs, our families, our choices, and our rights will all be put at stake due to the potential ban of fur. This is nothing you haven't heard before, but real fur is biodegradable, and therefore, not a threat to our environment that is already going through so much. People's jobs is a major reason as to why banning fur is a bad idea. If you want to ban fur, you can not ban it while businesses are still operating. These small business owners, unfortunately, most of them do not have a backup plan. If the suffering of animals is the main concern, there is no purpose of banning just fur. Animal cruelty is a thing and won't be stopped with a fur ban. The fur ban is not the solution.

Also, banning fur products can worsen the situation, because if we ban fur goods, people will suffer greatly.

For example: if we have no natural furs, we will literally freeze to death, because artificial fur does not have warmth, it is not recyclable, and it will ruin the environment. We are living in a free country, we the people should decide what we should or should not wear. If someone wants to purchase fur, they will purchase fur somewhere else, and New York will lose lots of revenue.

Sincerely,

Astanda Golovko, 16 years old

Proud to be a New Yorker

I am a 4th generation mink farmer from Wisconsin and the fur ban would affect my livelihood here in Wisconsin. My family has raised high quality mink pelts for the past 65 years – we have award winning certified mink. We have premium quality mink because of how we treat and raise the mink- with the highest standard of care. We have been certified since conception and our practices are audited by a third party to ensure we are following the rules. It is important for our family to continue to raise and treat our animals with the best possible care.

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I urge you to oppose the ban

Thank you for your consideration

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Jim Zimbal

jimz@zimbalmink.com

www.zimbalmink.com

My name is Mary Stamos and my husband and I have been working in the fur industry for many years now. This fur ban would heavily devastate our family and our future. Not only will we lose our jobs but it will cause many more dilemmas not only for us but for others. This is a serious issue for us because this will stop our income causing us to default on our mortgage and to struggle helping us support our family. Furthermore, we can not survive without paying our everyday expenses to live comfortably therefore we are firmly against this fur ban and we would very much fight for this idea to not go through and become an enforced law. My husband Nicholas Stamos has been working for the fur industry since he was 19 years old who is currently now 69. 50 years of hard work and only having experience being a furrier, he would be challenged to find a new job in such an overly populated area especially at this age. This will require him to go through extreme extents to survive. We believe that the fur industry and their employee's should have a saying in all this especially if it'll become law in which a state they live in. We appreciate your time to read this and hope you take consideration towards us and all families who are being supported by the fur industry business. I look forward to hearing back.

Dear Council

I am writing in regards to the proposed fur ban. I am currently employed at Yves Salomon for approximately 2 years. Should this ban pass it will put me and my associates out of employment. I am a born nycer and resident of nyc. I am also an animal lover and have always and currently own a dog. I grew up riding horses . And have a passion for nature. I also believe in the freedom of choice. I was raised on these principles and practices and continue to have faith that our system will make an informed and educated decision and not rule in favor of this fur ban.

Thank you
Sara Grosz

I am a 3rd generation mink farmer from Wisconsin and the fur ban would affect my livelihood here in Wisconsin. My family has raised high quality mink pelts for the past 65 years – we have award winning certified mink. We have premium quality mink because of how we treat and raise the mink- with the highest standard of care. We have been certified since conception and our practices are audited by a third party to ensure we are following the rules. It is important for our family to continue to raise and treat our animals with the best possible care.

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I urge you to oppose the ban

Thank you for your consideration

Curly Sue suez@zimbalmink.com

I am a 3rd generation mink farmer from Wisconsin and the fur ban would affect my livelihood here in Wisconsin. My family has raised high quality mink pelts for the past 65 years – we have award winning certified mink. We have premium quality mink because of how we treat and raise the mink- with the highest standard of care. We have been certified since conception and our practices are audited by a third party to ensure we are following the rules. It is important for our family to continue to raise and treat our animals with the best possible care.

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I urge you to oppose the ban

Thank you for your consideration

Sheri Nick sherin@zimbalmink.com

Dear City Council Members,

I would like to voice my opposition to the FurBan that is being proposed.

I think is unbelievable that NYC after banning plastic bags and more, would propose a Ban on FUR, and other materials that would force even more toxic petroleum products into our environment!

That's going to kill animals and the planet even faster than is happening now!

Please do not support this misguided Ban, it does nothing to "save" animals- since the whole world is going to continue eating them and using fur products, Rather NYC should be involved in crafting regulations that would seriously prevent any abuses that happen with bad actors - this is a global problem and needs an global solution. A Ban isn't it.

I love animals and I love Fashion, I don't own a new fur- never wanted to, but I wear leather and shearling and my shoes are not plastic! Please support local industries. And personal freedoms. I think you guys all have better and more important things to do for the city.

With Respect,

C. Bernstein

I am a 3rd generation mink farmer from Wisconsin and the fur ban would affect my livelihood here in Wisconsin. My family has raised high quality mink pelts for the past 65 years – we have award winning certified mink. We have premium quality mink because of how we treat and raise the mink- with the highest standard of care. We have been certified since conception and our practices are audited by a third party to ensure we are following the rules. It is important for our family to continue to raise and treat our animals with the best possible care.

We invite you to view our website www.zimbalmink.com and our youtube video to see what a real farm is like - <https://youtu.be/WwPsStvktks>

I urge you to oppose the ban

Thank you for your consideration

--

Bob Zimbal

Zimbal Mink

F: 920.467.0202

bobz@zimbalmink.com

www.zimbalmink.com

I am a 3rd generation mink farmer from Wisconsin and the fur ban would affect my livelihood here in Wisconsin. My family has raised high quality mink pelts for the past 65 years – we have award winning certified mink. We have premium quality mink because of how we treat and raise the mink- with the highest standard of care. We have been certified since conception and our practices are audited by a third party to ensure we are following the rules. It is important for our family to continue to raise and treat our animals with the best possible care.

We invite you to view our website www.zimbalmink.com and our youtube video to see what a real farm is like - <https://youtu.be/WwPsStvktks>

I urge you to oppose the ban

Thank you for your consideration

--

Linda Zimbal

lindaz@zimbalmink.com

www.zimbalmink.com

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this my story to bring awareness that jobs are going to be lost if this fur ban is passed. My father has been working in this job for more than 15 years. My family depends on his job very much because it is what maintains my family for us to have a place to live and to buy food. He pays the gas, electricity, and water bills. He also pays for my college tuition so I can earn a degree and have a better life that he desires for me. With him losing his job we would be affected greatly because we depend on him so much to have a living. This is not just me this is many other families that are going to be affected if this ban is passed.

Thank You.

Jacqueline Bonilla

Dear Council Members,

My name is Courtney Moss and I own Glamourpuss which was founded in 2009. We are a small boutique firm that specializes primarily cold weather products. I am a single mother and work here to support my family. I have 2 sons. If this ban goes through, I will most likely have to close the firm and declare bankruptcy. I will have to look for a job with no guarantee of finding one. Not only will I and my family be devastated financially by actions outside of my control, my co-workers and colleagues will as well. Bankruptcy is a very serious position and one with long lasting effects and implications not only financially but mentally.

We work with many many fine and reputable companies and individuals in the Fur industry that will have no where to go if this ban goes into effect. No jobs to support themselves and their families. There are not jobs out there for them. There are no factories in NYC to hire these people. Companies aren't hiring 7000 plus individuals to fulfill jobs that don't exist. They all will suffer greatly and I am sure in most cases be bankrupt which would effect other companies not directly involved in the business.

As a 3rd generation New Yorker (my sons being 4th), I feel that we have the right to make choices whether they are for fur, for beef, for faux, for leather...whatever your choices are, you should have the freedom to do so. Those are the rights we have as citizens of this great city.

I have been in tears these past weeks worrying about my children, my family and my colleagues.

I urge to rethink this ban and think about the serious implications and repercussions this will have on numerous people and generations.

Sincerely,
Courtney

Courtney Moss
Glamourpuss NYC
1305 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10128
(O) 212-722-1370
(M) 917.544.4084
www.glamourpussnyc.com

I am a 4TH generation mink farmer from Wisconsin and the fur ban would affect my livelihood here in Wisconsin. My family has raised high quality mink pelts for the past 65 years – we have award winning certified mink. We have premium quality mink because of how we treat and raise the mink- with the highest standard of care. We have been certified since conception and our practices are audited by a third party to ensure we are following the rules. It is important for our family to continue to raise and treat our animals with the best possible care.

We invite you to view our website www.zimbalmink.com and our youtube video to see what a real farm is like - <https://youtu.be/WwPsStvktks>

I urge you to oppose the ban

Thank you for your consideration

Valerie Zimbal

valeriez@zimbalmink.com

www.zimbalmink.com

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to ask your vote about against to fur ban.

I personally grow up around people who is making their money as a fur master. This is the profession that you are spending your years to learn it and it is not the kind of job if you dont have working area you will work on other fields. Negative decision will push this people to change their city.

According to the research there is around 1100 people is making their money from this business. Economist from Washington DC who is in City Council Hall on last Wednesday, researches briefly explain that people who is working in fur district is around 7500 people when you consider their family member, this decision going to effect at least 22500 New Yorkers life. Where their kids going to go school or how they going to pay their mothers medicine. 2018 NYC unemployment rate is %4, unfortunately no one want to see incising in this number and effect NYC economy.

On the other hand fur district making an \$400 million economic contribution NYC every year which is around %3 of city economy.

This the type of business that mostly working 5 months a year, and the business owners pays employee salary from their pocket rest of the 7 months (even if they are not have business)

We are sure that you are going to taking into your consideration that:

These people are our citizens and any opposite decision will effect their and their family life negatively.

These people has all right to keep their life safe.

These people has all right to choose their city where they want to live.

We would appreciate to see your decision which is going to protect over 22500 New Yorkers life and It is going to keep safe all our life.

Sincerely

Sevcn Uysal

Panagiotis Hormovas
Stadium Ave
Bronx NY 10465

NYC Council,

My name is Panagiotis Hormovas, I am 55 years old and I have worked in the fur industry for the majority of my life. This proposed fur ban would not only affect my income but would completely affect my ability and my wife's ability to work since neither of us have received a degree and immigrated from Greece at a young age. I have taken out loans in order to pay for my small business along with my inventory and also have children who will be in college and require our financial support. If this ban goes through we will be unable to pay back our debts, our health insurance, or pay for the mortgage on our home. The fur business is our only means of making money to support our family and hope that you take this into strong consideration as I am sure we are not the only ones found in this situation.

Regards
Panagiotis Hormovas

I am a 3rd generation mink farmer from Wisconsin and the fur ban would affect my livelihood here in Wisconsin. My family has raised high quality mink pelts for the past 65 years – we have award winning certified mink. We have premium quality mink because of how we treat and raise the mink- with the highest standard of care. We have been certified since conception and our practices are audited by a third party to ensure we are following the rules. It is important for our family to continue to raise and treat our animals with the best possible care.

We invite you to view our website www.zimbalmink.com and our youtube video to see what a real farm is like - <https://youtu.be/WwPsStvktks>

I urge you to oppose the ban

Thank you for your consideration

--

Richard Zimbal

richardz@zimbalmink.com

www.zimbalmink.com

Dear Honorable council speak Mr. Corey Johnson

As a New York Residence, I would like to speak up and to vote against the proposed ban of Fur in NYC. First, it will destroy good Paying Jobs and forfeit critical tax revenue our city needs. Many people will be jobless all the sudden; question is will America be affordable to support all those people? And will they all be able to get a new job by their experiences and background that they have been in this field for many years?

My parent has been in this business since before I was born, and I'm 27 years now, it's hard for them to get a new job now by their current age. I understand can't have everyone like this job, but some people means to work and need to be in this field. Some people can't not wear some type of cottons or other clothing materials because they have skin allergies and fur is one of their option to wear, so why we have to ban the options out? What's the point of us having the Statue of Liberty? Does it not mean it guides us to freedom? Where is the freedom that all the Americans were talking about?

It's disappointing that when our City's top Legislative Body pushes an issue like the Fur Ban ahead of Life Altering Issues like: Gun Control, Crime, Pot Hole Ridden Streets, Education, Homeless Epidemic, Drug Epidemic and High Tax's among many other day to day issues we face. There were more gun cases every years that involves teenagers and youngs, why can't we solve these kind of problems first before causing more people jobless?

When we're told that our Council Cares about the Poor, the Middle Class, the Immigrant, to Save Good Paying Manufacturing Jobs then turns around and wants to ban an Ethical Industry and Destroy one of the few Manufacturing Labors in NYC, Is Insulting. You should be Policing our Streets not our Closets.

This "FUR" Ban will have a ripple effect on the Entire Fur (Def: Animals who grow hair on their Skin) and Fashion Industry, in NYC, NYS in the US, Globally and it will be devastating to many Economies.

I urge you to gather Facts, Information and hope we can have a better solution that both side can agree on. There are many reasons for people against fur but there are many other reasons that people shouldn't against fur ban. This Bill will only serve as a Giant Eraser of Jobs, needed Tax Revenue and put undue Stress on our families, friends and neighbors across many Industries...eta. This bill does a great disservice to many people internationally.

Please Vote NO on this Bill

Your name: Cynthia Wan

My name is Alex Kostopoulos, and I live Madison Avenue. My Councilmember is Keith Powers.

I made the committed decision to come to new York city 2years ago at the age of 24 years old to start my own business in the fur industry which is my family's legacy. My family comes from Germany and Greece, and before I immigrated here 2 years ago, I did so because of the economic crisis in Greece that made business not possible. I came here for the American Dream.

It saddens me to think that I changed my entire life and created a great distance from my family only to know that extremists are demanding the fur industry to be shut down.

I grew up around fur all my life. In my hometown Kastoria, the streets are filled with the livelihood of creating this product. After my studies and experiences of working with fur in all of Europe I knew the right place for me to be is New York City, the fashion capital of the world.

All of these things that animal rights people are saying to you are not true for what we do. Everyone is crying inhumanity but the inhumanity I see are the homeless people on your city streets. This is where everyone's focus should be, on the people who are in your great city. And so all of the fur companies should be able to live the American dream and have the businesses that we work hard for.

This fur ban is a preposterous idea, this should not happen here because we do none of these things they are showing you here. If you were to visit the fur farms like I have, you would know this is all fiction.

We have to take the best care of the product that we use, otherwise our product would be useless. I hope you can learn about these things the way they are and never think again about a fur ban.

Thank you for your time, I hope that I can continue to stay for my next generation of the fur industry.

Best regards and concerned new American of New York City,

Alexandros Kostopoulos

My living is made through the fur business, and I have been working in this great Industry for the last 47 years. I am now 67 years old and still need to work to support my family. In addition to paying for large loans taken to finance my business. The skills I developed crafting fur garments using specialized machinery are not transferrable. I would not be able to get another job that can help me support my family and continue to take care of my obligations.

I am respectfully asking that you vote against the ban. Your negative vote will protect the livelihood of hundreds of hardworking people such as myself, and maintain an Industry that has been in existence since the beginning of time.

Sincerely,

John Kyrou

Kyros Furs
224 West 30th Street
Suite: 702
New York, N.Y. 10001
917-826-7369

Dear Councils,

The proposed legislation would not only take away our right to choose for ourselves what to eat and wear, but simply to take away our jobs!

As an immigrant, coming to this country 30 years ago, was not easy! I've worked hard. I've put myself through college. My employment which I love is now in jeopardy.

As a New York working mom, I need to be able to provide for my child and assure my child's well being.

It is my duty as a parent.

I am a working woman in my 50's. It will be very difficult for me to transition into a different field. I have been working in this industry for over 20 years!

It is not right that at a time when everybody is talking to protect the environment, reduce pollution, trying to be socially and politically correct.... But no one is considering all the ethical implications of losing so many jobs over some political ambitions?

It is illogical and discriminatory to consider banning fur sales when 95% of Americans eat meat and wear leather.

Natural fur is a completely biodegradable material which does not further burden the environment!

Every stage of fur production is sustainable that lasts for decades, unlike the chemical base fur that ends up in land field sites after a single season. All the petroleum-base synthetics made out plastic are harmful for both the environment and ourselves!

No one is forced to buy or wear fur, anyone is free to campaign against it... but this does not give anyone the right to impose their personal belief on others!

I am here today to ask for your support against fur ban.

Thank you for your time.

Carmen Darie

Carmen DARIE / US Retail Director Yves Salomon US
Landline 212 988.8145
Mobile 917 375 5523
Mail carmen@yves-salomon.com

790 Madison Avenue 10065 New York City - United States
www.yves-salomon.fr

YVES SALOMON

Dear Council Members,

I am a furrier in Seattle, Washington and PRO NEW FUR. My business depends on the New York City fur dealers and vendors for my goods, supplies, and mentoring in technique. I am not alone as furriers and fur ranchers all across the US, Mexico and Canada depend on the NYC fur community and we are really concerned about this fur ban. We will be forced to take our business elsewhere to a fur friendly market in another city and it will be a huge loss of revenue for NYC in taxes, hotel and restaurant when we stay there for business. Not to mention NYC is one stop shopping for all the other components that go into our collections. The whole of the Garment District of NYC benefits.

It is most devastating to the actual businesses that sell and produce fur in NYC and will basically cut them off at the knees from doing business and destroy family businesses, investments, and workers livelihoods putting 1000's out of work and on the unemployment rolls. A fur coat is an expensive investment and I will tell you from experience it is mostly experienced labor not just the pelt. The industry keeps skilled Artisans employed, their families survive from that work and pay taxes, go to schools, ect.

Then there are the trade shows that come to NYC to do business and rent hotels, convention space, and patronize NYC restaurants and entertainment. <https://newyork.lineapelle-fair.com> is one of them. This show will not come to NYC or the US if you put this fur ban through. That is a fair chunk of revenue the city will not see anymore.

This affects not only fine fur garments, but fur felt hats, hat bands, aviator jackets, shoes, shearling seat covers (which a lot of commercial jet pilots use still to this day) , paintbrushes, perfumes, mink oil and pet food just to name a few.

I am miffed that NYC would even consider destroying garment businesses like this in favor of pushing non-renewable petroleum based products that faux furs are made of. The PETA and ALF organizations show a lot of sensational videos that have been proven to be fake news staged and funded by them.

The OA program of fur producers has strict guidelines of ethical humane practices and consumer information. We are a polite group basing our business practices on fact, not sensational terrorism tactics like PETA and ALF.

The PETA backing of the councilman Corey Johnson is obvious here and he is not even listening to his constituents on both sides. Rather he seems to be hanging with reality show stars such as Tim Gunn who by no measure is an expert in this sector as I have read interviews with him on this subject.

I was shocked that Councilman Johnson left the meeting on May 15 before any of the pro-fur people could speak and let many PETA members speak more than once. He seems to have more interest in partying at the Met Ball after-glow party and securing his photo in the NYT social section than listening to his constituents.

The last important thought on this also is deciding that it is OK to eat a nice veal steak on the Upper Eastside or a gyros sandwich in Times Square and not allow the industry of fur. They are all interlinked, the pelt is merely the by-product of the food. IE, Calfskin and shearling.

Thank you very much for reading my thoughts and vote on the issue. I really pray that the City Council will not be lead by Councilman Johnson into one of the most devastating decisions they could make for the NYC economy and over-governing the citizens right to choose what they wear. Just the amount of money the city will spend governing a ban like this has to be a money pit for the city.

I think the best measure is to let the people decide for themselves what to wear. If you don't like fur don't buy it. If you don't like synthetics don't buy them.

Sincerely,
Carole McClellan
Seattle Washington
www.carolemcclellan.com

Dear Speaker Johnson,

My name is Brigitte Pacheco and I'm writing this to ask you to please **NOT** ban fur in NYC as it will affect my life & many other people. People who are the main source of income for their families, whose hands have devoted years to a craft in most times because it's a family business would be most affected. These people have chosen to learn a family skill set & will find themselves with little options as a source of income if this were to be set in place. New York City was built on the selling of fur, & I truly believe if this ban is to go into effect it will ultimately hinder the state & raise our problems with employment & government assistance.

Best Regards,

Brigitte K. Pacheco
Boutique Assistant
J Mendel
787 Madison Ave.
New York, NY 10065
E: bpacheco@jmendel.com
M: [\(201\)681-6650](tel:(201)681-6650)

Good Afternoon!

My name is Polixeni Emmanouil and I am 21 years old and a college student. My parents are both immigrants to this country and both in the fur industry. They came here for a better life like every other immigrant and worked with the only thing that was taught to them, fur. They haven't been to college and have no other certifications, the fur industry is what supports my family. I have a younger brother who is about to go to college and needs the money and support from my parents and so do I till I graduate and get a job of my own. If the fur ban happens I won't be able to get my degree or get a job and the same with my brother. My family will end up homeless. Please take into consideration all the families that are like mine and everyone in the fur industry that depends on it to make a living. After all America is the land of opportunity and freedom.

Thank you for your time

Polixeni Emmanouil

Dear Sir/ Madam I am in Fur Industry for more than 20 years. This is the only trade I have done and know. I don't have any special diploma or degree in any other field If this ban goes in effect I will be jobless and won't be able to support my family.

Please help me and my family to survive and oppose the fur ban.

I hope I can rely on you to sustain my job and support my family.

Thank you

Sanjay Jain

I am against the proposed fur ban, and a NY'er and an animal lover I am against this ban for many reasons. Mainly, it's face it is an attack on citizens and businesses rights.

I don't wear fur. It's not my thing. I do wear leather and shearling. I feel this is an attack on individual freedoms and does not actually address the root of the issue. People are not going to stop eating meat, animals still die, I feel strong regulations with regards to the fur industry are the best way to go, This is not just a NYC issue, it is a global one and the consideration of the ban is extremely shortsighted. In addition the only alternatives we have now are going to add just more toxic garbage into the environment. There are not any truly viable alternatives yet- it is likely to be many years before they become available- meanwhile my leather jackets are as good today as they were when I bought them- some as long as 25 years ago - and I am concerned that this ban gets a little too close to comfort for this leather loving individual.

I also know that this is going to affect a much larger array of jobs and businesses than have been cited. Especially as it's main proponents are PETA, not a terribly trustworthy group, they spread around a lot of propaganda, and they still kill animals. That part is very well documented.

I also know people who work in the broader fashion industry, friends and clients. And I don't want to see them suffer for the views of a few.

Please, doesn't City Council have many much more important issues to work on to serve the citizens of the city? Fixing the Subways maybe? Doing something about Mental health and the Homeless. Improving the overall quality of people's lives?

Just wondering.

Thank you for listening,

With Respect

Daniel Bernstein L. Ac. CH
38 West 32nd St. suite 1507

www.bluephoenixwellness.com
www.sleepspecialistnyc.com

(212) 777-7191

“The doctor of the future will give no medicine but will interest his patients in the care of the human frame, in diet, and in the cause and prevention of disease.” Thomas Alva Edison, Inventor.

America is not a dictatorship, individuals have the right to make choices, individuals have the right to work in the fur industry as many have done for centuries, taking work away from people that lawfully support their families is wrong, substituting with faux fur is not the answer - fur is real and natural, and there is no reason for banning in big cities only - this does NOT make any sense!

NO FUR BAN!!

Thank you,
Evan

Please excuse typos - sent from iPhone

I am asking the NYC Council Members to vote against the proposed ban of Fur in NYC. It will destroy good Paying Jobs and forfeit critical tax revenue our city needs. It will also have a devastating Environmental Impact which will negate any positive effect our Council Passed in our Green New Deal.

It is disappointing that when our City and top Legislative Body pushes an issue like the Fur Ban ahead of Life Altering Issues like: Gun Control, Crime, Pot Hole Ridden Streets, Education, Homeless Epidemic, Drug Epidemic and High Taxes among many other day to day issues we face.

When we are told that our Council Cares about the Poor, the Middle Class, the Immigrant, to Save Good Paying Manufacturing Jobs then turns around and wants to ban an Ethical Industry and Destroy one of the few Manufacturing Labors in NYC, Is Insulting. You should be Policing our Streets not our Closets.

This proposed FUR Ban will have a ripple effect on the Entire Fur (Def: Animals who grow hair on their Skin) and Fashion Industry, in NYC, NYS in the US, Globally and it will be devastating to many Economies.

I urge you to gather Facts, Information and stop this assault on ME the Working Middle Class. This Bill will only serve as a Giant Eraser of Jobs, needed Tax Revenue and put undue Stress on our families, friends and neighbors across many Industries. This bill does a great disservice to our Global Brothers and Sisters.

PLEASE VOTE NO on this BILL

Best,

Christos Kotsovos

7824 Remington Road

Cincinnati, OH, 45242.

KOTSOVOS

513.791.3877

kotsovosbridalfursandprom.com

9501 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, OH 45242

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

Good Afternoon

I am Dimitrios Emmanouil and I have been working in the fur industry for 40 years. I came from Greece started my company and have been working since. I am 61 years old and I have not been to college to be able to work as anything else. I have two kids, one in college and one about to be, if I loose my job I will not be able to pay rent, pay for my children's education or anything. My wife is also in the fur industry. If this ban happens we will be very poor and have little to no money. I won't be able to support my family. Working with fur is the only thing my wife and I know how to do. It is extremely stressful for my family right now. My kids don't know if they can continue their education to get even get their own jobs or if they will be able to live the way they live now. We hope you understand how important the fur business is to my family and many other families lol mine.

Thank you for your time,

Dimitris Emmanouil defurfashion@yahoo.com

Fur-Ban-Testimonials

Hi! Regarding your decisions on banning fur, I would like you too consider the loss that the hard workers in the fur companies will lose. Fur and selling it is their source of income and by banning it you will be putting them and their families in a tough spot. I would really appreciate it if reconsidered, thank you for your time.

- Rukhshana Farhat

Dear Speaker Johnson,

I, Brian Dharry is requesting you to please do NOT ban the sale of Fur's in NYC. Reason is that I have been in this industries for the past 31 years.

I have no other skills and have absolutely no idea what I would do for a living. How would I pay my mortgage and food on the table for my family is beyond me should you BAND the sale of Fur's in NYC.

Best Regards,
Brian Dharry

BRIAN DHARRY
FUR STORAGE MANAGER
J MENDEL
787 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10065
TEL: 212-624-4074
BDHARRY@JMENDEL.COM

WWW.JMENDEL.COM

Hello Speaker Johnson,

My name is Antonie Mascall and asking politely NOT to ban fur in NYC please this is my life this is all I know to do, take this away from me and basically you will end someone means to support himself and family.
Please consider NOT TO ban fur in NYC.

Thank you
Antonie mascall

“What you choose to wear should never be an indicator of criminality.” A tweet from our NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson. In this tweet he references archaic and wrongheaded law that harms members of our society. The harm he mentions is an entirely different subject than the one I’m writing about, however he is correct in the matter that policing ones choice of clothing impacts and harms human life. I am Pro Fur. I am a 25 year old female that works in the fur industry here in NYC. Corey Johnson and others would love to ban fur sales in New York City. By banning fur sales they are directly attacking my choice on what to wear. Even worse though, they are attacking any and all jobs associated with the fur industry. They are saying people should not be able to provide for their family, that small businesses should not be able to survive. All of this is based upon fanatics that like animals more than they like people. By banning fur sales, they are directly taking away my source of income and livelihood along with others. Besides impacting the people that work in some way for the fur industry, they are impacting a retail ‘world’ that is already diminishing. This proposed fur ban will leave storefronts empty; leave workers with no way to provide for their family, their skill set deriving from fur work. They will be taking away tax money from the state. Most importantly the fur industry harms no human, yet you want to police what we wear and work with causing greater harm than good

Dina Tax

Good Evening Council Members of NYC,

I am reaching out to ask that you find it in your hearts to vote against the fur ban. If this fur ban passes my family will be one of the many families to suffer the consequences. Why? Well you see my mother has been working as a seamstress for a fur company for over 10 years now. The fur company is located in NYC. Working for the company has given her the chance to provide a better life for me and my siblings. My mother is the head of the household. My mother has to put food on the table, she has to make sure we have a place to sleep in at night and she has to pay for my school and for my siblings school. Ever since we heard about the fur ban my mother has been stressing out. She is scared to lose her only job. She is scared not only for herself but for her children as well. If the fur ban passes and my mom loses her job there will be no one to pay our rent, our school or feed us. Her job is her life and ours too. Please think about our family and the thousands more that will be affected by this ban. Please vote NO on the fur ban. Please vote No on the fur ban and keep thousands of jobs in NYC.

VOTE NO ON THE FUR BAN!!!

Thank you

Steve Cruz

Dear Speaker Johnson,

My name is Catherine Kelly and I'm writing this to ask you to please NOT ban fur in New York City as it will affect my life tremendously. If this ban is passed I will lose my job, and as a single woman living in New York City will not be able to financially survive. I have worked hard and passionately in this industry for 10 years, always supporting myself. Please take into consideration the livelihood of myself and the 40 other employees at my company who will not be able to support themselves or their families before you pass this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Warm Regards,
Catherine Kelly

HI,

I AM RELATED IN FUR BUSSINESS SINCE LAST 24 YEARS.

IF YOU WILL BANN FURS I WILL LOSE MY JOB , AFTER LOSING MY WORK
WHO WILL TAKE CARE MY FAMILY AND BILLS .IT IS A BIG DAMAGE FOR ME AND A MILLION
PEOPLE LIKE ME.

I REQUEST YOU TO STOP BANNING FURS PLEASE.

I REALLY APPRICIATE YOUR COOPRATE.

THANK YOU

SABAHAT ALI

Hello

I work for the fur market for a few years now. I am not happy about the fur ban

What am I going to do? I will not have a job.
Please NO FUR BAN!!

MARINA P
BLHIGH FASHION
W 30TH ST
NEW YORK NY 10001

Dear Speaker Johnson,

My name is Fotios Davanis and I am 63 years old. I am an immigrant who came in this country for a better future in 1981. I got in the fur business since I was 16 years old. I don't know how to do anything else. I am married with 2 kids who I support.

If you take my job away how can I pay for my apartment or support my family? Who else will give me a job at this age?

Fotios Davanis

Dear Speaker Johnson,

My name is Cynthia Clarke from Bronx, New York.

I am asking you please do not ban fur in New York City. I have been working in the fur industry for many years and it would be impossible for me to find another job at this stage of my life and I cannot afford to be without a job.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cynthia Clarke

My name is Svetlana Golovko and I'd like to express my view on the matter concerning the fur ban hearing that took place in the City Hall on 5/15/2019.

I took part in the rally and was hoping that I could speak my point of view at the hearing but I didn't have a chance.

I went to this rally to support my friends and other people who work in this industry

I want to stand up for my freedom of choice especially on my clothing and accessories. I think everyone has to have a right to express his love for fashion the way he/she wants.

There It's a matter of personal choice and everyone should be allowed to exercise their judgment on what to eat and what to wear, fur or leather or other materials
Fur always been a symbol of beauty success and fashion from the oldest times.

Another issue is support for the small businesses .

I find it absolutely outrageous that thousands of family businesses and their workers might be losing their jobs because of the strong feelings vegans have towards this issue. I have friends who were building their businesses from zero. They worked seven days a week, no holidays didn't see their kids, struggled greatly to survive economic ups and downs only to come to this day where all their effort could lead to bankruptcies, broken dreams, and uncertain future. Some of them are not young people who have time to switch their careers. Is this a fair way to treat people?

Moreover, if the fur is banned in NYC, people will buy it in the neighboring states. If it's banned everywhere in the US, it will be purchased overseas. What do we achieve here? Lost jobs, misery, and aggravation and lost revenues for the city. Can we really afford it?

It would be a big mistake to ban fur in NYC or anywhere else as it represents only a certain viewpoint and interests. I would greatly appreciate if you could consider my opinion in this matter.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Svetlana Golovko
Convent Avenue, New York, NY 10027

Svetlana Golovko svetagolovko@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

New York City Council
Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing
City Hall
City Hall Park
New York, NY 10007

Re: *(Intro. 1476-2019 – Opposition to Proposed Fur Ban)*

Dear Chair Rafael L. Espinal Jr. and City Council Committee:

Hello. My name is Erica Dingman. I am the founder of Arctic in Context at the World Policy Institute and a former designer employed in New York City's garment industry. It is in this dual capacity that I speak today.

I am deeply concerned about climate change and the effects of consumer behavior. Indeed, our economy depends on never-ending consumption, which in turn contributes to climate change and disturbing environmental impacts.

Contributing to this problem is the use of synthetic fabrics, among which is the manufacture of fake fur. Fake fur is the product of synthetic fibers including acrylic, polyester and others, which derive from petroleum. Even during the extraction phase petroleum contributes to climate change through the emissions of greenhouse gases. Further down the supply chain when the garment is no longer fashionable or the consumer has grown bored, it will more than likely end up in landfill. In a perfect world that garment would be recycled, but that is an unlikely scenario. The EPA reported that over 58% of materials manufactured ends up in landfill compared to the 12.4% that is recycled. This is part of a trend in consumer behavior where apparel is manufactured and consumed at a faster pace and cheaper prices. Simply put, consumers do not put the same value on inexpensive consumer goods as they do on pricier goods.

Fur, on the other hand, is considered precious by the consumer and most often passed down from generation to generation or put up for resale.

On the contrary, the discarded synthetic fur garment that ends up in landfill will eventually break down to microplastics. Microplastics accumulate far from population centers and are found in Arctic sea ice. Microplastics in Arctic sea ice were recently found at levels two to three times the concentration of previous findings. As the ice melts these microplastics work their way through the food chain, ingested by mammals, fish and birds and eventually work their way up the chain only to be consumed by human beings.

If we are to consider the issues of sustainability, climate change, the health of our planet, the health of our food supply and our own health then we have to think very carefully about this bill banning the sale of fur in NYC, which in effect promotes the use of synthetics as a replacement for natural materials.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
Fur NYC

Erica M. Dingman
Senior Fellow
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World Policy Institute

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

New York City Council
Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing
City Hall
City Hall Park
New York, NY 10007

Re: *(Intro. 1476-2019 – Opposition to Proposed Fur Ban)*

Dear Chair Rafael L. Espinal Jr. and City Council Committee:

Thank you for reading my testimony. As a PhD student studying fashion sustainability, my research focuses on pre and post consumer textile waste. I hope the committee finds my testimony useful in deciding on this multifaceted issue. In 2015, the textile industry generated 16.03 million tons of waste. Out of that waste only 15.3% was recycled and 10.53 million tons landed in landfills. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2018). The fashion industry generates tremendous pre-consumer and post-consumer fabric waste each year, which negatively impacts the environment.

At the pre-consumer level fur manufacturers use time honed cutting and sewing practices that minimize waste. These practices developed as a result of the high value of the fur and the economic benefits of using the entire fur. The value of faux fur is significantly less, as acrylic is inexpensive to produce. Less emphasis is given to zero waste cutting and manufacturing techniques in the production of faux fur. This produces higher waste at the pre-consumer level.

At the post-consumer level fur is valued and passed down. With care and maintenance, it can last generations. Furs that are no longer worn are passed on to high school theatre costume shops and to undergraduate fashion students learning to sew fur, further extending the life of the fur. Faux fur loses its beauty with age and is rarely passed down. Synthetic fur is thrown away after it is used.

At the disposal level, synthetic textile waste is hard to be safely burned due to its chemical composition or buried in landfills because of its slow decomposition rate (Rissanen, 2015). Considering the great durability of synthetic fabrics, the disposal of faux fur into landfills increases synthetic fiber micro-particulates into our soil and water. In contrast, natural furs decompose in a fraction of the time and become nutrients to the earth as they decompose.

For these reasons, I soundly oppose the proposed fur ban in New York City. Please feel free to contact me with questions.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of FurNYC

Laura Taylor
PhD Student and Instructor of Fashion Business
716-570-6359

laura.jane.b.taylor@gmail.com

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Wednesday, May 15, 2019

New York City Council
Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing
City Hall
City Hall Park
New York, NY 10007
Re: (Intro. 1476-2019 – Opposition to Proposed Fur Ban)

Dear Chair Rafael L. Espinal Jr. and City Council Committee:

My name is Matt Peek. I'm a professional wildlife biologist for the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and I oversee the wild furbearer management program for the state of Kansas. As a wildlife biologist, I have trapped beaver, coyote, otter and various other species for research, reintroduction programs, and damage control, and I have extensive experience with traps and trapping.

I'm here today representing the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). All 50 state wildlife agencies support regulated trapping as a necessary part of modern wildlife management, and we have serious concerns about the implications of the bill to wildlife conservation.

This ban is being promoted as pro-animal welfare. In fact, trapping today is managed through science-based regulations that already address animal welfare. These regulations are put in place by wildlife biologists like myself who care deeply about animals, and have dedicated our lives to their conservation.

The U.S. and Canada have spent over \$50 million in recent decades conducting trap research and promoting the best and most humane traps in existence. And this effort has been effective. Recent trapper surveys indicate the vast majority of the target animals captured by trappers in the U.S., are captured in traps that pass international humane standards.

In addition, the same traps used today by fur trappers are also used by biologists for research and reintroductions. This is only possible because these traps usually cause minimal or no injury to captured animals.

The American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians has a position statement recognizing foothold traps, "when used properly, are humane, safe and practical."

It's also worth noting that the species that are trapped today are abundant, in fact some like coyote and raccoon are more abundant than they've ever been in history, and they have the

potential to damage property and other, more vulnerable species like sea turtles and ground nesting birds.

Without the fur trade, the harvested animal will be disposed of and wasted, rather than producing a durable, environmentally-friendly product that can be used by people. The fur trade is responsible use of wildlife.

In closing, a ban on the sale of fur in New York City will have significant, negative impacts on both wildlife and people. I'm asking you today to trust the judgement of wildlife professionals and your state wildlife management agency and oppose this bill.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and FurNYC

Matt Peek
Wildlife Research Biologist
620-342-0658
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Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)



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Detroit

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Bloomfield Hills

248-642-3000

New York City Council
250 Broadway
New York, New York 10007

May 17, 2019

Dear Council Members:

My family has been visiting New York for 5 generations since 1893. These trips have been for the purpose of buying wholesale to resell them in Michigan. I have made about 3 to 4 trips per year to New York and now own a condo in Manhattan. We could buy much of our inventory from the Orient, but we prefer to make our purchases in New York.

Please reconsider and let my family, all other furriers in the USA, and all my friends in New York to continue our fur business. We are a proud group of people. Our business provides a stimulus for the city.

We are writing to strongly oppose any ban on the sale of fur of New York City. There are over a 100 small family-run businesses in your district that focus on the sale of fur. Citywide, furriers employ over 11000 people whose jobs would be put at risk by a ban. Even more people are at risk if you add in the department store sales, boutique sales along with accessories and home décor.

We were shocked to hear that you would sponsor a ban on the sale of fur, considering your commitment to a thriving Garment District. Many of our businesses have been in the neighborhood for generations. If a bill passing the sale of fur passes, it would decimate a major source of fashion jobs in the district. It would also call into serious question the City's commitment to the fashion industry and strong Garment District.

Equally troubling is what this means for small businesses in New York City. While you have claimed to be a champion for them, you would force the closure of over 130 companies. Many of these businesses have been operating for decades, passed down from generation to generation. With the Council focusing on how to save small businesses like these, it makes no sense to then legislate them out of existence.

We urge you to reconsider your support of a ban on the sale of fur in New York City. Our businesses and the jobs of our employees are worth preserving.

Sincerely,


Harold Dittrich

Dependability by the Dittrich Family since 1893

May 15, 2019

I am currently a resident and employer in DISTRICT 3. I donated to Corey Johnson's City Council bid in 2017. My support stopped after reading about this bill in early 2019.

As a Native New Yorker growing up in DISTRICT 27 (Queens Village) since the age of 3 years I have seen how this city has evolved for the better. However this bill which intends to prohibit the use of shearling, fur and hair on calf is anti-immigrant, anti-women and anti-minority as migrants, women and minorities represent the majority of people working in the fashion manufacturing in NY. The potential loss of these skilled jobs will have a tremendous impact on peoples lives. I see this as a first salvo in taking away a child's ability to dream - exactly what my parents gave their children when they immigrated to New York from a dictatorship in Haiti in the late 1970's.

This bill is also anti-entrepreneurial as it will put at risk a lot of small and medium sized companies.

Today as a young independent business owner in the fashion industry, selling to Saks, Bergdorf Goodman, Nordstrom and Neiman Marcus **locally** this bill will have an immediate impact on my bottom line. I also fear what the passing of such a restrictive bill might foreshadow regarding other natural materials the fashion industry works with: wool, cashmere or even cotton?

DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

Victor Glemaud
440 W 34th Street
NY, NY 10001

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May 17, 2019

**THE NEW YORK CITY FUR BAN AS A VIOLATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT
CLAUSE OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**

This statement is submitted on behalf of the Fur Information Council of America, the U.S. trade association representing the interests of fur manufacturers and retailers, many of whom are based in New York City. This statement supplements testimony presented by Bezalel Stern of the Law Firm of Kelley Drye & Warren at the Committee Hearing held on May 15, 2019 on Int. No. 1476.

The proposed New York City Fur ban constitutes a clear violation of the U.S. Constitution’s Establishment Clause. In particular, the ban violates the Establishment Clause’s proscription against excessive government entanglement with religion.

The Establishment Clause provides that “Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion.” U.S. CONST. amend. I. To avoid violating the Establishment Clause, a law must have (1) a “secular legislative purpose,” (2) a primary effect that “neither advances nor inhibits religion,” and (3) “must not foster ‘an excessive government entanglement with religion.’”¹ A law fosters excessive entanglement with religion where it requires “comprehensive, discriminating, and continuing state surveillance.”²

For instance, the Supreme Court struck down a state sales tax exemption for “[p]eriodicals that are published or distributed by a religious faith and that consist wholly of writings promulgating the teaching of the faith and books that consist wholly of writings sacred to a religious faith,” as violating the Establishment Clause.³ In that case, the Court cited an “overriding interest in keeping the government — whether it be the legislature or the courts — out of the business of evaluating the relative merits of differing religious claims. The risk that governmental approval of some and disapproval of others will be perceived as favoring one religion over another is an important risk the Establishment Clause was designed to preclude.”⁴

¹ *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 403 U.S. 602, 612-13 (1971) (citation omitted).

² *Id.* at 619.

³ *Texas Monthly, Inc. v. Bullock*, 489 U.S. 1 (1989).

⁴ *Id.* at 20 (quoting *United States v. Lee*, 455 U. S. 252, 263 n.2 (1982)).

KELLEY DRYE & WARREN LLP

May 17, 2019

Page Two

Requiring public officials to “determine whether some message or activity is consistent with ‘the teaching of the faith’” posed “[t]he prospect of inconsistent treatment and government embroilment in controversies over religious doctrine,” which constituted an impermissible entanglement with religion.⁵

So too here, the religious exemption set out in Proposed Int. No. 1476-A would necessarily foster “an excessive government entanglement with religion.” The bill’s language, which exempts from the ban on the sale of new fur any “Fur apparel that is worn as a matter of religious custom,” essentially imposes a religious test before allowing the sale of a fur product. This is a religious test which must be administered, in this instance, by local government. By placing the onus on a local government to continually survey fur apparel sales, and determine whether a particular piece of fur apparel is “worn as a matter of *religious custom*,” Proposed Int. No. 1476-A poses a significant risk of inconsistent treatment on the part of the government. Moreover, empowering public officials to pass judgment on the relative merits of claims to the customary religious importance of particular garments presents precisely the sort of government embroilment with religion that the Establishment Clause proscribes.⁶ For this reason alone, Proposed Int. No. 1476-A will be struck down as unconstitutional.

BEZALEL STERN

Senior Associate

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⁵ *Id.* See also *Hernandez v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue*, 490 U.S. 680, 694 (1989) (“petitioners’ proposal would force the IRS and the judiciary into differentiating ‘religious’ services from ‘secular’ ones. We need pass no judgment now on the constitutionality of such hypothetical inquiries, but we do note that ‘pervasive monitoring’ for ‘the subtle or overt presence of religious matter’ is a central danger against which we have held the Establishment Clause guards”) (emphasis added).

⁶ See *Larson v. Valente*, 456 US 228 (1982) (This kind of state inspection and evaluation of the religious content of a religious organization is fraught with the sort of entanglement that the Constitution forbids. It is a relationship pregnant with dangers of excessive government direction . . . of churches”) (quoting *Lemon*, 403 U.S., at 620).

May 15 2019

Re: FUR BAN NYC

To whom it may concern:

My name is Albertus Swanepoel. Im a hat maker and designer working in Manhattan for the past 25+ years.

In that time, I have seen the demise of the garment district, especially in our field- where the ribbon and flower suppliers all but disappeared.

per example-The only factory in the US that made grosgrain ribbon, an essential to our industry, closed last year, after 100 years in business. The foundation of our industry is crumbling.

But I am here to day to talk about fur-

In 2000 I went, per invitation, to Saga Furs in Copenhagen to vist and make my self knowledgable about the fur industry. I had to observe the breeding and euthanizing of the minks and foxes kept on the fur farms. They were extremely well looked after (to assure better fur quality) and killed in a very humane way. I am aware that other nations do not do the same, but the farms in the US , Canada and Europe are very regulated.

Im not sure you are aware that fake fur is made from petroleum, which is damaging for the environment and it can never be biogradeble. I find this fur ban ironic with the outcry that we are harming the planet in unspeakable ways.

Fur, in contrast, disintegrate ultimately. It is completely sustainable. The meat is used for pet food and the oils for beauty products. Every inch of a skin is utilized. I work closely with a second generation furrier in Manhattan and have very good insight of the factory.

The industry in NY is a multi million dollar industry and is largely owned by individuals- with a heritage of immigrants, making fur garments and dedicate their craft to this medium.

We have a right to produce and sell fur garments and hats- to create employment and better the NYC economy.

I find it frightening that the city will start banning certain things we can make in able to make a living and supply work for other individuals. We all have years of training and experience in our field and the Council deems it fit for us to close our businesses?

The pesticides used on cotton is very damaging to the environment- will you ban cotton clothing sales next?

Also, certain photographers and stylists are now refusing to photograph feathers- people eat chickens, geese, pheasants and ostrich- there will be no Met gala without feathers! These are by products that we, as milliners, also use a lot in our work. Will these materials be the next victims of your ban?

I think this is going down a very slippery slope, to enact on our freedom to create in certain materials and are not well informed of the damaging values of alternative man made materials.

Albertus Swanepoel LLC
124 West 30th Street
Room 208
New York, NY 10001
212.6291090



Dear Council,

My name is Ignatios Ioannidis and I would like to voice my opinion and ask for you all to please not ban fur in NYC as it will affect my Life and the life of my family. I have put a lot of my blood, sweat and tears into building a stable job and career to which I can provide my family with stability and a home. This ban not only will affect me but my family and several of my peers and will jeopardize what I have worked so hard to provide for my family.

Best,

Ignatios Ioannidis

Dear Council Members,

My name is Ira Widman and my company is Samuel Bauer & Sons, Inc. We supply furriers with factory supplies such as needles, thread, linings, zippers etc. I have worked in the fur industry for 46 years, most of that time located in a storefront in the heart of the fur district on West 29th Street.

Recently, due to the high rents in New York City, I was forced to move my business

to Rahway, NJ. However, I still have employees who live in New York City and many

customers located in New York City. My employees who live in NYC pay NYC income taxes,

and I collect sales taxes on behalf of NYC.

The believe the proposed Fur Ban is wrong for several reasons:

1) **You need to treat human beings ethically**

The morality of using fur for clothing is open to argument. I can understand that there are arguments in favor and against. There is no correct or incorrect answer.

Similarly, the morality of abortion is open to argument. There are arguments in favor and against.

So we believe in **Free Choice** where each individual does what he or she believes is correct.

And so it should be with fur - people should have their **Free Choice** as to whether they

buy and wear fur garments.

It is however, completely unethical to impose ones views on others, especially when this will result in severe hardship to many who will lose their livelihood and to others who will loose businesses built up over a lifetime of hard work and sweat.

2) **Society has accepted the use of animal products**

Our society has long accepted the use of animal products for food and clothing. Once again, nobody is forcing anyone to eat meat, fish or other animal products. Nobody is forcing anyone to wear leather shoes or belts.

Nobody is forcing anyone to kill the mice or insects which infest their homes.

Many of us, however, do use animal products. It is a personal decision. We do believe

that animals should be treated well and not needlessly tortured. However, our society

has long accepted the use of animals for food and clothing.

3) **A fur ban is insensitive to customs and traditions**

A fur ban would fly in the face of centuries of religious and cultural tradition. Black ministers say that for many African-Americans, wearing furs is a treasured hallmark of achievement. Hasidic rabbis point to the many men who wear fur hats on the Sabbath.

4) **It is unfair to destroy people's businesses and livelihoods**

It takes many years to build a business, and it takes years to wind down a business. Some fur businesses have large inventories which will take many years to sell off. To force people to close these businesses in a short time and incur a large financial loss is completely unfair.

Many people have spent years working in the fur trade. Many of them are older and have worked in the industry their entire lives. To put them out of work at this point in their lives is completely unfair and immoral.

A Fur Ban will have far reaching effects.

My business will be hurt terribly by a Fur Ban. My customers are furriers, and if they close, I will be forced to downsize, laying off employees, some who are NYC residents. New York City needs this tax revenue.

Considering the far reaching effects of a Fur Ban on the individuals who work in the trade, and to those who wear our products, I urge the Council to **CONSIDER HUMANS FIRST**. Please vote against the Fur Ban.

Respectfully submitted,
Ira Widman, President

SAMUEL BAUER & SONS, INC.
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Dear Council Members,

My name is Teli Spyro and I am a second generation furrier.

The only business I've known my whole life is the fur business. From the day I completed High School, I started working with my family. I have no further education, nor do I have experience in any other field that would qualify me for a position that would allow me to financially support my family.

Council Members, you have made claims that the skilled artisans that work in the fur trade can find work utilizing other materials, I respectfully disagree. In my situation, and I'm sure I'm not alone, I am not a skilled artisan, I do not work on the manufacturing side, and I can't utilize the experience I have learned over the past decade elsewhere. You have also failed to address what you suggest all the commission based sales associates that have developed clients over decades should do. I'm sure you have heard how challenging the retail sector in New York City is these days, and you surely can't expect all of these people to start over in such difficult times.

This ban would put me in an extremely difficult position financially as my Wife and I recently purchased a home and are expecting our first child. I ask you to please think about all of the lives this will ruin.

I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Teli Spyro

Garments were alongside finance as the main industries that once defined New York. This city has no soul left and you risk to run it into the ground further of just being some random city in America by preferring any industry that would pay higher rents. The city council has long not served small businesses well any different than the city's long time residents, who are all moving away. I am not sure if your plan is to simply clear out fur and the entire garment industry out from midtown and the boroughs to get higher paying tenants like startups or a ninetieth WeWork location. The demand for fur is going down anyway, and the industry will wane, but it is not proper to put people from 100 year-old businesses out on the street like this. You are just going to help animals.. you are only going to lose tax revenue because everyone is still going to buy the fur, just spend the money elsewhere, like Paris or Boca Raton. The orthodox Jews are NEVER going to stop buying fur and will just open fur stores in Floral Park or who knows where just outside city lines and bring them into the city. The same goes with the black community or upper east side ladies.. they will just buy it somewhere else nearby or in another state. Fur may have ethical problems, but factory farming DOESN'T?? If animals live and are tortured in equally horrible conditions in slaughterhouses and then a good amount of that food is wasted, what is the difference between a killing a lynx for a lynx coat and a cow for a hamburger that gets thrown in the trash? In the first case the lynx coat is used for warmth. Do you know how bad synthetics are for the water supplies in third world countries and in our own water supplies? I drink that fake fur everyday in bottled water or from the tap! Surely part ended in my body. The fur ban is another stage in the ongoing battle between new New York and old New York. This councilman, Corey Johnson, is not even from New York? Now you have a bunch of high line moms or whoever coming into New York from somewhere else to attack fur, a lot of whom probably eat meat even. New York is a joke now in America and in the world for losing its status as a fashion city or just as a city with any character at all. After Raf Simons left, I don't know if you are aware, but there is NO ONE important showing in NYC fashion week anymore that is perceived as being actually relevant, except maybe Marc Jacobs. Basically the reputation of NYC as a "fashion city" rests on one person who may very well retire. We cannot get decent patternmaking done in non-fur garment work. Do you know that I have to spend half of my time shipping garments to other countries to get garments made, because no one does that job anymore in New York? Paris is taking over all of this because they manage everything correctly and have younger people working in garment factories who are highly skilled. What has New York done to promote fashion? Bloomberg invited tech to kick fashion out of midtown... the fact that you are proposing for businesses to move to BOTH Industry City or the Navy Yards is your hastening of the death of the industry. These are Etsy businesses not real fashion businesses with work skills. No one from outside New York or in New York is ever going to take the almost non-functional R train to Bay Ridge or good luck getting people to go to a neighborhood in a borough without a subway. At a certain point the loss in time becomes too high in travel. If you cut out fur, this will decimate other businesses in the garment industry. Pretty soon New York will just be a bunch of empty storefronts and startups that relocated from some city in the Bay Area to an upstairs office in New York. I am thinking about moving to Paris because the industry is going so bad here. The city council has never promoted the interests of small businesses or its residential tenants. It is absolutely ridiculous that after years and years of negligence and putting no controls on residential rents that then you should make a big deal of Amazon coming to New York... after you sold out the entire city over decades to hundreds of other corporations, residential developers, and banks. A lot of us were not fooled. The fact that you ban the deregulation of apartments after so many were lost and that no one can probably get except the landowner's family is a joke to

your constituents. Things are reaching a breaking point here in this city and don't be surprised if you face contenders in your primaries, because who cares if you are democrats or certain of you are gay, you really should not count on this longer to get votes from your constituents, because you are screwing us over. The city council is simply promoting a course of action to appease its richest constituents... and itself.

Sincerely,
Robert O'Hara
NYC resident

Dear Speaker Johnson,

My name is Danielle Waters, and I am writing you to please ask you to not ban fur in NYC. I moved to New York less than a year ago when I was offered a job at Dennis Basso... a dream job for a recent graduate. You see, I am from Texas, and I never planned on moving to New York, but after spending a few months with this company, and its employees, I began to realize how much of a family-like community this is. If this ban goes through, this family will fall apart. Many of our employees, myself included, depend on this job and this industry in order to stay in New York.

I studied design and textile conservation, and so it is embedded in my life to always look for the most sustainable and eco-friendly option when it comes to the fashion industry. I am fully aware that fur is a controversial topic, and I am not here to try to sway you to think otherwise. I, myself, sometimes wrestle with that. However, it is much more environmentally friendly than any synthetic options.

Fur products are never mass-produced. They are a luxury good that customers will never buy in bulk. Synthetic options (faux fur) are much less expensive to produce, however the process to create these materials is incredibly harmful to the environment. They are also produced at an extremely high quantity - adding to waste.

I beg you to consider how banning fur could affect the environment as well as the economy. I know you may think this is a "good" thing, but I promise nothing it leads to is at all better.

Thank you for your time,
Danielle Waters

My name is Eric Hamerman. I own and work at George A. Bobrick Co., Inc. in New York City.

I am writing to urge you to vote **AGAINST** the proposed Fur Ban in New York because I will lose my job, I will lose my business and my employees will lose their jobs as well!

My Company, George A. Bobrick Co., Inc. is a 4th generation family owned & operated business established in 1928. My great grandfather (a Russian Immigrant), my grand uncles, and my father were in the business. I am in the business since 1973, almost 50 years.

George A. Bobrick Co is the resource center for exclusive Novelty Silk Linings, Water Repellent Outerwear Fabrics & Fashion Forward Buttons specifically designed, woven or printed made for Fur Garments. I inventory Tens of Thousands of yards of Fabric plus many thousands of Buttons in stock, ready for immediate delivery or shipment to Furriers in New York City, New York State, the United States or around the world.

For your reference, here is an easy link to the Company website: www.georgebobrick.com.

I do not sell Furs. However; in the event the Fur Ban passes, you will put me out of business because all of my customers are furriers!

The city council is trying to ban the sale of fur before they ban guns, though elected officials across the board have said they want to save the garment manufacturing industry in NYC. They should police our streets, not our closets. If that is not reason enough for you, you should know: New York City would lose \$76 million in tax revenue in the first year alone, a city whose budget came up short last year. The city needs this revenue to provide services to the residents that depend on it. The city would lose 7,500 jobs and 150 family- and immigrant-owned businesses. I could further tell you about how the city's economy will suffer if the fur ban is passed, but as a New Yorker I need you to know my family and I will suffer.

Feel free to call me at your convenience should you have any questions.

Dear New York City council members,

I'm a 59 year old fur store owner in Pittsburgh . I have worked with the NYC fur market for 37 years ...while my family has been dealing with the NYC market since 1900.

I employ 9 full time people currently . All but one has financial responsibilities and obligations to their family .What are we to tell our employees if you force a fur ban on NYC ? ??..... “ group, a few people in NYC and San Fran decided they didn't like our product ... instead of just not buying the product and tolerating our freedom of choice ... these few people decided that they wanted to make it impossible to buy our product ...thus it has eliminated our opportunity to sell the only product we know how to sell , repair, clean, remodel , and repurpose.” Then they'll ask me “ Why ??”

What will they do when shoved out of an industry that they love. It's a family atmosphere in my store we have shared laughs and tears ! We have buried follower workers , gone to children's weddings , had farewell parties , and work side by side . In some cases for over 30-50 years .

Our work is very specialized , unique unto itself .

Your horrible decision could put tens of thousands of people out of work in a short period of time and many more thru the next 5-15 years .

My employees know we sell a legal product .

They have all talked with a fur farmer.

They have all seen how furs are worked on .

Some have seen but surely told about the hateful propaganda that those who are opposed to our product share with those who will listen .

The drastic result of the proposed NYC fur ban would be impossible to calculate. Our buying sources , suppliers , manufacturers , and fellow retailers would be crippled .

When nature's most natural , renewable , and sustainable resource is eliminated (fur) what happens ?

More fast fashion polyester faux fur ?

More synthetic clothing?

These are all hugely polluting to produce and non biodegradable .

We're an industry that has worked in harmony with nature .

What's polluting our world ? Certainly not fur coats, not shearling jackets , and not leather garments when compared to the alternatives !

NoFurBan

Sincerely,

Carl Herrmann

Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council, Greetings.

I have worked in this industry for thirty five years, I have helped support my parents during their hardships. I have been a contributor to my household raising with my husband two children. I have a mortgage and bills that I am responsible for. To loose my income would be a catastrophic event in our lives. This is the only line of work that I know. Please consider the economic impact on the people.

Vicky Demetriou

To whom this may concern,

I am writing this email to express my concern about this fur ban. I have friends and family in the business and this will cause a major problem to our economy. There will be many job loses and families will go hungry.

This ban should not be allowed period. The Furs trade have been with this country for many centuries.

The industry will keep our economy going.

Do not allow this ban!

Joseph M. LaBoy

jmlaboy@netsysgroup.com

P: 941-999-1876

F: 941-870-0969

www.netsysgroup.com



I am a vendor that services the fur industry. The livelihood of my employees and the vendors that we employ will lose their jobs. The number is more than 370 people. Many have been servicing this industry for decades and will not be able to retool or find other types of work. Many are older individuals that have no way to pay for their ever increasing medical, health, housing, and provide family support and comfort to others in their household.

Please abandon this plan and allow us to keep working and contributing to society, taxes, and the very fabric of what makes the NYC great. The alternative is unimaginable for so many of us.

Thank you,
Joel Baum
The NetSys Group
646.372.5309

Dear Council Members of NYC,

My name is Ivette Guevara and I am reaching out to you to ask that you vote against the fur ban. If this gets approved my mother and my whole family will be one of thousands who will be directly affected. You see, my mother has worked as a seamstress for most of her life. She is currently working for a company who handles fur. This jobs is able to provide a steady income for her. Because She is the head of the household who has to provide for her three kids and for her parents she is depending on her job. She has a mortgage to pay and mouths to feed. If the fur ban passes The company she works for will close and she will lose her job. What would she do then? Who is going to pay her mortgage and who will feed her kids and parents. It is not easy to find a job in NYC. It is not easy to find a job that pays well and gives her good benefits. This is not only affecting one person or one family. If this passes it will affect thousands of people and their families. Please vote NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Ivette Guevara

May 17, 2019

Lygia Bernaducci
Lexington Ave.
New York, NY 10075

My first part-time job as a Fashion student at FIT was at a local furrier. My first full-time job after I graduated was with a Furrier. I am truly frightened by the FUR BAN. I live paycheck to paycheck. and I live in fear of not having the money I need to pay my rent. I have no savings. I struggled as a single parent in the workforce. I have slowly with great difficulty rebuilt my career and I have returned to the Fur Industry. I have made my job my home and my co-workers my family. Please keep our family together. Being an older worker I have found it is more of a burden to find a new job. I planned to work at my present job at Pologeorgis Furs until I retired in 5 years. My pension upon retirement would be my life savings. I live in dire fear of losing my full pension in my job. This proposed FUR BAN has caused me undue stress and is affecting my present good health and my work performance and positive attitude. Please help me. Please save my family. In all over 35 years in the FUR Industry.

Sincerely,

Lygia Bernaducci

Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Sadia Haimwatee Faruqi and I am a resident of 130-11 121st Street, Apt 2, South Ozone Park, NY 11420. I am employed as a bookkeeper at Pologeorgis Furs and have worked here for 4 years. I enjoy my work and the people I work with. We are more than coworkers, we are a family. I emigrated from Guyana, South America 32 years ago, and although I am highly educated I faced great difficulty in the US finding a job in my field of study. I faced much discrimination as both a woman of color and an immigrant until I met Nick Pologeorgis, especially since he is from an immigrant family too. We clicked immediately and I have been working here at Pologeorgis Furs happily ever since. My salary supports my 4 children and myself. I have rent, student loans and all the expenses related to raising and educating 4 children. I urge you to vote against the proposed fur ban and protect mine and my coworkers jobs. Thank you.

Sadia Faruqi

Sadia@pologeorgis.com

Accounting

POLOGEORGIS

143 West 29th St. NY, NY 10001

tel: 212.563.2250 ext. 110

www.pologeorgis.com

My name is Josue Almeida. I've been working at Pologeorgis Furs for 6 years now. I work as an Assistant Designer. Working in the fur industry, it has allowed me to grow at a rate that other industries wouldn't allow I started as an intern and soon after I was hired. Most industries would take years for you to work your way up. Working here has given me the chance to be creative and express myself through my designs. This ban can't go through. Think of all the people that will be affected. I wanted to make this place my home and grow within. We are a family here. We all work together to get things done which, in a lot of other places I have worked at was very hard to find. NYC is the fashion capital of the world. Don't take away what helped NY grow into the flourishing city it is today. We need this industry.

Thank you.

I am writing this email as I am very concerned that based on the decisions you will be making shortly to possibly ban the sale and manufacture of new fur in New York City (the hub of our industry) will have a tremendous effect not only on the people associated with the fur industry but also the economy as 400+ million dollars of revenue would be lost and sent to neighboring cities and states. Let's not forget that the city of New York was founded on fur trading, The New York City seal shows two beavers representing the importance of the fur trade.

I am a fourth generation furrier, New York born and have been involved in the industry since a child. My father and grandfather both operated fur manufacturing businesses in Manhattan and I have spent my entire career of 40+ years in the industry which I am very proud to be a part of! If you are to consider passing a fur ban as proposed, it would put an end to careers such as mine which would be a devastating blow to my family's future. What happened to freedom of choice? I believe that everyone is entitled to their opinion but feel that you should not be entitled to mine!

Please vote NO on the FUR BAN!

Larry Becker
Proud to be a furrier

To City council members

I want to bring your attention to fur ban issue rising as huge deal to many of US citizen. Personally, I have been in fashion industry for ten years and dealt many different types of material including fur. This industry is a foundation for many house holds to making living as well has opening door to many students.

Fur industry is providing many jobs and opportunities. I found my passion and career in fashion and I really love my job. Please do not take away dreams and living from many of us. We deserve to enjoy the freedom to work for what we love.

Thank you.

Ashley Song ashley@stallionnyc.com

My name is Evangelos Anastasiou. My company is Anamoda. Inc., 247 West 30th Street, Suite 4R, New York, NY. I employ two full time professionals in the fur industry. I am also responsible for the employment of 12 full time furriers through an exclusive subcontractor I depend on to conduct business.

I have been in the fur industry since 1974. I am the proud owner of my self-financed business for 38 years in Manhattan. This is the only job I have ever known.

There is clearly no compassion for animals in Speaker Johnson's Int-1476 proposal for a fur ban. If this fiasco was about the inhumanity inflicted on animals it would have to include banning snakeskin, alligator skin and every other industry involved in the slaughtering of animals for food or other uses. You would also have to ban hunting and fishing as their means would also be classified as inhumane.

This public hearing on Wednesday, May 15th was a PETA side show with the evident and explicit blessing of the New York City Council. Not a single Councilmember questioned the validity of the propaganda video played at the onset nor the validity of the failed trap demonstration. Both were staged and proven lies.

All of the Councilmembers present stayed at their seats and accepted testimony after testimony that faux fur is the alternative to your cries of inhumanity without ever questioning it.

For the numerous times ivory was brought up, everyone must be informed that the source of ivory is from elephants which are on the World Wildlife Federation's endangered species list and protected by international laws.

You are beating up a small group of honorable and hardworking people who never did anything wrong so you can cater and bow to PETA and all the other animal rights groups that flood the public with obscene and controversial videos and imagery to collect their \$50 million dollar donations to use in part to influence politicians and designers.

Lastly, but not least a note to Mr. Speaker: Google should not be the center for animal welfare information because 9 out of 10 sites are animal activists' propaganda.

This type of business destroying legislation has no place in a democratic civil society like New York City. I urge you as elected politicians to serve fairly the people who got you your jobs. There is only one fair choice to the people of NYC: No fur ban.

This is what is used by the licensed New York State Trappers:

<https://www.facebook.com/furharvesters/videos/2194275710662907/>

New York City Council,

I am a proud outdoorsman from Shelbyville, KY. If you ban fur in your city, it will hurt my livelihood. I am a humane hunter and trapper, but most importantly a conservationist. Just because you may not like fur is not a reason to outlaw it! Please be considerate of other cultures and religions that use fur, the people that rely on fur for their livelihood and the general consumer who should be able to choose for themselves whether or not they want to buy fur. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Conrad Lanham

I'm writing you this email to plead with you about reconsidering this issue. I am the owner of a fur salon in Michigan. I have been in business for the past 40 years. I employ 25 employees. They depend on this industry to support their family's. I am the sole supporter of my family including my in-laws and parents. If this fur ban goes through I don't know how we will exist. I think and worry about all the people involved. Please think about America and the freedom we instill in our family's. My children don't understand why you are considering this ban.

Best,

Margie Shapiro

elmar furs

To whom it may concern:

I am a furrier in Tennessee who does business with many New York City manufacturers. These business associates and friends will lose their businesses if the ban is passed. They won't be able to feed their families, keep of roof over their heads and pay for educations. The American Dream will be lost to them and many will be bankrupted. Plus, other industries will be adversely impacted like the landlords who lease space, models who are paid to show the product, advertising providers and photographers, food vendors and restaurants that serve, security providers, shipping companies, insurance agents, phone and electric providers. The impact on the economy is endless. It's not just the furrier who is hurt but so many others.

Right now, my friends are going through unhealthy stress because their lives are being played with by politicians who care more about issues concerning non-humans much of which is fake news spread by the so called animal rights protest industry.

PETA kills animals, it's a fact. If PETA could have their way, we wouldn't be eating meat, having pets and of course wearing pelts. Personally, I can't distinguish between the difference of how an animal is slaughtered for food or clothing. There is no difference to me so if fur is banned, the council should also be banning everything humans use that comes from animals.

But, PETA will still be killing dogs and cats at their so called shelters. The hypocrisy is overwhelming.

I urge you to let the marketplace decide. Activist can continue to protest what they feel is wrong, they've been doing it for decades and if the public eventually decides to shun fur completely that will be the choice of the people. I've been dealing with animal activist for decades. They tried to shut me down with protests. That didn't work. They then moved on to terrorism at my business, on my phone, in the mail and that didn't work. They then moved on to intimidation of my customers, yelling at them and block entrances to businesses and that didn't work.

Now, they look to you as they are losing hoping you'll help them in their quest to end all animal use industries. It's easy with the fur business. It's relatively small with many businesses owned and operated by families that don't have deep

pockets to combat the lies put forth by PETA. It's simple to target an industry with no real big players. Going after McDonalds or Tyson Foods would be so hard.

As things stand now, my business is very strong and getting better every year. I'm selling a great product that last decades. My customers understand the importance of animal management and sustainability and they don't want clothes made from plastics and chemicals which cause pollution and global warming. New Yorkers will still be buying fur, that won't stop with any type of ban. They'll just buy it online or out of town helping businesses like mine. Keep your money where it belongs, in New York City or it will leave and never come back.

But, if NYC passes this ban, I will never step foot in NYC again for business or pleasure and I will tell my very loyal customers to find somewhere else to vacation or do business.

NO FUR BAN. It's stupid politics.

Sincerely,

Steven Ballin
King Furs and Fine Jewelry
Memphis, TN

I'm writing this email in opposition to the proposed fur ban. My family has been in the fur industry for 50+ years beginning when my grandfather started his own fur company. To this day my father is still in the industry. A ban on fur in New York City would be catastrophic to families like mine. My father is making monthly student loan payments and mortgage payments. If he loses his job, we will enter financial hardship immediately, as well as lose adequate health care coverage.

Please keep in mind the effect this ban has on hard-working middle class families - especially those who live in NYC and deal with huge financial obligations.

Thank you

Scott Marchfeld

Regarding the proposed fur ban,
I am deeply opposed to this kind of government control. Not only does it unfairly impact the fur trades people's livelihoods, but where does this kind of legislation end?

Do we ban meat next? If you are a vegetarian you can choose not to eat meat. If you are opposed to fur, don't wear it. This is not a decision that should be made, and imposed on people by the government.

Please do not ban fur! Many working class people will be harmed, in an already shrinking garment industry.

This would set a dangerous precedent.

Sincerely,

Sarah Edwards

Sarah Edwards
Costume Designer COAH
Edwards325@gmail.com

Sir, my dad is working for a fur industries about 20 years. he can work .beside this job he don't know anything else .if he lose his job he will be come home less.if you guys don't do fur ban you will not lose nothing but if you guys do that he can lose his life, family and kids.so please make right decision.

thank you

WAZIHA TASNIM

Hello,

I'm emailing to oppose the proposed fur ban. Partly because those who support the ban have incorrect information and have based their decision on it. I work for the 2nd biggest international fur auction house in the world and come from a 4th generation family farm which 75% of the revenue comes from the farmed fur which supports my family and many families in the community. I hope to paint a clear picture on fur farming as you can make the change and base a decision from the source.

The biggest argument and fake news I see on this is how the animals are harvested. I visit all fur farms in north America each year during the harvest. **No** mink or fox farms are electrocuted, have their necks broken or kill them alive. The one case the animals have been skinned alive was when an animal activist paid a poor farmer in China to do that so they could create fake news and serotypes. **All farms** euthanize the animals, so they are put to sleep. It's the most humane way of killing animals in any agricultural method sector. That's a fact.

The animals live comfortably. The mink and fox have secure housing to protect against predators, are feed each day a diet revised by a Vet and Nutritionist and receive vaccinations to secure their health. They are all audited and certified. Some people don't even vaccinate their children to put it in perspective. They are cared for. I cared for the animals my whole life before switching to the marketing side of the industry.

Please don't make decisions they will affect thousands of people and families who are involved in this industry. I am happy to talk if you need more information from the source.

Best Regards,



Challis Hobbs

Account Representative North American Ranchers

challis.hobbs@sagafurs.com

208-851-1855

[view my LinkedIn profile](#)

sagafurs®

www.sagafurs.com

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Courtney Horvath. I am a resident and registered voter in New York. I am requesting that you vote NO on the proposed fur ban. I do not believe that this is an issue that should be regulated by government. This is a matter of freedom of choice. Thank you for your time.

My name is Marco Jvimino. I live at Leggitt Ave, Bronx, NY 10455. I've been working at Pologeorgis Furs for 18 years now. I emigrated from Honduras and began to work in the fur industry. I have been working at Pologeorgis Furs 18 years as a fur operator. I've never worked outside of the fur industry. I support my wife and two kids. When making your decision, please think of me and all the other people in the fur industry that will lose their job.

Thank you.

Please stop the potential fur ban.

Too many individuals and families rely on this industry to make a living. Think how you are hurting them.

Denise Mantsios

Also this is freedom of choice. If someone is against fur they have a choice not to wear it, no one is forcing it on them, as someone who likes fur should have their choice to wear it. What is next, leather, meat? It is not fair to dictate lives.

If you care about lives let's start with the thousands of homeless and neglected children in this city and country.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dear Council,

My name is John Hilas and I live at Underhill Avenue, Flushing, NY 11365 with my wife Anthoula and children. We both work at Pologeorgis Furs as machine operators on fur and have worked here for 40 years, since we emigrated from Greece. We rely on our jobs at Pologeorgis Furs to pay our mortgage and support our family. We have never worked anywhere but Pologeorgis in the US. Please do not ban fur and force me to lose my job. It's the sole support for my family.

Thank you,
John Hilas

My name is Ashok Devjani working since 2003 in fur industry on orchard street due to that job i feed my family and education to kids i therefore request you kindly not to ban fur really it will be v difficult for my whole family to bear this loss thankyou v much

To All Council Members,

It is with such sadness and regret that I actually have to send this email to all of you regarding the potential Fur Ban. I have been in the industry for 37 years, my husband for 42 years. I started as a young woman coming out of Laboratory Institute of Merchandising on East 55th st. in NYC, and was trained by the executive Vice president of Bergdorf Goodman, Mr Leonard Hankin. After college I started work in the fur market, the beginning of my career in a fur fashion house where I spent many years. My husband is a fourth generation furrier on both his Father and Mother's side also working in the fur market for various fashion houses. His sister and brother to this day still work in the fur district. 20 years ago we took the knowledge we learned in the fur industry and bought an existing fur store in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This store has now been in the Hampton Roads area for 65 years. We are the only store in our area and service over 8,000 customers coats for storage as well as our retail business of selling new furs, leathers, precious fibers and accessories.

We buy 95% of all of the merchandise we sell in our store from vendors from the fur market in New York as well as the trade shows we come to several times a year at the Javits Center. If you ban the sale of fur in NY we will lose our vendors that supply us with merchandise for our store, potentially shattering our 65 year old business. You would be putting our staff out of work, here in Virginia as well as leaving the 8500 customers we have without choices of what they would like to wear. Your decisions impact thousands of people all across the world, not just Corey Johnson's district. Our store is 10 miles away from Peta's headquarters, we know all too well how underhanded and sneaky they can behave. We urge you to consider your decisions based on the impact you will have on thousands of lives, families who know no other trade than this. Please understand the domino effect your decisions will have all across the USA. These people are New Yorkers, they came to New York to live the dream and they have worked hard and are contributing members of society. Please don't take their livelihoods away from them, plain and simple it just isn't right. Thank you for your time.

With Much Appreciation,
Sheri and Norman Mellides
Lowenthal Outerwear Boutique
4097 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Virginia Beach, Va. 23452

My name is Sonia Genozo. I live at Bouck Ave, Bronx, NY. I've been working at Pologeorgis Furs for 20 years now and before this 5 years at Panos Furs. I work as a fur finisher and have never worked at anything else. I support my two kids and pay my mortgage alone from my salary. If you pass this fur ban I will lose my job. Please think of me when you make your decision.

Thank you.

My name is Juanita Rodriguez and I live at Frederick Douglass Boulevard, in the Bronx, NY.

I've been working at Pologeorgis Furs for 9 years and have never worked anywhere but pologeorgis as a fur finisher.and never did any other type of work. My husband is now disabled and I am the only one working to support my husband and 2 children, If Pologeorgis closes because we cant sell fur I will lose my job and my family will not have anything else. Please don't pass the fur ban.

To Whom it May Concern:

I am completely devastated that there may be a fur ban. My family has been in the fur business for many years. I am eighty-two years old and my family supports me – they pay my mortgage, and healthcare and I am dependent upon them for support both financially and emotionally. This ban would be horrific. I rely on my family and do not know how I will survive if they are put out of business due to the fur ban.

I heartfully request that this fur ban does not go through. Again, I don't know how I will survive without my family's help and if they lose their fur business because of this ban it will be devastating.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Annette Marchfeld

A big HELLO to the Council of NYC,

I am writing this email to you on behalf of everyone in NYC who has grown up just like me. It's about the FUR BAN. I strongly believe that we are in a very early stage of animal cruelty awareness and that banning the consumption of fur is bound to happen eventually. However the fur ban is negatively having an affect on many families in NYC. Specifically mine. My father has worked in the fur industry for as long as I can remember. I am now 26. His job has helped him support our family of 8. I know there are many families just like ours who are going to have a very difficult time if the fur ban is approved. NYC should care more about our children and families before caring for the consumption and use of fur. We should put families first and not animals first. This is something that should not be taken lightly. Please help protect our jobs so that children of New York do not have to suffer.

Thank you Thank you

THANK YOU!

Karen Campos

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Lisa Horvath. I am a resident and registered voter in New York. I am requesting that you vote NO on the proposed fur ban. I do not believe that this is an issue that should be regulated by government. This is a matter of freedom of choice. Thank you for your time.

Dear councilor

My name is symeon Hryssomallidies.

The reason I send you the email is not because I'm afraid to lose my job. But because I'm afraid I'm losing my freedom and my human rights in America. Now you're trying to control my freedom. What will be next my bedroom? The government allowed to sell strong machine guns to kill more than 100 people at once. The government allowed to sell alcohol to people who kill people drinking and driving.

Now the government tries to make selling drugs legal. The government puts people in jail for life if they do an abortion. Do you think all these things are OK? Now you're trying to chase me like I'm a criminal who sells leather, sheepskin and fur. Animals get killed every day: cows, sheep, chickens, pigs and a lot more. Don't you think we have to be sensitive for those animals too? And stop the killing of them.

Thank you for reading my message.

My name is Carmen Rodriguez. I live at Morris Ave, Bronx, NY. I've been working at Pologeorgis Furs for 9 years now but I've been working in the fur industry for 20 years. I work as a fur finisher and have never worked at anything else. I alone support my son and aging mother. If you pass this fur ban I will lose my job. Please think of me when you make your decision.

Thank you.

Dear City Council members,

We live in the United States of America, the epicenter of the free world. What comes along with that is freedom of speech, freedom of choice on what we eat, what we think, where we live, where we work, what gender we choose to associate with, what god we choose to worship, our sexual preferences, and what we wear! This is no different. There's are positive and negative things about every industry and things that need to be improved upon. But a complete ban is not the answer.

I am a young fashion designer working at DEnnis Basso, my dream come true. If this ban passes I will not only lose my job but my freedom as a designer. I think it is unconstitutional to take away these choices and jobs from citizens. However I'd like to say, I believe all of these efforts are in good intention as I am an animal lover, however I believe they are aimed in the wrong direction. Let me start out by saying I believe that animals should be treated and put down in a humane way and therefore efforts need to be directed to animal farming industry, not fashion designers, manufacturers, or consumers. I would like to see changes made in the regulations of animal farms, both for meat and fur and leather products. I don't disagree with consuming animals but I do believe there are more humane ways to euthanize them even if it is at a higher cost. I believe gassing the animals is the most humane way to do so because they simply fall asleep. Electrocution I'm not so sure that is a good way so I would like that to be removed as an approved way. However keep in mind cows, pigs and chickens are also cruelly killed in this country for meat. Which is no different. Regardless if leather is a bi-product or not. We should fight for all animals. But that still doesn't mean we have to stop consuming them altogether. It means we should change animal farming practices.

I am not opposed to the consumption of animals or think there is a difference between the consumption of animal products for their meat as opposed to their leather; both are unnecessary for the survival of humans and both are a choice in my opinion. Yet no one is banning hamburgers. So all of these poor animal treatment statements also apply to chickens, cows, and pigs. It cannot be proven that the killing and caging of "domesticated" animals is more humane than so called wild animals. Therefore it is just a matter of opinion whether people should or should not be eating meat or wearing fur.

As far as sustainability, there is no Proof that faux fur is better than real fur for the environment on the long term scale. In fact I believe that the use of natural substances such as fur, leather, silk, linen, and cotton is far better for the environment than the cheap synthetic textiles that are used in mass consumed disposable garments. Materials such as polyester, acrylic and nylon that take hundreds to thousands of years to biodegrade and end up in landfills and public waterways all over the world, contributing much more to waste and immeasurable human and environmental effects. And to discuss this disposability issue, the garments we create with fur, leather, and elevated textiles are pieces that will not soon be thrown out, making them less likely to end up in a Landfill. They are much more likely to last longer and be upcycled or passed down from one person to another. In addition at the hearing they discussed the chemicals that go into the dying process of fur. This is absolutely no worse than any of the chemicals used in dying faux fur and plastics and all the fabrics that are used in the world and are still legal. So it's a completely irrelevant argument.

It really comes down to choice. Eating meat and wearing fur is a choice. And I do not think it is ever ok for the government to take away our choices.

Laurin Cabralissa

Senior Designer

Dennis Basso

laurin@dennisbasso.com

646.784.0955

www.dennisbasso.com

@dennisbassonyc

“Handmade in New York City”

This was to be my spoken testimony at Wednesday hearing but I never got the chance to speak:

I'm here on behalf of multiple other designers who were to scared to be here today more than myself. Every relationship I have will be affected by this every sewer, every factory every supplier. I have the name New York alongside my brand name and am now ashamed to have the association.

I've investigated taking manufacturing overseas to Paris, a city that values craftsman's and synonymous as a fashion capital. What is heartbreaking is that you would actively seek to pass a bill that takes manufacturing outside of the United States and further places New York behind Paris as a fashion capital.

Thank you

Evan OHara

Dear Councilmen:

My name is Scott Kersner. I am the owner of Hyman Kersner & Son Inc. located at 6909 18 Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11204. My store has been at this location since 1927. It was started by my grandfather Hyman. It was passed down to my father Benjamin and now to me. My son just started in my business, but now with this fur ban, he is going to be unemployed. Four generations of furriers in one location is pretty amazing. I was always in the store since I was a young child always knowing that this is what I wanted to do with my life. I went to college and majored in business and fashion. Being a furrier is the only occupation that I have ever done and the only job I know. My wife is in the business with me plus I have workers. They would lose their jobs and I would lose my livelihood. What would I do at this stage of my life if I cannot do what I love to do. I would certainly be harmed by this fur ban. People should have freedom of choice in this country of ours.

Thank you for your consideration and understanding.

Scott Kersner

Hi. I am writing this testimony against the fur ban. I am a fashion enthusiast and consumer. I have done my research and banning fur is not a solution for animal cruelty. A lot of people have jobs and it is cruel to take them away. This should be a personal choice of the people. Not a public choice of New York City as a whole. People should not be telling each other what to eat or what to wear. Everybody is entitled to their own beliefs and opinions. For instance, if someone is vegan, doesn't mean everyone should be vegan. Just like if somebody is a meat eater, doesn't mean they should tell vegans to eat meat or drink milk. This is a two way situation and therefore, I believe that it is better for everyone to be responsible for their own choices. Eating meat or wearing animal fur/leather is not wrong, it is our nature as humans. Similar to the nature of other species in the world. We can not try to turn this world into something it is not. I understand the hurt and suffering these animals go through, but they will still be going through that suffering even after the fur ban is passed. The only difference will be that families will be suffering as well.

Sincerely,
Francine Gomez

I'm a retailer who sells fur & feel that my livelihood is being violated. People can wear & sell fur if they choose to. Nicotine is allowed which kills people & now they are legalizing marijuana. I deal with many people who will not be able to feed & house their families it's a very cruel law & we live in America. My grandparents had to live Europe for not being able to practice freedom & now that's what it feels like. Audi Brown

Sent from Audi Brown

Dear Council members

Peter Duffy Furs has been in business since 1953. We are a small family business employing 8 full time workers and 6 part time workers from all parts of NYC Our workers are from all ethnic backgrounds The impact of closing will be horrendous. There must be no fur ban .

How will you remove all makeup brushes shaving brushes , cosmetics containing mink oil and many many other products with fur in them? Ugh boots ? Down jackets filled with goose? When was the last time you ate goose? Probably never they are strictly killed for the down. Are you banning them?

We have choices and cannot be told what to wear or eat Save jobs now NO FUR BAN

Marge Duffy
President

Marge Duffy marge@PETERDUFFYFURS.COM

Dear City Council Members

My name is Gabriel Stevens and I am 30 years old. I have been buying fur for more two decades. I have had a relationship with Fur because of its unique history. Fur has protected humanity for millions of years till this day. Fur has a big impact on society as a byproduct of meat. Byproducts of animals should not be discarded, nor should the meat. How we kill animals is cruel, not killing them in and of itself.

If you ban fur, you are going to be wasting essential parts of the animal. This will eventually lead to pollution, and the ecosystem will be thrown off balance. We were meant to use fur, and leather, and wool, we were meant to use all the parts of our animals.

The industry should just be more regulated. We should take a look at the fur market, and take a look at where the fur is coming from and ensuring that these organizations comply with proper codes. The ten of thousands of people who work in this industry should not have to lose their jobs. These people contribute to the balance of our ecosystem.

Please do not go through with this ban.

Dear City Council Members,

I am a second generation furrier and Manhattanite working in the fur trade for over 30 years. If this Ban goes into effect then myself and my employees and my friends in the industry will be out of work.

The fur industry and fur farming is the most regulated animal use industry in the world. With **second party inspections and 3rd party audits**, there is no such thing as a bad fur farm in the US, Canada and Europe. You should not be influenced by the fake videos that are presented by peta, they have been discredited multiple times as being staged. The fur industry in NYC has a proud history and has been a major part of the fabric of the city and an important component of the NY fashion business. We maintain a craft of manufacturing and designing fur and are responsible tax paying businesses, employing talented New Yorkers who love their City and jobs in the fur trade.

My personal area of expertise is to discuss the transparent, certified and traceable fur supply chains with leading designers in New York. **This past fall season there was fur on over 20% of the New York runways.** That made us a leader in the world and brought business and prestige to New York City. Why try to Ban this noble profession that brings in \$80 million dollars of tax revenue and jobs for 7500 people?? The designers that use natural fur all did their research before designing with the product. The majority of the NY designers that gave up fur, did it because it was not part of their design style but you also have to look at the larger number of new designers and outerwear makers that have successful NYC based fur businesses. As one designer recently told me, “with some designers going out of the fur business that means there is now more business for me”. That is how hard working New Yorker think. Why would try to harm these tax payers using fur from sustainable supply chains? The strength of fur and fashion is that new creative people including designers and retailers in NY are always exploring fur and making decisions after learning and discussing the sustainability of fur. Both the Board of Education, High School of Fashion and FIT, Fashion Institute of Technology both have NYC fur programs that are proving education and jobs to the next generation of fur makers and designers.

Fur is sustainable, and loved and purchased by Millennial consumers so please do not vote to Ban such an important and transparent product that is proudly **MADE IN NEW YORK.**

Charlie Ross
Saga Furs
Business Manager, Sustainability and Supply Chain Management

To whom it may concern,

My family has been in the fur business since 1927, it's how my parents make a living. My family will have to figure out another way to make income and at age 62 there aren't many options. Thousands of people will be out of work if this bill passes and NY will lose all of the hundreds if not thousands of jobs. The government shouldn't dictate what you wear or buy, it's the consumer's choice. Every person has the right to choose for themselves whether they want to wear fur or not. If you are against fur then don't wear it. The government shouldn't step in and tell you what to do. If this bill gets passed then the government will go after meat, leather, silk, and many other products. Where do we draw the line? Please take this into consideration as should be the consumer's choice.

Sincerely,
Josh Kersner

Dear Council Member,

I came to the US from Ukraine in the late 90s with ambition, hopes, and dreams. I worked hard to learn English so that I could prove to myself, my family, and everyone around me that I belong here. From there, I knew I needed a secure job to be able to provide for my family and young daughter.

When I first started in the fur fashion industry, I fell in love with it immediately! The ability to design beautiful fur pieces for fashionable New Yorker's was a dream come true for me. I've been working for the same company for 18 years now and I love it every single day. Two years ago, I finally got to fulfill another dream of mine and bought a home!

At this point in my Life I have everything I've dreamed of and worked so hard for non be possibly wiped away from me is heartbreaking. I am not the only immigrant who has had to work their way up from nothing and I am not only one who's future is in jeopardy with this possible fur ban, it includes my co-workers and mentors I learned to love and respect.

Many immigrants have chosen to work in the fur industry, please vote no on the fur ban so we can keep achieving our dreams and taking care of our families. This country was built on small business and immigrant ambitions.

Thank you for your consideration

Zhanna Paliy

I feel I have a right to buy and have a custom made fur coat..

This is a viable industry and there is no reason to take it away..

Joan Peters paulcogroup@gmail.com

Video Testimony Regarding NYC Fur Ban Hearing - Gregory McBean



video-1557953963.
mp4

Constituent: Gregory McBean
Address: 816 E 57th St Brooklyn, NY 11234
Works at: Klondike International Furs
Councilmember: Alan Maisel

To The New York City Council,

My family as been in the fur business for over 45 years. It has put food on our table and put myself and my siblings through college. I came into my family business in 2002 and have never looked back after being in the financial field for 7 years. Our business has seen it's ups and downs with the economy but we have persevered through it all. We employ 10 people and they depend on us to put food on their families tables and put their kids through school.

This industry is one of the most regulated industries in the world. My family and I love animals but we understand that humans are at the top of the food chain. Every part of the animal is used for humans, including the carcass which helps to make fertilizer to grow our vegetables.

America was built on trapping and trading, do not allow fur to be banned. What will be next?

Thank you for your time,
Sarah

ML FURS
AND LUXURY SKIWEAR

Sarah Gross

V.P Operations / Director of Online Sales

[303-322-2287](tel:303-322-2287) | sarah@mlfurs.com

263 Josephine Street Denver, CO 80206

mlfurs.com



Sir, I am working for a fur store since 2004 I am 44 years old.beside this job I don't know anything als.if I lose my job I will be come home less.if you guys don't do fur ban you will not lose nothing but if you guys do that I can lose my life family and kids.so please make right decision.thankyou

md hye ryaan145@yahoo.com

To whom it may concern,

My family has been in the fur industry for over 40 years. They've put in countless hours of hard work and dedication to making a living. This ban would not only rid of them their jobs but of everything, they've worked for. No one is telling you to buy fur, or eat meat or wear leather, etc. IT'S A CHOICE AND WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE THAT CHOICE.

PETA is euthanizing hundreds and hundreds of animals calling them "mercy killing" and that's okay? Why isn't this discussed? https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/religion/at-petas-shelter-most-animals-are-put-down-peta-calls-them-mercy-killings/2015/03/12/e84e9af2-c8fa-11e4-bea5-b893e7ac3fb3_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.8bb27c4e13d2

Animals are not Corey Johnson's constituents, people are. Taking jobs of over 1000 people because he is an "animal lover" with no plan to how these people will regain their livelihood is HORRIBLE AND POOR politicking. He and no one else has the right to make this decision.

Please consider the consequences this ban could have on thousands of people and their jobs. Again, CHOICE MATTERS and City Council has no right telling us what we can or cannot wear. There are bigger issues going on in this world.

Sincerely,
Samantha Cowit

Dear Council members,

With so many issues facing the city today, with our subway system filthy and with the homeless issues we have, with joblessness, we want to put more people out of work. I find it ironic that our city council is consumed with the banning of a product. I've noticed that there have been religious issues that have been brought up about exemptions for certain people and I'd like to know where in the Torah, Bible and Quran it states that fur should be worn. It does talk about the harvesting of animals to be kosher or halal. Is that process of harvesting an animal cruel? Scientists who have been consulted by the fur industry have set the standards for how to euthanize animals in the most painless way possible. If the city council HSUS and PETA have a better approach for harvesting animals, we would be open to any kind of process for a more humane method of harvesting.

I'm offended at the labels that have been thrown at us by the city council and the members of these animal rights organizations. I've been called cruel by an organization who kills puppies and kittens and tosses their bodies into supermarket dumpsters.

I'm being called immoral by an organization that staged videos to destroy an entire industry. It should be noted that HSUS recently lost a court case for providing legislative bodies with staged videos. The people who called me immoral abused elephants and used those staged videos to destroy an entire industry.

False information about trapping, stating that fur trappers used steel jaw traps as opposed to holding traps is false. Fur trappers use holding traps which do not break limbs- they hold the animal in place. Animal rights groups give the false impression of loving animals, they've murdered them and tossed their dead carcasses in dumpsters, abused elephants and possibly skinned animals alive to use against the fur industry. Please show me where any fur farmer in North America or Europe have been prosecuted for animal cruelty. I can show you many examples of Animal Activists being prosecuted for animal cruelty.

By voting yes on an issue like this you are supporting a movement that supports the total ban of animal usage. They want to take away our ice cream, chocolate out of our children's mouths, hotdogs and hamburgers out of our family barbecues, stop progress in medical research and take away our pets. They do not believe in pet ownership or any animal usage whatsoever.

As the son of a Greek immigrant whose ancestors fought slavery from the Ottoman Turks for 300 years, and as an American whose history involves slavery I find it offensive that the plight of humanity is being compared to that of animals.

Steve Lilikakis

Dear City Council

I am very upset, I am a 62 year old and i have a few years to retire. I work very hard, a lot of people make a living through my work. I won't be able to have access to proper retirement.

I am saddened by the direction in which this country is headed. I have devoted 45 years of my life to my business. It is not fair that I will not be able to contribute to my retirement. My family has been devastated by it.

I have a son who has been working for 16 years as a police officer, putting his life on the line to keep citizens of NYC safe. I have a daughter who is a teacher, she is educating the future leaders of this country. I have another son who is an electrical engineer. This job has helped me raised all my kids by myself when their father passed away when they were babies.

We love animals. I have pets, and we treat them with love and affection. We do not seek to cause harm. My clients are primarily jewish and African americans who see this ban as an attack on their culture.

I hope you can understand us and see where we are coming from. I hope you can empathize with our plight.

Thank You.

Georgia Iliopoulous

Good Afternoon Council of NYC,

I'm writing to you for the proposal that will be signed at some time today regarding the fur ban. I totally understand that this is due to animal right but then, does not leather fall against that? Many people work as seamstress they are all part of this industry.

My friends mother is a homeowner and provides for her three kids, this proposal will directly affect her. All of this is really upsetting for lots of families. The council is also in charge of doing the best for families and everyone that lives here, how is closing down thousands of jobs going to do the people any good?

If this is about saving the environment, synthetic fur is also very harmful. Lots of families are going to be affected by the job loss.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and you are in charge of protecting me and my family as your constituent. If this passes and she loses her job I want you to know it is your fault. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

This can be a drastic impact to families.

When people start to suffer because this will affect them more directly than others how will all of you be able to have a stable mind knowing someone is out there not being able to eat just to feed their kids. Or not being able to have the basic income for the household income. Think of the families you will be affecting dramatically.

While the council is getting ready to sign this don't just think of what the benefit will be because the cons are totally outweighed on this one.

I vote NO to the fur ban.

Thank you,

Merari Barban

Friday, May 17, 2019

To: All NY City Council Members

RE: the Proposed Fur Ban

Dear NYC Council Members, (I have called Costa Constantinides of Queens, separately)

I own an ancillary business. I work with leather. This includes lamb, shearling, calfskin, goat, cowhide, hair-on-calf and the occasional by-product fur (rabbit).

Having had a business in this sector for almost 30 years, I can tell you effects of this proposed Fur ban would be much more far reaching than has been disingenuously put forth by the parties who presented it. (Pro claims 40 retail Furriers in the Fur District, Against counts **88 Factories plus the retailers** in the Fur District **alone!**)

It will affect not just Furriers, and manufactures & designers who use fur, but a much broader range of industries. Not all of them fall under the wearable category, **but they will be directly affected.**

They Include:

Millinery: Fur is used not just as trim but also for the body of hats. Especially good men's hats.

Television, Film, Theater: The major costume and set shops serving Broadway and NY's Film, Entertainment & Television Industry. These shops also serve the countless independent, out-of-town and touring productions of all types, (Stage, Dance, Music, Events) that are made here. Fur, shearling & calf cannot be replaced by synthetics in these very hard wear usages - costumes, especially, have to last many, many years - particularly for Broadway - whose costumes go on to have a very long useful lifespan - through reuse and rental - (I worked in a major

NYC costume house for 5 years.) The availability of high quality and natural materials, including fur, shearling, calf, hair on, feathers, etc. is vital for them to do their work. (I doubt you would find a theatrical designer or costume builder who would say otherwise.) These materials are also widely used in the creation of Props and Sets.

Interior Design and Decor - Furs and Hair-ons are used extensively in High-End commercial, hospitality and residential decor/design - a major requirement of good furniture/decor is longevity. Upholstery, and wall and floor coverings are just the start. Frames, Boxes, Table goods, cushions, pillows...and on.

ALL of these industries use the exact same supply chain that the fur industry uses, from the vendors of the hides to the contractors and individual artisans that create the finished products.

A very large part of this supply chain is Local. I am sure there are industries outside of these as well who will be affected as well.

So while this "Ban" specifically **discriminates** against the Fashion (wearables) industries. It will reverberate thru many other industries that make up the vital diversity that is NY.

As presented this Ban will not save a single animal's life or prevent any animal suffering. Sadly, it does not propose one single concrete remedy towards this goal.

People in NY will continue to buy fur, shearling and calfskin. (Just as people in NY and throughout the USA and the world will continue to eat meat.)

Simply banning fur in NYC/NYS and killing thousands of local jobs will not change that.

It is far better to further regulate both sources and practices. By Expanding and codifying the fur industries oversight by OUTSIDE experts as recommended by IFF, and certifying reputable, transparently sourced and raised or trapped furs will help ALL consumers - whether B2B or B2C- to avoid purchasing fur products from any country or individual supplier that does not source sustainably and follow all cruelty free mandates.

This is how you can prevent (and punish) abuses and educate the consumer at the same time. If there is a cultural shift away from fur taking place, this will not change that. Please respect that the consumer can make informed choices and allow the businesses to grow into the shift naturally. This will benefit the city by retaining revenue, local jobs and skills in the many related sectors.

RE: Alternative Fibers. The majority of currently available alternative fibers are all petrol and plastic based. After banning plastic straws, plastic bags and styrofoam, the proposed ban completely ignores the incredible amount of toxic and long lasting petrol products and micro-plastics that current alternatives will add to the already inundated waste stream. This is frankly, unconscionable.

In reality, it will be years before 'natural-grown' synthetics will be viable in a way the market can use consistently or to scale - Modern Meadows has been pushing a single hybrid t-shirt / leather sample for at least 5 years now - I have looked into these options for my own work. These alternatives do not currently exist in any commercially feasible form.

Additionally, The Garment center BID is mandated by City Council to dedicate millions of sq. ft. to Manufacturing. In this district alone there are **88 factories** that will be directly impacted because they use these materials. That is fully 10% of the factories, **just** in this district. The Garment Center Bid is contributes 2.5 million dollars per year to the city to maintain the district - The Factories and those who have devoted their lives to this industry are the heritage of this district.

(My business is one of many companies that are most definitely not included in this count, being located outside of either the traditional Fur or Garment District.)

And as one gentleman was able to bring up towards the end of the hearing, his manufacturing company specializing in the target materials just received a large (1mil+) development grant from the city to expand and update and his manufacturing - he already employs 90 people... **so now what happens to him and his employees?**

Please put NYC, it's inhabitants, it's businesses and workers first, by supporting ALL the facets of the garment and creative industries that that continue to flourish here.

Please don't buy into or allow an intolerance based belief system chip away at our freedom of choice. This is essentially what this Ban is meant to achieve. This Ban is not about Animal Rights. If was about animal rights why didn't we hear some real solutions suggested from that side?

Respectfully and Sincerely,

Carla Dawn Behrle

Carla Dawn Behrle NYC

303 5th Avenue, 1616, NYC, NY 10016

Studio@CarlaDawnBehrleNYC.com

CarlaDawnBehrleNYC.com

Follow on Instagram

Follow on Facebook

110 Ave,
Jamaica, NY 11435

May 17, 2019

I have worked within the Fur Industry for 10 years. This provides the much needed income that my family depends on. Without it who will pay for the bills? The rent? The groceries? Who will pay for my daughter's college tuitions? How do you expect us to live when I have no job because you decided that it was too immoral? The cost of living is already too expensive that you can't survive on a job that pays you minimum wage.

Vishwani Harry,
Employee of Henry Cowit Inc.
118 W 27th Street,
NYC, NY 10001

Dear City Council Members,

I wanted to start this letter by saying, I hope you consider my testimony. I have been fortunate enough to get the chance to work in this industry. For someone fresh out of college, the fur industry was the only place that gave me a chance. I applied for multiple jobs and internships to get my foot in the door. Out of all the hundreds of jobs, Pologeorgis Furs gave me the start I was looking to start in the fashion and beauty world. I started as an intern, and now I work here full time.

Now, most people may read this and think, “You’re still young, and you have time to find another job.” This statement may be true for me, but it isn’t right for all the hardworking craftsmen that have been in the industry for years. All they know is fur. Companies aren’t looking to hire 50-year-old people as brand new employees. I have gotten to know and work side by side with these people, and it breaks my heart at the thought of them being out of work and that they won’t have the means to support their families. I love working in this industry because its more than just work, WE ARE A FAMILY.

What happened to freedom of choice? The freedom to wear what we want and choose what we want. Real fur is better for the environment, and it’s a sustainable product.

All I want to say is that real fur is the better option for the environment, and laws are already in place that farms follow to make sure animals are treated humanely. You should be provided with the correct facts.

-Valona Frangu

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you may have. Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Valona Frangu Valona@pologeorgis.com

My name is Elina Goykhman and I am writing this testimony in opposition of the Fur Ban. I am testifying on behalf of IVEL International, a family owned business that was started by immigrants. My father has been working in this industry his entire life and continued to do so when he immigrated here as a refuge. He dedicated 25+ years by investing in this industry with his hard work. This ban will cause him to lose his company IVEL International and he will no longer be able to support our family. His employees, who are all over the age of 50, would lose their jobs and would not be able to find new ones as their skills are specific to this industry. They would not be able to change their career paths after all these years and in effect will also not be able to support their families. His business as well as hundreds of others will immediately go bankrupt. Families will suffer immensely because of the financial loss that would directly affect them. These people's jobs are just as valuable and important as any other, and their lives should not be stripped in an instant.

This is an emotional, personal, and economical decision that will impact many lives. The Fur Industry is not a "killing industry" that has no empathy for animals. These people who will lose their jobs are not killers who want animals to suffer. These people have dedicated themselves to this industry and this ban will only cause them to suffer.

This ban *will not* end animal cruelty and it *will not* save our environment. The Fur Industry will continue to prosper as long as there is demand, but the people of NYC who have invested so much will lose their jobs and their financial stability. That is what this ban *will* accomplish.

It *will* close small family owned businesses as production will move overseas where manufacturing and fur farming will continue, only causing NYC depletion of tax revenues and unemployment.

PETA's only argument is animal cruelty as they are driven purely by their emotion to save animals. Their goal is to oppress our freedom of choice and this fur ban would only be the beginning. Animals will continue to be killed for other industries and it is unethical to kill an animal without utilizing it in every way possible. It is our freedom of choice to wear fur and consumers should not be oppressed of their rights.

Please don't take our freedom away, after all this government is FOR the people and therefore should respect people's choices and their lives. Thank you.

My name is Louis Ressay. I am a 45 year old man who has worked in the fur garment industry for 20 years as a designer/salesman. I feel that this proposed ban is a direct threat to my livelihood, not to mention an assault on my civil rights. It has taken me the 20 years in this industry to build a loyal customer base that continues to grow each day. This is how I pay my rent, help support my family and live an honest, decent life within the confines of this great city of ours. To have someone tell me that I can just do something else is extremely disrespectful and a blatant disregard to the hard work and tireless hours I've invested growing long term relationships with my clientele and carving out a career for myself in a very specialized field. Saying that is akin to telling a hairdresser that he or she can just do something else. What about the work these people put in cultivating clients? Will their clients translate to more sales at, let's say Duane Reade? Will their salaries be the same? Will we get an adjusted price of living? Or do we uproot to a different locale that will allow us to continue practicing our specialized skills and leave our city and families behind? I don't want any part of that. I love my city. I love my family. I love my work, my clients old, new and future. This proposed fur ban would have me starting over as a middle aged man, when I should be looking at retirement within the next 15 years. Is that fair?

Dear City Council Members

I would like to address the city council members as if they were in my shoes. I do not know what kind of jobs they did before being elected, but after I finished school, I took up design. My father in law and my father,came from Europe and they were both furriers. I continued the fur business in America with my father in law; I eventually took over the company and continued it for the last 45 years on my own.

I have been involved in this business in every facet from design, manufacturing, sales. I was there when the fur business was flourishing and booming, and now I have seen it shrink to about 20 percent or less from what it used to be. Fur businesses stretched from 24th to 34th st, from 8th ave to 5th ave. Today, the industry has shrunk to only three buildings.

I would like to know how many of you sitting here would have been able to stick to one thing for that long, while you've seen it diminished as it shrunk your pocket book.

I also think that you cannot take away my God given and constitutional right to do what I want to do as long as it is not criminal. This has to do with choosing a job, manufacturing what I want to and wear whatever I want to. I am not telling people to wear fur, and I am not encouraging people to do so. But for those who want to, it is their right, just as those who refuse to wear it.

I respect people's choice to live their lives however they wish to so long as they respect my wishes as well.

Sincerely,

Erving Rosenfeld
R&Y Fur Company

MY NAME IS JIMMY KARANIKAS,
I COME TO THIS WONTERFULL COUNTRY 44 YEARS AGO, TO GO TO SCHOOL
BUT BECAUSE I HAD NO MONEY I DESIDE TO WORK AND I FOUND WORK IN THE
FUR.

I WORK ALL MY LIFE 10-14 HOURS A DAY, I PAID TOTAL FOR MY KIDS
EDUCATION, I PAY EVERY YEAR TAXES AND I NEVER TRY THE EASE WAY TO
GET WALFARE AND FOOD STAMPS.

I HELP WHERE I CAN AND I AM A PROUD AMERICAN CITIZEN.

I NEVER THOUGHT AT THIS AGE I HAVE TO LOOK FOR A NEW JOB.

I NEVER THOUGHT I WILL LOOSE MY FREEDOM IN THE MOST DEMOCRATIC
COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

I NEVER THOUGHT OTHERS THEY WIIL TELL ME WHAT WORK TO DO AND WHAT
TO EAT.

IF YOU VOTE FOR THIS BAN NOT ONLY I WILL LOOSE MY JOB AND I WILL HAVE
NO MONEY TO LIVE, I AM AFRAID I WILL BE ON THE STREET.

I HOPE YOU MAKE THE RIGHT DESITION AND YOU DO NOT TAKE AWAY MY
FREEDOM TO MAKE A LIVING BY WORKING IN THE ONLY JOB I KNOW TO DO.
LETS LIVE ON THE SIDE THE OTHERS PROPAGANDA AND LET US CHOOSE WHAT
WE WANT TO DO TO LIVE,

GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU,

GOD BLESS AMERICA,

THANK YOU,

JIMMY KARANIKAS

Dear council members,

After the comedy I watched on Wednesday in City Hall, I feel I should write something to you. I am an immigrant who came to this country in 1984 with \$140 in my pocket. I remember clearly I had 4 \$20 bills, 1 \$50 bill and 1 \$10 bill. I came to live my dream like everyone else that has come to this country and I am still living my dream till this day. On Wednesday you all made me feel like I am a criminal and a bad person with no morals.

I want to tell you a little about myself. I am an average person who cares for his family and a better future for my kids. I am the father of the 17 year old who stood in front of you and told you how your decisions will affect his future and the future of the other kids whose parents chose to be in the Fur Industry. I am the man that voted for you. I am the owner of my fur company, who helps hospitals, churches, organizations, police departments and fire departments. I am the man that is involved in many organizations. I understand if you want to fight for animals and their rights, then you will need to go all the way and fight with the restaurants, the supermarkets, auto companies since the seats are leather, with medicine since cancers, HIV and many other diseases need drugs to be battled and tested on animals who will die in the process. I am going to be sure this Fur Ban Proposal gets the publicity that is needed to put an end to this fiasco.

Panos Politidis
Panos Furs Corp.
249A W 29 Street
New York, NY 10001
[Tel:212-279-7116](tel:212-279-7116)
Fax:212-279-7119
Email:panosfurs@aol.com
Website:www.panosfursny.com

Dear Council Members,

My name is Tony and came here in 1974. I've been doing this since I was a teenager in my parents' business. I opened my own store in 1997 and if the ban on fur goes into effect I would lose everything. I don't think its right to ban fur. Fake fur is by far worse for the environment, what we have here is real. The farms are already regulated and the animals are treated in accordance with the law. There are more serious matters that should be dealt with such as the homeless situation and drugs here in NewYork. Going after the fur industry seems like a misuse of resources and time.

Sincerely,

Tony Zias

Dear council members,

My name is Julia Tax and my father is a 4th generation furrier, and I urge you to vote no on on fur ban.

I have a unique perspective on this being the daughter of a furrier, but I don't wear fur. However, wearing fur is my personal choice, I don't like it so I don't wear it. But a personal choice is not something that should be made into a law. I eat meat, believe in medical testing on animals, and like to fish. If fur is banned, then things like this in the future will be banned.

Please vote yes for choice by voting no for the ban.

Julia Tax

Proposed Fur Ban

Good Afternoon Council of NYC,

I'm writing to you because the fur ban would directly negatively affect my family. I urge you to vote against the ban. My mother has worked as a seamstress in the industry for over twenty years. She is the head of her household, a homeowner and a mother of three. Her income is vital for the livelihood of our family. She provides for her children and elderly parents. If the proposed fur ban follows through she and thousands of working class New Yorker's would be out of work. Who will hire them? Where will they go?

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and you are in charge of protecting me and my family as your constituent. If this passes and she loses her job I want you to know it is your fault. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Please protect our jobs.

Thank you,
Kimberly Quinde

Sir, I am working for a fur store since 2004 I am 44 years old.beside this job I don't know anything als.if I lose my job I will be come home less.if you guys don't do fur ban you will not lose nothing but if you guys do that I can lose my life family and kids.so please make right decision.thankyou

Abdul Wahid

Dear city council members

My name is Denise Wolke. I have been in the fur business for 35 years and I am a fur patternmaker. I need to work to support my family. My kids are in college and I don't want to burden them with any debt. I hope both sides can find a happy medium for the fur ban. I need to keep my job .

I cannot imagine getting rid of and dissolving this industry. Furriers have been around for hundreds of years and the first people who came to this country participated in this trade.

I feel like people should have their own opinion and right. I cannot imagine people telling me that I cannot wear my fur garments.

I keep seeing more and more homeless people in NYC. On my way to Penn Station in the mornings, all I see is people who need help. Why isn't more being done to protect these people instead of trying to put hard working, law abiding American out of work?

I want to keep my job. Please don't take away the only thing I know how to do.

Denise Wolek

Thank you for taking the time to read my story. My Father emigrated from Greece as a child after the Nazi occupation and civil war decimated his village. The youngest of 6, he was forced to drop out of school to help support his family. After serving in the US Navy, he found a job sweeping the floors in a fur factory. Staying late every night, without pay, he apprenticed and eventually became a skilled furrier. My father's story is the American Dream - he built Pologeorgis Furs from nothing through hard work and dedication.

This story is not unique- hard working, industrious immigrants, just like my father, built NYC's fur industry and hardworking immigrants continue to form the backbone of the fur market today.

Today, we at Pologeorgis Furs employ more than 20 full time employees and over 100 independent contractors. Collectively, NYC based furriers employ over 7500 employees and countless independent contractors in and around New York - all of whom work, eat, shop, bank locally. Our clientele travel to NYC from all over the world specifically to shop for fur in NYC, as NY furriers are widely recognized as purveyors of the highest quality fur available the world over. Our clientele stay in NYC hotels, dine in NYC restaurants, shop at other NYC stores, see Broadway shows, and visit NYC museums, sports arenas and landmarks during their stay - further contributing to the local economy. The NYC fur market's contribution to the local economy is immeasurable. We are an integral part of NYC's storied garment district. WE ARE YOUR CONSTITUENTS and a fur ban would do irreparable harm to the garment district.

I urge you to consider the negative implications of this ill-conceived ban on us, your constituents and the local economy and immediately withdraw the proposed fur ban legislation. I would like to extend an invitation to see our factory and meet the workers that this ban will impact.

Respectfully,

Nick Pologeorgis, President
Pologeorgis Furs
143 West 29th street
8th floor
New York NY 10001
212 563 2250

Dear Council member Rivera,

I am a recent graduate of Parsons New School of Design and I work as a designer at Pologeorgis furs. The experience I gain working at a family run, small business is incomparable to the work I would be assigned at a larger corporation such as Gap or LVMH. This job is shaping me to be an expert in multiple aspects of the fashion business, while also putting family values and small business mentality before all else- nothing I as the future fashion generation would learn in 5+ years anywhere else.

My education in fashion design at Parsons focused on sustainability and how as designers we can limit fashion's environmental footprint for years to come. Sustainability is the original reason I applied to work at a fur house. Fur is a biodegradable, bi-product industry that is primarily manufactured in the USA. "Made in the USA" is hard to come by in the fashion industry and helps give jobs back to Americans.

I am devoted to sustainable fashion and ask you to please understand this- fake fur is the proposed alternative to real fur. Fake fur is made of plastic, a material that does not biodegrade and has a shorter life span than real fur. Fake furs made of wool and cotton lead to large amounts of water waste. Water which contains chemicals that are dumped into our environment. A vote against real fur is a vote for plastic filling out landfills.

For me and many others, fur is the ethical choice. Please understand the true facts before casting your vote on a bill that will eliminate a sustainable industry from New York City.

Thank you for your time,

Sophia Demetriou
Design & Development Coordinator

POLOGEORGIS

143 West 29th St. NY, NY 10001

tel: 212.563.2250 ext 138

www.pologeorgis.com

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Dear City Council Members

I have been working in the fur industry for 50 years. I am an animal lover; I have dogs and cats. But at the same time, I eat meat.

Loving an animal does not mean you must be vilified for eating meat, or wearing fur. There is no connection.

The informations provided by PETA, regarding the treatment of animals is untrue. These animals have to be raised properly. They are fed abundantly, cared for, and medically evaluated.

Animals who have fur are treated better than any other animals because of the value of their fur.

Compared to cows, sheep, or chicken, these animals are treated like royalty. Why aren't we focusing on the condition of cows and chickens? Why aren't we going after the meat industry and the dairy industry?

You have to open up your minds and look at the facts. It is not fair to create policy based on one sided and biased information.

Steve Sagioglou

To whom it may consider,

I been working in this industry for over fifteen years. I am mother of two kids, I have a 6 year old and a nine year old. I started my job when I was twenty six years old and build a future here. Banning Fur will take food away from my families, I wouldn't know where to start or what to do if you ban fur. *We continue to stay in business and put food on the table because customers wear furs, They like the way it looks, and we live in NYC, a city of Style.*

Fur is a style not a crime. I ask please do not ban FUR!
Wearing fur is NOT a crime.

Do not Ban Fur!

Lakshmi lakshmi@globalleathers.com

Good Afternoon to all,

My name is Alexandros Politidis and I'm a 17 year-old high school senior and an incoming freshman as a Honors student at Baruch college right here in New York City. The proposed fur ban played a huge role in my college decision, although I'm beyond grateful to have received a full scholarship through Baruch, I was forced to leave many more enticing opportunities on the table due to the financial restriction they would apply on my family if this fur ban were to pass. The reason I share that story today is because between all this debate whether fur should be used in fashion or not, a very important group of people have seemed to be forgotten in this very complex equation. The son's and daughters of those that will be affected if the ban of fur were to occur. In other words, we have failed to truly ponder how we are affecting the next generation of hard-working Americans. For example, I aspire to become a lawyer and my brother recently became a certified teacher for the Department of Education. Both of us we able to pursue our dreams thanks to our parents hard-work and dedication in the fur industry. So as I stand before you today, I don't only fight for the hard-working men and and women in the fur industry, I fight for those who are merely too young to fight for themselves. Today, I fight for our future doctors, lawyers, teachers, and engineers. I fight for the dreams of every son and daughter that simply has no control what their parents do to make ends meet. Now for those who don't get the full picture, I'd like to ask a simple favor. I'd like every mother and father to go home today and ask their kids "what their dreams are" and take special note to how their faces will light up talking about that dream now tell them their dreams are nearly unattainable thanks to you not being able to provide for them and once again the fright and anguish in their faces will tell you the complete story. In the shortest of terms, the proposed fur ban is robbing our youth of opportunities and crushing their dreams in the process.

Now that is what I call inhumane.

Thank you,
Alexandros Politidis

To Whom It May Concern

My name is Rafca Abou Chrouch and I have been working for Global Leathers for the past 19 years with no other income but my salary. I am an immigrant and over 50 years old now. Life was not easy for me in the USA it was a long struggle for me and my family in a new country.

But thankfully I was able to get a job at this company. Things has not been great for me recently with life's high demands and I can hardly make ends meet.

This fur ban will greatly affect me, the company I work for will go out of business and I will lose my job. At my age and without a degree it will be impossible to get a new job. Companies look for college degree and young employees. I ask and beg that you consider the hard ship that I and people like me in this industry will incur if this Fur Ban happens in NYC.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rafca Abou-Chrouch

GLOBAL LEATHERS

253 WEST 35TH STREET, STORE FRONT #2

NEW YORK, NY 10001

212-244-5190



To whom it may concern,

My name is Jordan Crystal, and I am the 2nd generation of Global Leathers. We've been supplying the industry for 40 years, and this fur ban would devastate our company. I have grown up idolizing my father's business, hoping one day I would have the opportunity to take business into the future. This proposed fur ban would not only crush my childhood dreams, but would affect my employees who have families to feed.

Jordan Crystal

Global Leathers

253 West 35th Street, Store Front #2

New York, NY 10001

212-244-5190

www.globalleathers.com

Instagram: @global_leathers_nyc

To the council of NYC,

The proposed fur ban is an insult to many families that rely on the industry. My family is one of them. My mother has been working in the fur industry for as long as I can remember. It's sad that her job is in danger because of this proposed fur ban because my mother has dedicated so much into this industry that she managed to open up her own little shop. What will happen to her shop? To her source of income? People will protest against fur but they don't see the bigger picture that families rely on these jobs to bring food to their tables. In our modern age of technology we've seen many industries fall and families always pay the price. Please be more reasonable for the families and don't ban fur.

Sincerely,
Cesar Becerril

Dear City Council Members

I strongly implore you to consider this fur ban. We have people who have been working here for decades, right out of high school. This is the only work that I know, all I ever knew. It will be impossible for me to pick up from scratch and start over.

Think of the little man. Think of all the jobs that will be lost because of this ban. Think about how it will affect us going forward. From the years that I have been here, I have been supported by the fur industry. This is a very nice and generous community. This is an industry which brings everyone together, regardless of race, gender or orientation.

It is not fair to just destroy an industry which has been operating for so long. It is not fair to just throw us out and put us on the streets. We have been around here for years, we have fed our families and taken care of our children through this work. People should have the choice to either wear fur or not to wear fur. We are animal lovers, we do the same jobs that butchers and animal shelters do.

Please, do not go through with this ban.

Gregory Mcbean

Re: Steve's Original Outerwear, Inc.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am the fiancé of Ms. Stacey Panaretos, the owner of Steve's Original Outerwear, Inc., which is located at 345 7th Avenue, 9th Floor, New York, NY. My fiancé and I will be married this December and we are looking forward to that day.

It is unfortunate that the City of New York Council is contemplating a ban on fur sales in the City of New York. This action would have a severe and permanent impact on my fiancé and I as we move forward with our new life together.

Stacey worked in her uncle's fur remodel and sales business for over twenty years before his retirement last year and her taking over the business that she has worked in since her graduation from college. It is the only business that she has ever been involved in. It is what she does, it is her life.

For over five years that we have been together, I have been intimately involved in supporting her throughout her work with her Uncle and now in running her own business. She employs about ten individuals whose families will, likewise, be severely and permanently impacted if New York City adopts this proposed ban on fur sales in New York.

It is beyond me how the ***Freedom of Choice*** for an individual to work in, be employed by, and to support her family through an industry that has existed for several hundred years, can now be taken away from all of these people and their families. I personally know dozens of individuals who are 2nd and 3rd generation members of this proud and wonderful industry, through my life with Stacey Panaretos. These are good people, hardworking people, and truly love the industry that they and their families have been a part of for dozens and dozens of years.

I strongly hope that you will consider the actions contemplated by the Council and how it will affect thousands and thousands of people including the economy of the City of New York, not only regarding these business owners and their employees, but the multitudes of businesses surrounding the area where these retail, wholesale and commercial furriers are located. This involves landlords, coffee houses, restaurants, etc. The implications of banning fur sales in NY are tremendous and well beyond simply "stopping the sale of fur".

I am sure that you have heard from many, many people in the industry from farmers to furriers and their employees, themselves. I bring a perspective different than those directly involved in the business. The impact of your decision upon me is as a family member of an individual who has been in the industry for more than half her life.

Please make your decision a "NO VOTE" on banning fur in the City of New York, on behalf of all the individuals that are involved down the line.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,
Michael T. Halkias

I am at an age where I can not get a job that would bring me enough money to be able to take care of my mortgage my elderly parents and a wife who is just getting over cancer This ban would put me and my family in the streets Am I supposed to say to my elderly parents we are now being forced out of our home because the city is putting us out of business because they disagree with what I do

Sincerely

James Siamboulis Sent from my iPhone

Dear Council members,

I am a fifth generation member of the fur industry in the family business. I have been in this industry on and off for 10 years. Currently with my health situation I would not be able to easily find another job as I had back surgery last year. This is my means of supporting my family including my six month old daughter. This ban would put me out of a job, in my current situation I can not leave this job and go back into manual labor. This industry means everything to me and I strongly urge you to reconsider this ban.

- Nikita Yakimov

--

Nikita-New York

218 W30th Street,

New York, NY, 10001

(347)-724-4969

Nikitayakimov.ny@gmail.com

Good morning council members,

I grew up in the fur industry. My father, my grandfather and my uncles were all immigrants that came to NY, worked hard and made their family's life better. This was their dream and their hope. With perseverance they accomplished this, along with many other things. They provided for their children, educated them, instilled morals in them, and more than anything taught them to do their best and work hard. They were all law abiding citizens, who took pride in their work, their family and their community. The Fur Industry has been around for many generations.

I have been actively part of the Fur Industry the last 17 years. Although I had been in education and counseling for several years, I chose to leave my career and help in our family's business, which my husband started over 30 years ago. He came as an immigrant, worked hard and has accomplished many things. He is extremely talented in working with Furs. This is a trade that needs to be taught and loved to better yourself as a craftsman. I chose to leave my career and stand beside him to better our business, our lives and the lives of our children. Our oldest child is a teacher with the DOE, he has worked and helped in the family business since he was a teenager and continues to do so. Our younger son will be starting college this fall, he also helps in the family business. We have all been raised in the Fur Industry.

We have taught our children to care and help others, to be humble and to be grateful for what we have achieved and worked so hard for. I plea with you to look at the whole picture when you decide what is best for all of us. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely
Helen Politidis

Hello Sirs and Madams,

I am sending you a message from Canada regarding the on going fur ban debate in New York. I would like to declare that I am part of a clothing manufacturing company that uses fur and significant portion of our income comes from sales to New York retailers.

Firstly, I completely understand the popular sympathetic point of view of the greater majority. Harming animals is cruel. I myself have a background in Animal Biology. I went to school to be a veterinarian. But I did not succeed in acceptance in my local school. My fall back was to help within the family business which ironically and sadly was with fur. A prospective animal doctor going into the fur industry.

I have struggled many years to justify this to myself and honestly I still do. I feel saddened and ashamed. I never felt passionate about using fur. I always wanted to gradually steer the direction of my company away from it and possibly make positive impacts along the way.

Gradually change is key. So much harm can come from sudden change of banning fur in NYC. The ripple effects will be felt wide. The NYC work force, us here in Canada (my family business: dad, mom, sister, myself), and other related industries caught in the middle such as farming. The sudden shock of a immediate shut down with no soft landing seems extreme and immoral. Loss of income for many people. Livelihoods of so many families on thin ice. The sudden shock across the industry would put thousands of animals in immediate turmoil, pain and suffering on a grand scale. The current proposed ban can solve the problem of animal suffering regarding only fur but at great cost and loss. Not to mention there will still be 100's of other animal welfare problems in factory farming, experimentation, etc. My wish is that this is not overlooked and is addressed in a reasonable manner.

Make a good plan. Help the people. Help the animals. A balance could be achieved with careful consideration from both opposing sides.

I want animal suffering to stop as well. But I don't think this is the right way to do it.

As mentioned earlier, fur is not the only industry where atrocities are done by humans to other animals. This proposed fur ban is a chance to set an example on how things can be played out for those other industries. Hopefully showing that

double standards in animal rights (factory farmed animals vs fur farmed animals) shouldn't exist. Rather, we can impose better oversight, better rules & regulations that will be a step in right path for animal rights and upholding better welfare for all (people and animals).

Meantime the sentiment on fur is duly noted. People such as myself know what we should do and that is get out while we can. I will keep working hard. I will pay taxes. I will move on to something the market directs me to other than fur. I will give back when I can. I am sure others in the industry would like that chance.

Thank you for your time. I hope we can make a better choice.

Andrew Oh

Dear Mrs. Skrzypiec,

The dynamic infrastructure of the fur market is dependent on this vote. The Fur industry meets the security standard that has been in place for years. We can change and modify these standards. We are concerned; however, the bill will destroy not just the fur industry but a negative impact on the Fashion capital of the world New York City and global economy. The abrupt, catastrophic dysfunction in a key sector causes a financial crisis throughout the world. The fur industry is 37.8 billion dollar industry and it has been traded since the beginning of time. The ripple effect of the ban will be felt in Farming, Agriculture, Fashion industries, Accessory industry, Home furnishing, Real-estate. Under each industry you have Agents, Design team, Salesforce, transportation, photography, Stylist and middlemen in every single category which will be affected.

The Port of New York is the gateway to the world and the largest on the east coast. How will the cargo that is being transported through our ports be affected?

Can the goods land in JFK and then be shipped to other cities and countries?

Can companies that trade in fur or fur products attend trade shows in New York? The loss of companies attending the volatile trade show industry will be crippling. New York entertainment and hospitality will lose the market share to Las Vegas again.

Why is biblical food such as Ox(Cattle), buffalo, sheep, goat included in your ban?

Fully **sustainable animals** such as Cattle, sheep, goat, mink should be excluded as they are fully used. Using the fur of an invasive animal such as Nutria could be a way to protect fragile ecosystems. The environmental agency can confirm this.

A new check system will bring new standards to the industry and it will make New York City back on the global fashion world. You will save the business and implement a protocol that we will **glorify our city** and this committee. These protocols will create new jobs effectively and end and eliminate the bad seeds in the industry. The ability for these changes is in your hand. New York City is a city of dreams and has been built on the back of immigrants and we need to keep small businesses in New York. We are an American dream throughout the world. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Farah Darouvar
President
265 West 37th Street, 14th Floor
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DiOMi

G I G I B U R R I S M I L L I N E R Y

GIGI BURRIS MILLINERY - VIRGINIA BURRIS - OWNER/FOUNDER

Coming from a small town in Central Florida, I worked tirelessly and sacrificed to make it to New York, the epicenter of American Fashion. I came here to pursue my dream of working in the fashion industry as a hat maker. In 2015, I proudly became a member of the CFDA, one of small group of milliners in the organization.

I am the founder of a female owned, self financed small business, which employs an incredibly diverse group of young men and women. The struggle of working in a niche industry is constant, but I believe millinery is my calling and it brings me great joy.

Millinery has been a women's craft for centuries and I am proud to carry on the tradition, promote craft, and most importantly support local production. What the Fur Ban does is further eliminate local production, cuts out a significant revenue stream for an already struggling millinery industry, and dictates MY incredibly personal design choices. As a tax paying small business owner, I believe that a small group of council members does not have the right to control my creativity when I gladly give up so much of my earnings in city taxes to be a part of the New York Fashion community.

Hello council members

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak

My name is Irving Tax and my brothers and I have been running a family business in NYC for close to 40 years, with our family being in the fur business in New York for over 100 years. Over the years we have employed many people, increased rent rolls, paid vendors in other businesses such as trucking and supplies and paid our taxes.

But I would like to speak today about something more important than any single business-- and that is about the importance of choice

I know that the great majority of the council members are in favor of a woman's right to choose, which I agree wholeheartedly with. Although the proposed fur and shearling ban is not the same as a woman's right to choose, it is in the same vein of choice, by which I mean what choices the government should and most certainly should not regulate.

If we choose to regulate what people can choose to wear or eat, I have to wonder what could easily happen with a woman's right to do with her body when a different council is in place.

The people and politicians of NYC have been at the forefront in the pro-choice fight. The fur ban issue is pro-choice, or for choice, a person's right to choose.

If you do not wish to wear fur, wool, leather, silk or other animal by products, or eat meat, cheese, fish, eggs, milk etc, or are against medical testing on animals, then that is your choice. But don't let one person or a group's choices become law. This is not the job of the government

Let everyone choose what they want as long as it does not harm their fellow human beings.

I am going to end my two minutes with a quote from Speaker Johnson that he made just a few days ago:

"For every woman who is watching this all out assault on women's rights, I hear you"

I hope his strong words about choice are not just limited to the choices he champions, but to individual choices on the whole.

Thank you

5/16/2019

To Corey Johnson and the City Council of New York,

My name is Despina Zoupaniotis. I live in North Flushing, Queens and my council member is Joe Vallone of district 19. I am a hand finisher of 40 years, working only with furs my whole life. I moved to New York from Kastoria, Greece where I was also working in fur. It was my first and only job for my entire life. Being a hand finisher is my only skill and my profession. I am proud of my work and of making furs. I am proud to live in America because I had opportunity to work and feed my family.

If the Fur Ban is passed and New York City makes new fur illegal to sell, I will no longer have a job. My husband is also in furs and he will also lose his job. If we both lose our jobs, we cannot pay our mortgage and we will both lose our home. My two sons live with us, and they will also be without a home if my husband and I lose our house. I am in my early 60's but cannot afford to retire and need my job. So does my husband, he too needs his job so we can afford to live.

I am so afraid every day now that I will lose my job and so will my husband. It is terrible. I feel scared of what will happen to my family if we cannot afford our home. Where will we live? How will we live? Who will hire me? I am too old to start over.

Please protect my job and my husband's job. My future and my family's future depends on you.

Thank you,

Despina Zoupaniotas
168th Street
North Flushing, Queens 11358

5/16/2019

To The City Council of New York,

My name is Ivonne Guevara. I am a mother of 3 and live in East Elmhurst NY (District 21) and my council member is Francisco P. Moya.

I am originally from Vera Cruz, Mexico. I immigrated to the United States in 1990 at 18 years old. I came from a very poor community and was a single mother in need of money to feed my baby. I came to New York for opportunity to find work and make a better life for me and my family.

My first job was working in a leather factory for 12 years. I learned many skills working with leather skins that helped me learn about furs and get a job with a fur company which was a higher paying and better job. I have now been working only with fur for the last 17 years. I love my job and the people I work with, they are like family, my work family. Because I was able to find work and learn a trade, I was able to take care of my children, to feed them, to clothe them, and send them to school.

If I lose my job, I don't know what I will do to take care of my family. The skills I have are very specific and it is already hard to find work with all of the factories closing. Many of my friends are looking for work who were working in a factory making dresses that closed.

Please don't make furs illegal to sell in New York I don't want to lose my job. I work very hard to be a good mother and take care of my family.

Thank you,

Ivonne Guevara
31st Street
East Elmhurst NY 11369-1848

Dear City Council members,

I am writing to you to express my extreme concern over the proposed fur ban in New York.

My family has been in the fur business for over 90 years and for 3 generations. My Grandfather came to this country and founded our Company, Alixandre, and made it one of the premier fur companies in the world with the help of my father, and myself.

The Schulman family has given back to the city in many forms, but most notably, building the Schulman rehabilitation facility at Brookdale hospital which my family members sat on the board of for many years.

Fur is a choice much like the use of leather, poultry, and beef are. To single out a single product is unjust and bias. We have always operated our business in a legal manor and have followed all guidelines pertains to labeling and content.

This proposed ban is clearly an attempt to attack the weakest link in the animal use chain, while still permitting the use of animal production for food and clothing. Our family has always been proud of the product and the many people that our company has supported over the years.

I am confident that the council will do the just thing and permit the continued production and sales of fur in the greatest city in the world.

Yours,

J. Brett Schulman
President
Alixandre Furs Inc.
535 Eighth Avenue
Suite 400
New York, NY 10018

To whom it may concern,

In regards to this fur ban, it will bring nothing but hardship to many working families. I myself have been in the fur industry for 30 years, owning my own business in fur fashion for the last 30 years. I have supported my family for many years with my income from the fur fashions. Now with my business doing well I can enjoy the fruits of my labor. Encouraging this fur ban will only put me back and have to start over again ,which is not what I had planned at my age. I myself wear many fur, leather, shearling products for comfort in NY cold weather from boots, coats to gloves. My husband and I have planned on continuing to work into our silver years due to the fact we enjoy our craft. We in fact have made a respectable name for ourselves in the industry from designing, manufacturing, and retail sales. At this point we are proud to have encouraged our family members to learn the craft of fur designing, we have had our children working in the industry and plan on leaving our legacy to our future generation.

For many reason we plead with the council to oppose the fur ban.

Thank you for taking your time to hear me out and try to understand what this means to me being a viable working memeber of society

Lisa Lettas
Dimitrios furs & Boutique of St. James, NY

Dear City Council Members

My name is George Sideris and I own the business, Not Just Mink Inc. I have been in business for 45 years, and I followed my parents who were also in it for 45 years. I have supported my family, lived a decent life, paid my taxes, unsupported this city.

Why do you want to take the brad away from hands? Why do you want to destroy my ability to take care of my family? We are not killers and we are not cannibals. We are people like everybody else, and if there is anything that we can do to adjust the business, we are open to compromise.

Instead of banning fur, we should all get together to find some common sense resolution. Just as certain animals are raised to be eaten, similarly, animals are raised for their fur. If you ban fur, you might as well ban fur, ban leather, ban stake, and everything that comes from animals.

I am sure that certain Council members have sat on leather, eaten stake, and worn leather shoes. You have not been demonized for it. So, please, leave us be. Let us continue to operate our business in peace. It has been a business that has operated for hundreds of years, since the dawn of human civilization.

Dear Council members,

As an ordinary citizen, let alone as a furrier I find it offensive if not unconstitutional that the government of the city of New York would dictate if I have a livley-hood or not. Regardless of what ordinary people think on either side of the isle it is wrong for ordinary people to dictate what other people can do or wear. The fur trade has been an economic backbone of the city and state of New York and a lot of people depend on it right now.

Sincerely,
Naoum Megaris

Megaris Furs megarisfurs@yahoo.com

To Whom This May Concern:

This is urgent. Please do not Ban Fur Sales In NYC. Animals are not treatment cruel in this process. On the other hand, Families will be DESTROYED. Many family owned business and working class New Yorkers will be stripped of their income. They will not be able to pay their mortgage, health care, monthly financials, CHILD CARE SERVICES, FOOD, and DRINK. It causes detriment to the well being of NYC as individuals who once contributed to the economy will no longer be able to do so. Please do not allow our working class to go through such hardship. It will not stop the process of animal cruelty, but add more to it, since people are still wanting a product that they will get illegally. This is my family who will be suffering. Family who have worked their whole life in an industry and are not in a place where they can start over in their work and career. If this proposed fur ban occurs, the hardship of others will be at the hands of you. Please take this into consideration.

Thank you

Danielle Rick

Dear New York City Council:

The Ugent family has been in the fur business since 1922 and I am the 3rd generation and the 4th generation is in training now.

I wish to support the fur industry and am against the proposed fur ban you have been debating. What is the difference in using a farmed raised animal for clothing or using an animal for shoes, leather jackets, or eating meat such as a hamburger, hotdog or a steak dinner? There is no difference, so how can you single out just one use of an animal.

My family has been buying furs and outerwear from New York City for almost 100 years. Our store supports many NYC businesses and helps to employ many city workers. We travel to NYC 3-4 times a year, spending money for hotels, airfare, food, taxi, Broadway shows and many other tourist attractions. If this ban goes into effect, I will have no need to travel to NYC and will not be spending money in your city.

Please vote this ban DOWN. Let our customers make a choice and decide our future.

Thank you.

Rodney Ugent

A.J. Ugent Furs Inc.

8333 W. Capitol Dr.
Milwaukee, WI 53222

www.ugentfurs.com

1-800-544-3877 or 1-414-463-7777

My name is Harriet Nathan.
I currently live in Ben Kallos district.

Since graduating from college, I have worked in many other industries including big corporations. I was able to make great strides as a female in a man's corporate world when it wasn't popular or easy and I certainly wasn't welcomed in their world. But even though I was successful, I made the decision to leave that world- to work with my husband- to be a team in growing a small business- to take my expertise as a woman in the business world- within the fur industry in NYC . To work with proud, talented, hardworking people. **That was MY CHOICE.**

My husband started the business over 30 years ago. We now both work together to build/ sustain a business that has supported our family for many years. We were able to put our 2 children through private high school, college and graduate school. We are also assisting them in starting their own businesses as young promising entrepreneurs- one in NYC along with their education loans.

We have put our blood sweat and tears and money into this business that we will NOT be able to sell- since the proposed fur ban wants to shut down this family business industry.

We recently moved back into NYC in order to achieve our dream of living here again and to be closer to our business--back to the city we love.....

But if this ban goes through and we lose our business we will not be able to afford to stay and live in NYC- the end of another dream for us- that we have tirelessly worked for here in NYC - We Will Have to Move Out of New York City. **This is NOT MY CHOICE.**

We don't have a safety net- we only have our business - no other jobs-our lives are 100% entwined. We are in our 60"s- no jobs on our horizon.

We have given all of ourselves to work here in NYC -to live in NYC- the city that endorses SMALL BUSINESSES.....???

Please do not shut us down.

Please!!

Thank you.
Harriet Nathan

Dear New York City Council Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimonial.

I have mixed feelings about having to write this and having to defend our industry, one of the oldest and most respected that has ever existed. This industry is in the DNA of North America and helped build this country. I am upset that the City Council has chosen to listen to and mostly agree with PETA and their false testimony regarding mislabeling and skinning alive and the use of dogs and cats etc etc. These myths that PETA peddles have no resemblance to the modern and heavily regulated industry I work.

I fail to understand why the fur industry has been singled out for this type of ban as of all animal usage industries, we are not even on the radar and are by far the smallest. If the council were genuine in their beliefs, they would force all businesses such as the restaurants that serve animal-based products to close their doors in their districts. I see no difference between someone eating a steak dinner or someone wearing a mink jacket. Both are unnecessary, and both are a question of choice. If you could ask that lamb if it rather be eaten than worn, I'm sure it would answer neither. We all know that the animal rights agenda is to end all animal usage. It would be great if the members would be honest with their constituents, and when polling them let them understand what a ban on any animal usage would ultimately lead to.

On Super Bowl Sunday 700 million chickens are killed for their wings- that is one day in one country. On Thanksgiving day, 40 million turkeys met the same fate, yet you focus on the fur trade. I believe we either have the right to controlled animal usage or we don't. The only thing I can think of to justify this proposed ban is that for some council members the fur industry is low hanging fruit, some members believe that this ban would put them in good standing with a small minority of like-minded people.

To play with people's livelihoods this way is unfair and cruel. I have heard testimony that these mostly minority artisans that work in this creative industry can be retrained. I strongly disagree for this is no different from asking a shoemaker to start making bridal gowns. Not possible.

In my case, I am the owner of a fur manufacturing firm here in NYC. Through my long career, I have hired hundreds of people who have spent their lives with pride, dedication, and skill working in our industry. They have trusted me to get them through their working lives and in turn, allowing their children to stay in school, go to college and follow their dreams. I am proud of the people I employed, the taxes I have paid, and all our customers

who love and thank us for the product we bring them. I made sure that my employees always had work in spite of the adversities that exist by being in business and now the unthinkable idea of a ban of a totally legal and beautiful product is jeopardizing both our livelihoods.

One other thing I do not understand; if the council feels that the consumer is no longer interested in fur, why is legislation needed? Why not let the consumer decide? If they don't buy the trade will close down on its own. The answer is simple. Members of the council know that this product is wanted and cherished by a large segment of the population. Members are pushing personal agendas on the consumer, but if members think this is not transparent, they are mistaken.

It seems strange that items not spoken about, such as python, alligator, leather, and exotics are not addressed in this ban. I do not believe they should be, but it is further proof of certain members trying to pick off low hanging fruit for their own personal tastes and without regard to the thousands that would be affected. This proposed ban is both hypocritical and playing with thousands of people's livelihoods. It is not what council members were elected to do.

I thank you for your time.

Marvin Yarrow
President The Newmont Group

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Every day in New York City millions of rats ,mice and roaches are being trapped and poisoned. Are these creatures not deserving of protection also ? Where does one draw the line ? If Mr. Johnson were a man of his convictions he would be proposing that New York City be demolished and be returned to it's natural state where insects and animals could run freely. Unless Mr. Johnson, eats no meat , eats no vegetables (farmers kill nuisance animals and insects that destroy crops) , wears no leather or takes no drugs developed using animal testing , he is a hypocrite .

The fact is that humans are at the top of the food chain and animals were put on this earth as a renewable resource for our use.

Sincerely yours ,

Nick S. Koukotas

Flock road

Hamilton Square NJ 08690

Dear council.

My name is Minerva Mezzapesa i m 38 years old I m a seamstress n finisher I used to work w Deniss bassom in the city for 2 years. Now I work w Dimitriosfurs in Saint James Long Island. I love my job. I have 4 kids two in college n two small ones. Please help us keep our job. The job that I love

minerva olivera

My name is Peter Nathan
I currently live in Ben Kallos's District.
I am the owner of Peter Nathan Inc..

It is very hard for me to wrap my head around this Proposed Fur Ban. Unlike other people testifying today, I did NOT come from a family in the business. Instead, I came from the Advertising Agency Business with my BA and MBA, which is unusual for this industry.

I entered this industry because I had an opportunity to realize a dream of mine- which was to create and run my own business. I opened a buying office over 30 years ago which provides Services, Merchandising, Leasing and Buying Expertise to stores throughout the country. I started a unique entity in the fur industry.

Through my years in this business I have been able to provide my family with the life and education we always hoped for them. My wife also left her successful career to join me in growing our business. We have one child who went to Prep School to play hockey and then continue on to private college to play. Our other child went to a private university for undergraduate and then to an Ivy League for his MBA. My business in the fur industry - in NYC- enabled our children to realize their academic ambitions/potential.

If this Ban were to go into effect, it would greatly change and impact my life-
ACTUALLY DESTROY IT.

1-I would be unable to continue to operate a company I built successfully, and would be forced to find other work that would NOT provide me and my family the financial security and income that we need - if I could even find employment

2- My wife -who changed her career to join this industry and family business- would be just another woman looking for a job that she is overqualified for/ underpaid and possibly aged out of in the workforce.

3- My company's value would be reduced to ZERO- nothing to sell- because I would be banned from operations- selling FUR garments.

4- My retirement would be greatly compromised because I would no longer have the capacity/capability to save for retirement- **I WOULD BE FORCED INTO RETIREMENT.**

5- I would be forced to give up paying the loans we took out for my child's MBA. Therefore requiring him to take on that hardship and struggle even more in today's world.

6- We would have to abandon the dream we fulfilled of relocating back to Manhattan- because we would not be able to afford the rent/cost of living here in NYC. We would be forced to move out of NYC

PLEASE VOTE NO ON THIS FUR BAN
SAVE OUR DREAMS, PASSIONS, BUSINESSES, WORKFORCE AND
INDUSTRY.

DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE IN THIS INDUSTRY- IN NEW YORK
CITY!!

--

Regards,
Peter Nathan

Peter Nathan Inc.
210 West 30th Street
New York, NY 10001

(o) 212-279-8029
(f) 212-279-0468

peternathan@gmail.com

To whom it may concern:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our very close family friends are in the NYC fur business with a boutique of their own. They are incredibly hard-working kind people, who are always dedicated to their clients' needs, guaranteeing the best quality. I would not know who to turn to in terms of fur-related garments and have much less faith in the sustainable and non-cruel sourcing of furs in departments stores versus a family-run small business.

It would be heartwrenching to see them lose their business, in which they have invested so much time, effort, and money.

Please stop the fur ban!!!

Best,
Olya

Olya Voronetskaya

Dear Honorable council speak Mr. Corey Johnson

I would like to ask our NYC Council Members to vote against the proposed ban of Fur in NYC. It will destroy good Paying Jobs and forfeit critical tax revenue our city needs. It'll also have a devastating Environmental Impact which will negate any positive effect our Council Passed in our Green New Deal.

It's disappointing that when our City's top Legislative Body pushes an issue like the Fur Ban ahead of Life Altering Issues like: Gun Control, Crime, Pot Hole Ridden Streets, Education, Homeless Epidemic, Drug Epidemic and High Tax's among many other day to day issues we face.

When we're told that our Council Cares about the Poor, the Middle Class, the Immigrant, to Save Good Paying Manufacturing Jobs then turns around and wants to ban an Ethical Industry and Destroy one of the few Manufacturing Labors in NYC, Is Insulting. You should be Policing our Streets not our Closets.

This "FUR" Ban will have a ripple effect on the Entire Fur (Def: Animals who grow hair on their Skin) and Fashion Industry, in NYC, NYS in the US, Globally and it will be devastating to many Economies.

I urge you to gather Facts, Information and stop this assault on ME the Working Middle Class. This Bill will only serve as a Giant Eraser of Jobs, needed Tax Revenue and put undue Stress on our families, friends and neighbors across many Industries. This bill does a great disservice to our Global Brothers and Sisters.

Please Vote NO on this Bill

Alec Ko

70 Bowery, Suite 402, New York, NY 10013

Email: alecmyko@gmail.com

5/17/2019

Dear City Council Members

I am a 60 year old and I have been involved in the fur trade since I was a teenager. I learned the trade from my father, who learned it from his father. We have spent three generations developing this business, and developing our clientele.

I have been a great service to NYC. If you put me out of business, I cannot be retrained for another job. I will not have healthcare, and I will be a burden to NYC, instead of an asset to NYC. Please do not pass, this ridiculous law.

My furs are biodegradable and ecologically good for the planet. More animals are killed by roadkill each year by far than used in the fur trade. Are you going to ban automobiles because of it? City Council chambers have beautiful mahogany wood. How many trees had to die for these chambers? Are you going to start knocking down City Council chambers?

The beaver trade was one of the first trades in NYC and NY state. If we don't harvest wild furs, it creates ecological and economical hardships upstate with flooding, and the animals only die of starvation anyway in the winter.

My clientele is a very powerful voting block. My clientele is very unhappy that you are wasting time on this issue while there are many more important pressing issues facing NYC. For example, homelessness, the opioid epidemic, poor subway infrastructure, and 400 thousand New Yorkers living in NYCHA housing, living in substandard conditions need your attention more.

Please do not enact this law.

--

Thank you,
STEVEN POCHTAR

FURS BY PK, INC.
210 WEST 30th St
NEW YORK, NY, 10001
(212) 564-8560

Councilman Kallos,

I had been selected by my firm to testify yesterday at City Hall in opposition to the Fur Ban that your council has put forth.

The entire day was the most ridiculous charade of so-called educated and informed (actually uninformed experts) I have ever witnessed in my 43 year career in the fur business at Neiman Marcus in Dallas, Bergdorf Goodman New York, Fendi, and currently Dennis Basso.

We were finally let into the council hearing meeting at 1:00 after waiting outside since 7:45am. We lined up outside the chamber and LI the anti-fur protesters were allowed to enter first filling up the entire front rows of the room. After finding seats, I was subjected to the most berating and intimidation verbiage of the witnesses which brought to my mind what the Jews had gone through in Germany. One by one the council members left the hearing and were really not interested at all in what was being presented by the opposing side. It was clear from the first word said by your leader Councilman Johnson and others that their minds were made up regarding their favoring of this fur ban. A railroading event if there ever was one. Whatever happens will happen, but I found the whole day a comedy of errors.

Jack Cohen
Director of Merchandising

DENNIS BASSO
825 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
10065

212-794-4500 Store
jack@dennisbasso.com

The Little Nell
631 East Durant Ave.
Aspen, Colorado
81611

970-925-4499 Store

Dear Honorable council speak Mr. Corey Johnson

I am a fur lover business woman and I am residing at New York City..

Hereby, I am asking our NYC Council Members to vote against the proposed ban of Fur in NYC. It will destroy good Paying Jobs and forfeit critical tax revenue our city needs. It'll also have a devastating Environmental Impact which will negate any positive effect our Council Passed in our Green New Deal.

It's disappointing that when our City's top Legislative Body pushes an issue like the Fur Ban ahead of Life Altering Issues like: Gun Control, Crime, Pot Hole Ridden Streets, Education, Homeless Epidemic, Drug Epidemic and High Tax's among many other day to day issues we face.

When we're told that our Council Cares about the Poor, the Middle Class, the Immigrant, to Save Good Paying Manufacturing Jobs then turns around and wants to ban an Ethical Industry and Destroy one of the few Manufacturing Labors in NYC, Is Insulting. You should be Policing our Streets not our Closets.

This "FUR" Ban will have a ripple effect on the Entire Fur (Def: Animals who grow hair on their Skin) and Fashion Industry, in NYC, NYS in the US, Globally and it will be devastating to many Economies.

I urge you to gather Facts, Information and stop this assault on ME the Working Middle Class. This Bill will only serve as a Giant Eraser of Jobs, needed Tax Revenue and put undue Stress on our families, friends and neighbors across many Industries. This bill does a great disservice to our Global Brothers and Sisters.

Please Vote NO on this Bill

Your name: Tonirose Zee

Home address: 2nd Ave. New York, N.Y

Email: tonirose@tsuniform.com

5/17/2019

Dear Council members,

We all have opinions on everything on this planet, I respect what the opposition thinks about the fur ban, but you have to listen to us too. You can't tell me this is inhuman, this business has been around since the beginning of mankind. What am I supposed to do with my family? How am I supposed to pay my bills? We have never done anything illegal we have always followed the law. This is a free country and people should be able to make their own decisions. We have the right to choose. A similar fur issue came up in the 80s over the right to hunt and use animals, spear-headed by Greenpeace. The organization had to drop its position due to the fact that it was negatively affecting Inuits and Native Americans and their ability to survive and exist in their own independent society. Greenpeace understood that animal rights are important, but the needs of humans should come first. Telling people that they can't hunt and use animals to a reasonable degree is against human nature. We need them to survive and to go against that can have adverse effects on mankind and animals. Sheering should not be banned, sheep depend on sheering for survival. In Greece, where the temperature exceeds 100 degrees in the summer, how can we expect sheep to survive with all that wool? We need to eat meat to survive and we need to use animals to stay warm, and as stewards of this planet we need to make responsible and reasonable concessions that are for the benefit of everyone. I hope that PETA makes the same conclusions that Greenpeace made back in the 1980s.

Konstantine Furs Inc.

[TEL:212.967.8563](tel:212.967.8563)

FAX:212.967.3227

Email: Konstantinefurs@yahoo.com

I m a retired fur worker and just to let you know also emigrated from Europe 1963 for a better life.

I sought employment in the fur industry in the early 1980 and was hired as a model . I enjoyed my craft so much that I learned the making of a fur garment and was hired as a full time employee.

My life and my earnings helped me and my family to stay in this industry till I retired. I continue to consult in the industry from time to time. I know from personal experience from 30 years in the fur industry that fur is the ethical choice because it is renewable and biodegradable.

Please help the young people that are seeking the same opportunities as I did by Voting No Fur Ban.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sophia Mariamson
E. 34th Street
NYC 10016

Please protect consumer freedoms, jobs and incomes for families in nyc.

No fur ban.

Nancy Lynches

Good Morning Council!

It has recently come to my attention, that the NYC Council, has held a hearing on a proposed ban of certain products.

From what I have heard and read; this is both mis-guided and ill-advised. I would also add it is unconsciable.

I have also heard, that the campaign for such a ban, is being spear-headed by the PETA group. This should be a big red flag, for the council, just to be with. I have heard news in the media, of how some of their tactics have frankly, been quite extreme. On occasion, it seems their actions - while well intentioned; have had little of any thought, for the safety of the animals they are claiming to want to protect.

With respect to the ban itself -

As proposed this Ban will not save a single animal's life or prevent any animal suffering. It does not propose one single remedy towards this goal.

There will be a HUGE number of job losses in the NYC and NY area, if this ban comes into force. Surely - the smart and logical/common sense move - is to monitor and regulate what materials are exactly being used. Also - how and where those materials are sourced.

This ban - certainly how its currently framed - should NOT be passed. Say a big "NO" to this one, please!!

**Regards,
Wilfrid K.**

Dear Councilmember,

New York City has been the land of opportunity coined by the Immigration act over 101 years ago. New York has been welcoming newcomers and giving them the chance to build families, careers, and businesses. The Fashion and the Fur industry are part of **Cultural Diffusions that makes New York City.**

These are the same business that is targeted by your Fur ban. Our ability to remain in business is now with just a vote.

We share your goal of ensuring that animals are treated humanely. The Fur industry meets the security standard that has been in place for years. We can change and modify these standards.

We are concerned, however, the bill will destroy not just the fur industry but a negative impact on the Fashion capital of the world New York City.

New York is a global fashion economy; it is critical that we continue to attract the best opportunities from around the world. The repercussions of this ban will affect every industry selling, operating, transportation via New York harbor.

The Fur council and the Fur industry will implement standards which can identify and ensure that the Fur skin has met with the highest standards.

The fur labeling is very adequate and governed by United State customs. Fish & wildlife Services overseas licensing and documentation. There is always room for improvement and we welcome the changes and improvements to the Fur industry.

Our council speakers' compassion is exceptional on this matter, and we are committed to helping your committee to identify approaches to ensure the most humane manner for the animal.

While procedures can and should always be subject to continuous evaluation and improvement, a complete ban on fur is not the right approach.

Similarly, we stand ready to identify ways of helping you to achieve your goal in bringing clarity and change to the fur industry. Our future is in your hands.

A new check system will bring new standards to the industry and it will make New York City back on the global fashion world. You will save the business and implement a protocol that we will glorify our city and this committee.

These protocols will create new jobs effectively and end and eliminate the bad seeds in the industry. The ability for these changes is in your hand.

As you contemplate changes to New York City complex and interconnected Fashion industry, whether business or employment-based, we hope that you will remember that New York City is a city of dreams and has been built on the back of immigrants and we need to keep small businesses in New York. We are an American dream throughout the world.

Respectfully,

Farah Darouvar
President
265 West 37th Street, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10018
212.302.0331
www.diomidesigns.com

The logo for DiOMi, consisting of the text "DiOMi" in a white serif font centered within a solid black square.

DiOMi

Hello. My name is Eftimia Tsapouris and I am a senior in high school. My mom and my dad are both in the fur industry and own a small business called: V.S & YOU INC.

I am writing this testimony not only on behalf of my family, but on behalf of every small fur business owner and every person who resides in New York City.

Personally, I am an animal lover and am thinking of studying veterinary medicine. However, there is a line, and it needs to be drawn. Our environment, our jobs, our families, our choices, and our rights will all be put at stake due to the potential ban of fur. This is nothing you haven't heard before, but real fur is biodegradable, and therefore, not a threat to our environment that is already going through so much. Our jobs and our families are two major reasons as to why banning fur is a bad idea. If you want to ban fur, you can not ban it while businesses are still operating. These small business owners, unfortunately, most of them do not have a backup plan. If the suffering of animals is the main concern, there is no purpose of banning just fur. Animal cruelty is a thing and won't be stopped with a fur ban. Leather would still be used, chicken would still be sold, Thanksgiving is not going anywhere, and eggs will still be fried. It is time we face the cold hard facts and realize that the only thing that this fur ban would have an effect on is poverty. Without a backup plan or even enough money to obtain a degree in another field, families will not be able to provide a college education for let alone their children, but another one for themselves. The fur ban is not the solution.

Sincerely,

Eftimia Tsapouris

Good evening,

I am writing to encourage you to not ban fur in NYC.

This is not a health, safety or welfare issue for people. You are proposing that an entire industry is shut down that is actually made in NYC and not somewhere like China. I think the focus should rather be on feeding people, fixing schools, or developing more made in NYC businesses.

As a compromise perhaps you can pass an ethical sourcing requirement or environmental protections for various industries. Shutting down American businesses and unemployment cannot be the best answer and seems illogical.

Thank you,

Marisa Marinos

My name is Yelena Akelina and I'd like to express my view on the matter concerning the fur ban hearing that took place in the City Hall on 5/15/2019.

I took part in the rally and was hoping that I could speak my point of view at the hearing but I didn't have a chance.

I went to this rally to support my friends and other people who work in this industry

I want to stand up for my freedom of choice especially on my clothing and accessories. I think everyone has to have a right to express his love for fashion the way he/she wants.

There It's a matter of personal choice and everyone should be allowed to exercise their judgment on what to eat and what to wear, fur or leather or other materials Fur always been a symbol of beauty success and fashion from the oldest times.

Another issue is support for the small businesses .

I find it absolutely outrageous that thousands of family businesses and their workers might be losing their jobs because of the strong feelings vegans have towards this issue. I have friends who were building their businesses from zero. They worked seven days a week, no holidays didn't see their kids, struggled greatly to survive economic ups and downs only to come to this day where all their effort could lead to bankruptcies, broken dreams, and uncertain future. Some of them are not young people who have time to switch their careers. Is this a fair way to treat people?

Moreover, if the fur is banned in NYC, people will buy it in the neighboring states. If it's banned everywhere in the US, it will be purchased overseas. What do we achieve here? Lost jobs, misery, and aggravation and lost revenues for the city. Can we really afford it?

It would be a big mistake to ban fur in NYC or anywhere else as it represents only a certain viewpoint and interests. I would greatly appreciate if you could consider my opinion in this matter.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Yelena Akelina

My name is Katherine Kazak and I'd like to express my view on the matter concerning the fur ban hearing that took place in the City Hall on 5/15/2019.

I was participating in the rally and was hoping that I could speak my point of view at the hearing. I didn't have a chance to, so I'd appreciate if you could read my letter.

I went to this rally to support my family and friends all the other people. I worked in the fur industry for years and as the NYC resident felt concerned for the position many people, including myself, are being put in.

First and foremost, I want to stand up for my freedom of expression and choice. I find it very disturbing that only the opposition's point of view on this issue might be sufficient for banning a fur industry. We live in a society that has made a huge leap forward in embracing all sorts of differences among people. It's clear we are all different and what one finds acceptable, another person might find revolting. But we are learning to make each voice matter.

This attack on the fur industry demonstrates that vegans have a complete lack of respect to the wishes of others. There are so many other industries that rely on animals being utilized for the benefit of people that should be banned too if we believe the vegan position is correct. It's a matter of personal choice and everyone should be allowed to exercise their judgment on what to eat and what to wear. What about people who don't share vegan beliefs? Do their opinions matter? Why does the vegan point of view should be decisive for everyone?

During the rally, there were displays of killed animals, slogans against Canada Goose company (so it's not about NYC only) with their jackets and killed animals and many more. These people were not just against fur, but also wool, leather and anything that has to do with killing the animals. In response to that, I'd like to point out that animal cruelty is not acceptable and there should be stricter rules on regulation, oversight, and punishment of farms that exercise unethical practices. But we cannot say all of them are cruel. It's an industry like any other and extinguishing a whole industry based on the missteps of few would be wrong.

Humans always relied on nature for everything and eating meat and using fur has deep roots. I'm a lover of nature and I see everything around us as alive. When you cut a tree, it's being hurt too. It doesn't scream or bleed, but it dies while it could be growing for many years till it's old, but we cut it and it dies. So the element of life and death is everywhere and when vegan people feel that only animals are being hurt, they are wrong. Even without going into the philosophical discussion, it is clear that nature is our source of life whether we are carnivores or omnivores. All we have to do is to maintain the balance and be discrete and respectful to each other.

Also, I find it absolutely outrageous that thousands of family businesses and their workers might be losing their jobs because of the strong feelings vegans have towards this issue. I have family and friends who were building their businesses from zero. They worked seven days a week, no holidays didn't see their kids, struggled greatly to survive economic ups and downs only to come to this day where all their effort could lead to bankruptcies, broken dreams, and uncertain future. Some of them are not young people who have time to switch their careers. Is this a fair way to treat people?

Moreover, if the fur is banned in NYC, people will buy it in the neighboring states. If it's banned everywhere in the US, it will be purchased overseas. What do we achieve here? Lost jobs, misery, and aggravation and lost revenues for the city. Can we really afford it?

Also, the prohibition would interfere with some religious and cultural traditions that are practiced by a significant number of people in NYC. Does it really worth the aggravation? And how about our constitutional right to practice our religions?

Last but not least, vegans propose we substitute animal products to synthetic furs and materials. As simple as it may seem, this solution has a long-lasting negative impact on the environment as these products would be not biodegradable. Today, with the environmental situation as tragic as it is, we don't need to add layers to this issue.

As you can see there are many angles here to consider. It would be a big mistake to ban fur in NYC or anywhere else as it represents only a certain viewpoint and interests. I would greatly appreciate if you could consider my opinion in this matter.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions.
Katherine Kazak

My name is Karol M. Krzemiński. I am writing with regard to proposed "Fur ban" in New York, I am not related to fur business, but I am interested in agriculture, (including fur farming), hunting, trapping, furriery. I am against the ban, and I would like to present few arguments (a very small part of the arguments) for natural fur, and against the ban. Please, read the arguments.

1. Fur farming:

- North American and European fur farming is strictly regulated (welfare regulations, environmental regulations, killing methods...).[1]
- In Europe, since 2015, is implemented WelFur project - project was initiated by the European Fur Breeders' Association in 2009, and the protocols for farmed species (fox and mink) were published in 2013 and 2014. WelFur is developed by independent assessors from seven European universities (University of Eastern Finland; MTT Agrifood Research, Finland; Aarhus University, Denmark; Norwegian University of Life Sciences; Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences; University of Utrecht, The Netherlands; French National Institute of Agronomic Research).[2]
- From 2020, three largest fur auction houses (NAFA - Canada, Copenhagen Fur - Denmark, SAGA Furs - Finland) will sell skins only with WelFur certificate.[3]
- Farmed minks need water baths? No! This is explained in the scientific article published in "Applied Animal Behaviour Science" by dr. Claudia Mareen Vinke from University of Utrecht.[4]
- In 2017 Policy Officer at the European Commission's Animal Welfare Unit, Denis Simonin says: "On this aspect (animal welfare) the European fur sector is well advanced and could show the way and share its experience with other farming sectors which are keen to make progress."[5]

2. Economy:

- After the introduction of the ban, hundreds of people will lose their jobs.

3. Trapping, hunting:

- Hunting and trapping in North America and Europe is strictly regulated too.
- Wild fur is very (maybe most) eco-friendly clothing material[9]

4. Ecology:

- Natural fur is (in contrast to faux "fur") fully biodegradable.[6]
- The environmental impact of real fur is much less than impact of faux "fur".[7]
- Faux "fur" is mostly produced from nonrenewable resources.
- Synthetic microfibres from faux "fur" polluting seas and oceans.

5. Ethics:

- "Fur is luxury, not necessary product" - Danish Ethical Council for Animals says: "If you generally perceive fur as a commodity that equals other goods we get from animals, it becomes difficult to see in what way fur should stand out as a special luxury product."
"In our society we surround ourselves with products that are not necessary for us, and a definition of when something is luxurious, can occur somewhat random."[8]

- And last but not least: Karl Lagerfeld says "The problem with fur... For me, as long as people eat meat and wear leather, I don't get the message."
Banning fur, and not banning meat and leather, is (for me) hypocrisy.

P.S. I send this message to all New York City Council members - if you read this message a second time, I'm sorry.

Yours sincerely,
Karol M. Krzemiński

Sources:

- [1]<http://www.truthaboutfur.com/blog/fur-farming-strictly-regulated/>
- [2]<https://www.fureurope.eu/publications/welfur-information-brochure/>
- [3]<https://www.fureurope.eu/fur-information-center/fur-europe-facts-figures-about-the-fur-sector-in-europe/>
- [4]<http://eprints.lincoln.ac.uk/2590/>
- [5]<https://www.fureurope.eu/news/eu-commission-the-fur-sector-shows-the-way/>
- [6]<http://www.truthaboutfur.com/blog/fur-burial-fur-biodegrades-one-year/>
- [7]<https://www.fureurope.eu/fur-information-center/facts-figures/fake-fur-vs-real-fur/>
- [8]<https://youtu.be/zRnfeM8TeeQ?t=10m23s>
- [9]<http://www.truthaboutfur.com/blog/wild-furs-earth-friendly-clothing-choice/>

Dear Councilmember and Committee,

My name is Alex Spass. I'm working as
Technologist of knitted fur as a freelancer.

I immigrated from Russia in 1996.

I came to this country looking for better life and
to achieve an American dream.

I'm working in the fur industry for 20 years.

This industry is my livelihood.

My message to councilman and committee:

Please do not pass fur ban.

I'm 50 years old , my profession is very specific
and it applies only to fur knitted product .

It will be very hard almost impossible for me to find other job or change my carrier.

I have two kids and its very painful for me to even think that I'll not going to be able to
pay my rent , medical bills and will have to be unemployed.

Now I have a job , If fur ban goes into effect it will destroy my family and my live.

Please stand for me and my family.

Thank you .

Alex Spass

ocean ave.

Brooklyn NY 11229

Dear Speaker Johnson,

I wish to point out a flaw in your reasoning for the proposed fur ban. You seek to protect animals from "cruelty" but you fail to recognize that your set point for what is "cruel" and "not cruel" is a random arbitrary point on the spectrum that YOU have chosen based on your beliefs only. Animal death, whether for fur or meat is one and the same. Tell the chicken slaughtered for meat that its murder was meaningful and less cruel compared to the mink killed for fur and I doubt the chicken would agree with you. You are making a judgment, not on the cruelty factor from the perspective of the animal, but rather on your judgment of us who choose to wear fur. What gives you the right to tell your constituents what's good or bad for them? Don't be a hypocrite. Either ban ALL animal suffering (including for meat and testing of new drug-safety before human trials) or admit that you are picking and choosing what to ban based only on what is convenient for your beliefs.

PS: You keep citing the same handful of brands that have committed to going fur-free (while ignoring the dozens that still use it) and then you draw a baffling conclusion that this supports your proposed ban. How does one lead to the other? If it is true that the popularity of fur is in decline...then let the market take its course and drive the fur-makers out of business. It is not for you to impose your personal beliefs and help it along to the demise you desire.

Thank you,
Kevin Chan

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this message as a deeply concerned individual who is witnessing politics and personal agendas manipulate the legislative policies of our city government. The proposed fur ban is quite hypocritical in nature as it is not solving any true issue. If the city is really focused on animal rights, it should be drafting legislation against leather goods and any food establishment selling meat. The fur industry is being picked out as it is an easy target as low hanging fruit. If this fur ban is approved, City Hall will declare a victory and put a feather in its cap, but this will be at the very expense of the jobs and livelihoods of both my family and friends. What is the city's plan for supplementing the lost wages, benefits and living expenses (mortgages, healthcare, etc.) of these individuals and their families? I would implore the city council to rethink and dispose of this legislation before and focus on more important items impacting its constituents, such as the loss of jobs from the Amazon HQ2 relocation, the abysmal conditions of NYCHA housing, and the NYC subway system.

Sincerely,

Neal Rick

If you pass this you will be eliminating my one of my best friend's job that he has been at for 25 years. 25 years to get where he is today. And eliminating the jobs of his coworkers and friends. I am ashamed that such a great city would listen to such an extremist group, and choose their side. The fur industry was part of what built this country. It is environmentally one of the best industries in existence.

Ben Griffin

To Whom It may Concern,

Please do not pass the Fur Ban. I have family that is in the Fur Business, and this will put them in a very difficult position financially. I do not know why this industry is being picked on while so many other clothing accessories are made from animals. If this was right to pass than so many industries should be shut down based on the same principles. What you are trying to do wrong. Their will a tremendous amount of people out of work and in very tough positions in their lives while other people in related industries using animals will be fine. This is ridiculously unfair and makes no sense. Thanks for your consideration.

Best,

Corey Eiss

Dear Council Members

My name is Viktoria Tsapouris. I am the founder of V.S. and You Fur company. Our store is located at 208 West 30th St, in district 3, speaker Corey John's district.

I operate a small family owned business with my husband. We have been running it together for 25 years. We mainly specialize in high-end shearling coats, fur leather and accessories that we locally manufacture. We normally sell our products out of our small NYC boutique.

I am here today with an important message:

Please, do not pass the Fur Ban. The work we do is important work. We have many workers who depend on us, workers who have been working with us for 14 years. If this ban goes through, they will all lose their jobs.

We have poured our blood, sweat, and tears into this company, and we feel devastated that our lifetime efforts will be poured down the drain.

There are plenty of misrepresentations of the fur industry, and I would like to invite you to see it through my eyes.

I have a profound deal of respect for the neutrality of fur, wool, silk, shearling, and all materials derived from nature. But the industry is not just about the fur, but the people who work in it. When I immigrated from Russia at 21 years old, I was all alone. I had no parents, no friends, and I did not speak a word of English. I came to this country with nothing but my resolve and my dream, a dream to create, calibrate, and design.

In 1993, I met my husband and 2 years later we opened a business together. It was extremely difficult, especially because we had little to no money, and no credit history. We had to build from scratch. However, with the help of people from the industry who sit in this room, I had access to resources and unimaginable generosity. Words cannot express the degree to which people in this industry went above and beyond to help me.

So, when you think of furriers, these are the people we are talking about, and this is the kind of industry you are trying to ban. These people here fighting for their jobs; they fear being put out on the streets, fully bankrupt and unemployed. This is not just an industry, it is a community of hard working people.

What may seem like a glamorous business is actually 12-14 hours of hard work. This is everyday work which includes weekends, just to make sure that the business survives. This business is seasonal, and requires a substantial investment of capital into raw material, and labor without a guarantee on a return of investments. We have many challenges, but we love what we do, and our family's financial future depends on it.

If you think we have no place to exist, then all the other sectors which use animals should cease to exist as well; leather for shoes, bags, clothes, car salons, and the consumption of meat should be banned as well.

We feel like we are victims of discrimination. Our industry has many souls. Behind the thousands of people who work in it, stands families with kids and elderlies; these are families who have to pay their mortgage, rent, and medical insurance bills.

We are not criminals and we are not drug dealers but we are designers and creators. We are hard working American citizens, and nobody has the right to tell people what to eat and what to wear.

Please remember, fur is natural, fully biodegradable, unlike synthetic furs. I hope you understand all that.

I am 49 years old and my husband is 55 years old. We are not as young as we used to be. We cannot simply make sudden career changes. We won't be able to find similar jobs at this age.

Please focus on bringing more jobs in NYC and not on destroying existing jobs. It has been reported that the Fur industry brings nearly a billion dollars in annual revenue. This ban would be economically devastating.

Please stand for us, for our families, for our children, and for our jobs.

Sincerely,

Viktoria Tsapouris

Dear Councilmember Espinosa and fellow Committee Members,
My name is Kim Salvo. Normally I would find myself on a Wednesday afternoon showing our fabulous fur collection to one of our hundreds of fine retail store buyers we supply. Working with clients I have forged 28 year relationships with at a job I love. You see I am a furrier. Certainly not the typical occupation you see on Career Builder.com, but typical or not it is a job I love.

Since I was a college student at FIT the fur industry is where I hang my coat. I love my job - I love working for a real privately owned company, I love getting up 6 days a week and earning a living. I welcome the real businesses challenges we face on all levels and conquering them, and I never ever thought I would have to think of doing anything else.

It is such a rush when you can facilitate creating something so gorgeous - knowing that someone will wear it, will turn heads in it and will enjoy practically forever. It's sad that many people cannot honestly say they love their job, but those are words I can speak without any reservation. That is my passion and it makes me feel proud -
That is the career Kim Salvo.

Then there's the New Yorker Kim Salvo. The woman who choose to live in Manhattan and all of its challenges. The mom who choose to raise her son though our public schools and expose him to all NYC has to offer. The active community member who finds time to make a difference. The church hospitality minister and homeless outreach coordinator; the super adult volunteer for the Boy Scouts of American and the largest Cub Scout Pack in NYC; the costume designer who volunteers her summers paying it forward to Wingspan Arts. AND the biggest fan of 311 who with a single call can report a problem or concern and in 14 to 21 business days have it taken care of (for the most part). That's who I am outside of the job I love.

So here I have my life with such balance and then on Wednesday, March 28th the Speaker and then only 4 other Councilmembers rock my world. And believe me it takes a lot to move a lady like me. And I knew I could not solve it with a call to 311.

A fur ban? Could this really be a thing? Who would ever even come up with this? Why would someone ever come up with this? What did we do? What happened? Maybe someone screwed up and we're all going to pay the price?

How can I witness everyday how hard my boss works and now BAM The New York City Council is going to make him dump the inventory he invested in and lock our door? We're not selling counterfeit knock offs - We are selling the real thing, made the real way from the right place. No impostors. No duping the consumer. How can this even be a thing?

And so my New Yorker Kim Salvo came out in full force and I started calling and emailing and facebook messaging and posting social media comments and then it dawned on me: These people have no idea what it is like to run a business. They are clueless as to what it takes to have their own company. They never invested in anything. They are given all the money to pay for everything. How can they possibly understand what it takes to run a business - yet alone a fur business?

And so my New Yorker Kim Salvo invited each and every one of them especially as others joined the conga line in the weeks that followed as I also invited each of you as Committee Members to come and see first hand the job I have a passion for. The job I love.

Well so much for that because not a single one of them took me up on my offer. Here I thought I would open my doors and give them a Fur-101 lesson; show them what we do, how we operate, explain where our fur is sourced, how the designs are made, how a handcrafted artisan product is created. That would do it, because after all, how would they ever know about the fur industry? Obviously no one does because everyone keeps telling us to reinvent our talents into another job. Being a furrier doesn't work like that.

And so on this Wednesday afternoon I canceled 2 appointments for the opportunity to sit here, which I am gracious for that privilege and ask you - Without any background information, without visiting a fur business, without having a conversation with a furrier, without learning about what we do right here in NYC - Actually right on the very block where Speaker Johnson has his office...what were you thinking?

And so now I turn to the Committee Members ironically called "consumer affairs and licencing" - the people responsible for fair trade practices and looking out for consumer's rights - and I ask you: how can this ever be a thing? How can a legally obtained product, sourced under the strictest regulations, totally account for, sustainable before that was even a thing to use on your political agendas, hand crafted fashion product in the fashion of the world ever be banned? And then I ask - How can you annihilate an entire industry that operates they way we do?

The fur industry in NYC does not have an agenda to make everyone buy fur. Like all consumer products you either do or you don't. Plain and simple that is how you make business.

I'm going to be a New Yorker for a really long time. I also want to know I am going have the job I love for a really long time. Everyone stills has an invitation to see what we will be doing for a long time. No Fur Ban. Not now. Not ever. Not in my New York.

Thank you for your time - the career and New Yorker Kim Salvo

Honorable members of the council,

I am writing today to urge you to vote NO to intro 1476 on the proposed ban of fur. My family is four generations in the fur business, my grandfather started the business in the 1950's , my father ran and grew the business with my brother until his retirement and my brothers early passing. Today my sister in law, a single mother of four children, and daughter run the business together and make us all proud that the business can be carried on in our families name. We are proud of our family heritage, we carry on a legacy and trade that has sustained us for generations. A legal business that has supported many employees and their families over generations. A NYC tax paying business that has operated in the same area of NYC for over 60 years. If this bill is to pass it would destroy thousands of jobs. It would put people out on the street without any jobs to turn too. It would devastate an entire industry of hard working people. The city of new York would lose millions of dollars of tax income, from an industry that has supported the city with tax dollars for decades. My daughter has spent the entirety of her career learning this trade, learning construction of fur and sourcing, and auction commodity training that is invaluable in other fields. These skills, I promise you, are not transferrable. They are specialized and she is proud to know and love this trade. She is proud to learn the trade that has been passed from generation to generation. I urge you to support the city of NY and this hard working industry. I urge you to refocus on human issues that need attention in the city. Focus on the homelessness crisis, on the mental health crisis, on the filthy streets and trains. Focus on gun violence, violence in schools, focus on the poor education system. Focus on human rights! I urge you to oppose this ban and Intro 1476.

Thank you,
Debbie Reich-Guarino
ER Fur Trading Corp. family member

> I am writing to urge you to vote against banning the sale of fur in NYC. I am a professional woman who has worked in NYC for over 30 years, all of my adult life. What I wear is my decision alone and should not be legislated by the city council. It's patronizing to attempt to dictate what women can or cannot wear. I CHOOSE to wear fur. My mink coat, inherited from my mother, was made here in NYC by American workers, not overseas like much of the apparel sold in the US. I've been wearing this same fur now for over 25 years. My mink coat is natural, durable, sustainable and biodegradable. When it's finally past it's useful life, it will not sit in a landfill polluting our planet for generations like the petroleum based faux furs PETA claims I should wear instead. Faux fur is not the better choice for the environment so it's not the better choice for me. And what I wear IS my choice, not that of the city council. A fur ban is ill conceived and government overreach. Thank you for your time.

>

> Sincerely,

> Elaine Hempstead

>

>

> Elaine Hempstead

Hi,

I want to submit my objection to the proposed fur ban. As a family-owned company, this ban would have a serious impact on our business. Our business is not a multi-billion dollar company, but a small family owned company whose lives depend on this industry. Not only would are family be severely impacted but also the families of our employees. I seriously hope you reconsider this ban.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Jonathan

JONATHAN SIEMENS



[Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [Website](#)

Dear Councillors,

We are sending this message as concerned citizens of the Canadian Arctic.

Two of the world's worst pollutants are plastics and used clothing. Scientists are concerned that polyester and other synthetic fibres are adding to pollution in landfills and in the oceans. This Globe and Mail news article sums up the issues in terms of plastic waste:

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/style/article-fashion-brands-are-embracing-faux-fur-but-is-it-really-a-more/> ;

Faux fur is plastic. Faux fur is not a sustainable product nor an environmentally friendly product. Faux fur is a fad based on misinformation that hurts both the Northern ecosystem, and economy.

Research/ talk to those in the real fur industry in Northern Canada and the Canadian Arctic. Our practices are both humane and sustainable. For centuries Inuit and other indigenous peoples have relied on hunting to provide food for their families, fur for their clothing and as an important source of income.

We cannot afford to increase plastic waste. Real fur is environmentally friendly and completely recyclable. It is unfortunate that there is so much misinformation surrounding the fur industry.

Kim Crockatt, Nunavut

Wendy Kootoo-Wood, Nunavut

Kim Patterson, Northern Saskatchewan

Emily Angulalik, Nunavut

Pauline Andruik, Alberta

Debbie Gray, Nunavut

Stephanie Bristol, Nunavut

Colin Crockatt, Nunavut

Suki Hogaluk, Nunavut

Lisa Crockatt, Nunavut

Jara Chotenovsky, Ontario

Dear Members of the New York City Council,

My name is Nicholas Sekas and the proud owner of a small fur business here in New York City. My Council Member is Justin Brennan.

It is with great sadness that I stand here before you today. Sadness because I am starting to feel that my own city, that I live and work in, the best city in the world is becoming unrecognizable. When extreme and radical ideologies help influence policy and ultimately our culture and way of life.

You see, it was at exactly my age now, 55, that my immigrant father, the founder of his own fur manufacturing company, was facing his own crisis. At the time, I was employed in the Aerospace Industry, working as a Systems Engineer. As the eldest of three siblings, who were still in high school and college, I quit to come back to the type of work I grew up doing, part-time, since the age of 13.

I believe it was Speaker Corey Johnson who said that it was “the right thing to do” when asked why he introduced this bill. Well, is it the right thing for someone, anyone, to decide what a person should wear or eat? People have their own cultural beliefs, economic, and personal reasons to consume a product. There is no right or wrong, just an opinion formed, based, hopefully, on sound information.

The fur industry is in the Fashion Capital of the World. Loving and respecting the animals is a cornerstone of our heritage, something that the activists like to distort. We understand that the only way to achieve the quality in pelts brought to market requires the highest of animal welfare standards.

When did the mandate to create jobs get replaced with one that destroys jobs? When did the belief that one could work hard to try to achieve the American dream get replaced with selective reasoning? When did the future of

our business depend on political headwinds and not the marketplace and common sense? On the news last week, it was said that 'about one garbage truck worth of textiles is burned or placed in a landfill every second.' EVERY SECOND! Fur is natural, sustainable, biodegradable, environmentally friendly, and recyclable. We are part of the 'circular economy'.

My wife, who now works with me, also came from the garment industry. Together, we strive to provide all that our customers wish for in products and services. Our retirement and livelihoods completely rely on this business, as well as the people who work for us. It will be devastating as it would be nearly impossible to start completely over at this point in our lives. It is difficult enough to operate and maintain a small business here in New York City, but to now have this taken away with a stroke of a pen seems unconscionable.

I would like to remind everyone that we enjoy living in a democratic and capitalist society that awards us certain personal freedoms and let's markets determine if a business is viable enough to continue. This government's role should be to adhere to these values and not take us down the wrong path of history. You have a duty to all citizens of this great city and nation to uphold these truths and not fall victim to extreme views that do not help our fellow brothers and sisters. I ask you; I implore you to oppose this legislation to ban fur sales. Please - 'DO THE RIGHT THING'.

Thank you for your time and God Bless America.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Sekas
Sekas International Ltd.
345 Seventh Avenue - 9th Fl.
New York, NY 10001-5049
Tel. 212-629-6095
Fax 212-629-6097
Email : nsekas@sekasinternational.com
www.sekasinternational.com

Dear Councillors,

My name is Dave Crockatt. I live in Cambridge Bay Nunavut, a small community in Canada's North. Most of the population, (85%) in my community, and in the entire Territory of Nunavut are Inuit, as are my six children.

Inuit, from time immemorial, have survived making use of the richness of the land and animals. Hunting for animals and the fur that they provide was a necessary survival skill. The harvesting of fur is still an important cultural and economic activity for most Inuit today.

Seventy Five percent of the population of Nunavut live below the poverty level and rely on hunting and the fur trade to provide for their families. The European ban on the import of seal products dealt an economic blow to the livelihood of many families in Nunavut and Canada's north. The New York City Council's contemplated Fur Ban Bylaw would be devastating for our Territory and people.

Fur is a sustainable resource that is environmentally friendly and an economic lifeline for our people. The fur ban would encourage clothing designers to substitute the use of this sound ecological resource for "Faux Fur" made of chemicals and oil-based products which are not sustainable or environmentally sound.

Please vote NO to the Fur Ban and support indigenous hunters and the environment.

I encourage you to watch the documentary "Angry Inuk" available on youtube so that you may gain a greater understanding of the affects that your decisions have on our people.

Thank you

Dave Crockatt

Cambridge Bay Nunavut Canada

Hello. My name is Jen Flanagan Othonos. I live in East Elmhurst in District 21 and my city council member is Francisco Moya.

My family has been in the fur business for over 30 years and I have been full time with them for the last 3. Myself, my father in law, my uncles depend on this business as their source of income to provide for our families. This is all they have ever done and without this, I do not know how mortgages, rent, bills will be paid. Passing this fur ban will rip the rugs from under working class people.

My family is a family of Immigrants. Immigrants who came here for the American dream and until now, have been living it – working hard to provide for their families and to send their children to school. They have worked hard to provide for their families and continue to work hard to provide for them. New York prides itself on being a sanctuary city for immigrants and immigrant families. What you are doing is threatening to strip away these Americans and Immigrants of their livelihoods. The skills my family have are not transferable to other industries. And it is disheartening that city council members consider the jobs of these hard working Americans as a small % of the city and implying they do not matter as you speaker showed in the video at the beginning. They matter no matter how small the % may be.

The polls stated in previous testimonies yesterday were collected online and people stated that "the voices of New York are in clear opposition" I had to show a furrier I work with how to use Uber. He did not vote in your poll online nor did countless others. Their voices were not heard. This is an **immigrant** industry. People who hold green cards. And have no voice in votes of councilmembers. Many stated yesterday they are here to be the voice for the voiceless animals. **I am writing this to be a voice to voiceless human beings we have an obligation to.**

It is disappointing as a New York City resident that there were only two city council members sitting through a majority of the meeting when we started with 7. My family matters. Our jobs matter. This was disrespectful and dishearting to all in attendance, on both sides.

Is there a humane way to tell my 57-year-old co-worker who just finished chemo treatment he is out a job and to start training in a new field? Where is the alliance with humanity?

I would also like to ask one question. Is all red meat sold in New York from cows who's skins were then sold to leather factories or in turn meat taken from leather cows sold to meat factories? Do you have a bill for that? Many stated leather is ok because it is a by-product of meat. So if that is the argument, 100% of leather sold in New York City must be a by-product. no? The leather on your shoes is surely a confirmed bi-product. Because I do not see the difference between skin taken from a cow whose body was NOT sold for meat and skin taken from a mink. Please consider the hypocrisy.

Jen Flanagan Othonos
Ditmars Blvd East Elmhurst NY 11370
jeng.flanagan@gmail.com

Dear Committee Members,

I was able to attend the full hearing on Bill 1476 on Wednesday May 15th, and found the proceeding very interesting. Thank you for your patience and time during yesterday's meeting, and for carefully listening to both sides.

I write as a New York City resident of 20 years living on the Upper West Side (70th Street), as well as a mom, and attorney by training. I practiced commercial litigation and bankruptcy with top Wall Street firms, and currently work for Thomson Reuters managing a legal product. I am a wife, a mom, and avid traveler/hiker, and our daughter attends MS 54/Booker T of the West Side. My husband is a partner at a law firm in New York City.

I am in full support of passing Bill 1476 because, as we have all known for decades, the fur industry is horrific, cruel and inhumane. I applaud your leadership in proposing and considering this very important bill that, if passed, would help make our city a kinder, more compassionate, and tolerant place to live. By passing the law in New York, we will see ripple effects throughout the United States and abroad and millions of animals will be spared of unnecessary horror and suffering. I believe that the passage of Bill 1476 would also lead to more tolerance and compassion in other areas outside of animal well-being because people will become more self-reflective about how their actions impact others.

Anecdotal Evidence to Support the Contention that Demand for Fur is Drastically Down

As a resident of the upper west side, I can offer anecdotal evidence that supports the statistics that fur is no longer something that most upper west side residents aspire to have or wear. There has been so much education in the past 20 years that even non-animal-lovers know that the industry is cruel and vicious. I rarely, if ever, have seen anyone wear a fur coat in my neighborhood over the past 10 years. I do occasionally see people wearing fur-lined Canada Goose jackets but believe that these consumers would purchase the jackets even if the fur was faux. It is the warmth (and possibly the branding) but not the fur trimming that appeals to buyers.

I completely disagree with the contention made by one of the opposition panelists that the demand is still there but has shifted from storefronts to the internet. I simply do not see anyone below the age of 75 wear fur anymore in my neighborhood.

Proposal for FairMark is a Delay Tactic, and Would be Difficult and Expensive to Administer

I listened carefully while the opposition outlined the workings of their FairMark proposal. In my opinion, the industry has had more than enough time to deal with the inherent cruelty of fur and it is too late. This is simply a red herring/delay tactic. As mentioned by Committee members, the self-regulating aspect of this proposal makes it unworkable. It would be costly and

burdensome to enforce and police. At best, it might reduce the cruelty but will not eliminate it. For the sake of living in a humane society, we need to eliminate the sale of fur.

The question of how one enforces sales that happen over the internet is a good one. I don't presently have the answer but am confident we can look to Los Angeles and San Francisco, and other models to provide guidance.

The Argument for Free Choice is Without Merit and Is Self-Serving

The argument raised by the opposition that consumers should have free choice is without merit and self-serving. Clearly, we have laws in place to ensure that we live in a safe and humane society. We don't (and nor should we) have the choice of employing child labor, or for paying someone below minimum wage. The City Council's role is to lead and put laws in place that are in the greater good of all. By nature, laws will restrict some but are necessary in our world.

Slippery Slope Argument is Without Merit and Is Self-Serving

Similarly, the slippery slope is without merit. If we can easily and effectively reduce some suffering then we should take the steps necessary to do so.

The Impact on Jobs and Economic Loss is Significantly Lower than Alleged by the Opposition

The opposition alleges that if this Bill is passed then 7,000 jobs will be lost. I don't have a breakdown of these numbers, but would bet that at least 5,000 of these jobs are of very junior staff members who happen to work in this industry but would be equally able to work outside of the fur industry. I believe that the opposition is driven by the greed of a handful of business owners. I have little sympathy for these business owners because they have been on notice for effectively 20+ years that society's norms are changing, and have had more than enough time to transition into another industry. Moreover, the retail industry has suffered so much in the past 10 years and so many business owners have been decimated around the city. I have far greater sympathy for business owners who were not involved in the fur trade.

Path to Retooling Employees

Contrary to the opposition's claims, I find it hard to believe that skills involved in the fur industry are not transferrable to other sectors. Business owners have business skills that can help them start a new business. Employees/Non-owners could get a job in another sector. In the long-run, given the changes in consumer tastes, it is in the fur industry's own best interest to adapt to these changes sooner rather than later. I suppose the City could set up a small fund to help retrain these employees. However, given the decimation of the retail storefront industry since the emergence of Amazon (I see this regularly as a bankruptcy attorney that has been following the

retail sector), there is no reason to unduly favor the furriers over the other (more compassionate) business owners that have been impacted by changing shopping trends.

The Kelly Drye Attorney's Legal Argument is Very Likely Without Any Merit

I took note of the case cited by the attorney for the opposition but have not had a chance to review it. I am 99.9% sure that it can be distinguished and would not apply here. The Council's job is to make laws, and inevitably, the laws will have some negative impact on somebody someplace. This is a stalling tactic/red herring.

In sum, I support the passing of this Bill, and look forward to living in a more humane city. Thanks for your time and for supporting this Bill. I am more than happy to devote my time, on a pro bono basis, to helping distinguish the attorneys' claims and otherwise helping this Bill pass. My husband, a partner at a leading New York law firm, supports this Bill as well, as does everyone I have asked at my workplace and community.

Yours truly,

Sarit Shmulevitz

Director, Practical Law, Thomson Reuters

Hi,

I am voting FOR the ban of fur garment sales in NYC. While it's not an easy decision, animals have souls and we shouldn't be using them for fashion. Also, fake or faux fur looks just as good for the average person. So let's ban fur garment sales in NYC and protect those without a voice (animals).

Thanks,
Adam Luftig



To:
New York City Council
Re:Fur Ban Bill Proposal

16/19

Dear Council Members:

My name is Ron Cohle, owner of Muscalus Furs in Harrisburg, PA. I watched with interest the testimonials regarding the proposed fur ban. I was disappointed with the misinformation from the animal rights groups and the lack of information from some of the pro fur panels and sadly some of the comments from the council members as a result of much misinformation.

Without being too repetitive, as some of you sat through a long day of testimony, I would certainly hope the Council makes a decision based on facts from regulated sources rather than those of many of the testimonials given.

Much of the conversation was regarding the treatment of animals especially in other countries such as China. Are you aware that the majority of furs sold are of United States, Canada, Norway, Denmark origins? Although the product may be *manufactured* in China, almost none of what today's furriers sell in garments are raised in China. The most China raised animal [that we use] may be rabbit. Mink is primarily of US and Denmark origins. Fox is Canada, US or Norway. Raccoon, Muskrat from the US. These countries have the most regulated and humane standards in the world.

Yes, some items have come out of China that are not appropriate and once identified, the individuals are appropriately reprimanded. As you said, there are always some "bad apples" in any segment of society.

Visit any fur salon and see for yourselves that the number of China "fur origin" items are basically non-existent. Again, the key word is fur origin, NOT where they were assembled.

Regarding trapping in the country, this is a regulated process also. You must be trained and certified before being legally permitted to trap. Contact the New York, Maryland, PA Trappers Associations and you can get the information first hand. The type of traps used are regulated to US standards. There are times of year and number of animals permitted to be taken. Again, there are always the "bad apples" that don't adhere to the law. These must be reported and proper actions taken.

As I am not the mink farming expert, I do know that mink are solitary animals (other than when a mother is with their young). They are not meant to be in groups together. Also, a mink's den is very small. Much smaller than the cages used today by the ranchers.

In answer to your statements of using the animal ONLY for the fur is false. In farming, not only is the fur used, the balance is used for a variety of products including leather softeners, pet food and fertilizer to name a few.

Not sure what by product you see coming from chickens yet you choose not to ban that industry in the restaurant business. Chicken is not a needed product, so why are you being selective of one industry?

As some of the council seem to be anti-fur, before you make a decision on closing an entire industry base on emotion, it would be a responsible position for you to seek out the proper Governmental authorities in this area, including US Fish & Wildlife, United States Fur Commission, US Dept of Agriculture etc. Do not rely on propaganda groups such as PETA, groups that want all animal use abolished. When making such a major law, you should investigate, not rely on testimonials from random people off the street, or special interest groups.

Your decision should not be based on your personal belief that a product is not necessary or how many people are buying the product. I actually came off my best season in the past 7 years. From living and growing up in a suburban environment, I can't imagine that pets are allowed to be had in a city such as New York. No yards to run in. Kept in small apartments. I'm sure you could enlighten me why it's not a problem, yet I respect your right to have them and don't push for pet bans.

The issue should be based on FACTS, not emotional testimonials.

Fact: Fur pelts are part of a legal enterprise, government regulated (in most countries) and those that are not handled humanely and by law should be reprimanded. You should not ban an industry for the actions of a few and misinformation of animal rights groups which can be proven as such.

Fact: Most furs used by today's furrier are of fur origins NOT from unregulated countries such as China.

Fact: Many furs today are being manufactured in China but again as above, the furs are not ranched or trapped there with a few exceptions. If anything ban furs that are raised in that country if the concern is treatment.

Fact: Thousands of jobs and millions in revenues and taxes will be lost. Hardships on many businesses, families will result.

I would be happy to discuss with you any of the issues I've presented or help guide you to the proper regulatory agencies.

Sincerely,
Ronald Cohle
President
Muscalus Furs
4669 Jonestown Rd
Harrisburg, PA 17109
717-545-9878
muscalusfurs@comcast.net

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**Tel.: (717) 545-9878 • Fax: (717) 540-5308 • email:
muscalusfurs@comcast.net**

Honorable members of the council,

My name is Brandon Ortiz. I live in Astoria, Queens in Costa Constantinides district. I urge you to vote NO on intro 1476 , vote against the fur ban. This ban would destroy the lives of hard working New Yorkers , this would eliminate legal tax paying businesses in NYC. My wife is in this industry, and her family has been in this business for over 50 years. This would destroy their family emotionally, a business that has been passed down generationally - that has supported so many families and employees over the years. To take away the consumers choice, and the livelihood of these hard working industry people is not the basis of our democracy. This ban would kill job, would kill city income. I have lived in NYC for over 5 years, why aren't we focusing on human issues? Does the city truly think it's doing everything that can be done to solve human issues here? Do you think we are a utopia of perfection and should start now focusing on animals? That's not the city I see, and I certainly don't see any animals paying tax dollars to help the city run. We have a homelessness crisis, rise in sex crimes - RAPE IS UP 20% FROM LAST YEAR (fact, listened to the NYPD budget hearing 5/15/19), failing MTA systems, gun violence, rodent infestations, kids going to sleep hungry, public housing is literally falling apart and the list goes on. Our government is taking time and funds away from human issues to focus on fashion and animal issues? We're better than that. We are literally climbing over homeless, hungry humans to fight for animals. This is nonsense. The tax income the city earns off of the fur industry should be helping the city and the humans that live there. Where does it end? Will the city move to take away leather next, take away our right to choose what we eat; milk, eggs, beef, chicken, pork? Will we all be forced to become vegan? No more testing of prescription drugs on animals, will we face another plague ? No cancer or proper medical research? All because a committee wants you to pass a bill based on compassion? Compassion is individual to each. How can a bill be passed on ideology and propaganda IN THE GOVERNMENT? How can you be choose what people can and cannot choose to use or purchase? How can the government be ruling on consumer freedoms? How can this be happening in New York City??? I am appalled my hard earned income and tax dollars are going to something that would kill the jobs of local residents, and my wife. As if losing Amazon wasn't enough, now this. Where will it end? This bill would force us out of New York, we would lose our home. The over 20 employees of their firm would lose their jobs. Over 130 small business in NYC would close. This is not progressive politics, this is not my New York. Peoples livelihoods are at stake. You are setting up to destroy an industry that has been around for decades and the lives of those involved. Focus on the people, fix the issues for the humans you represent. I urge you to vote NO TO INTRO 1476!

Respectfully,

Brandon Ortiz

[Queens, NY 11102](#)

The Perspective of a 23-year-old graduate working in the Fur Industry on the 2 Sides of this Bill and the Disconnect

Hello members of the council my name is Justin Georgiades (2018 Lehigh University graduate) my father is John Georgiades who spoke regarding his company and the two designer brands that are managed under his company and the companies financial obligations and how the company would have to close completely with employees jobless if this ban would be approved because of how reliant the two designer brands are on Fur and animal skins. I went to the hearing on the 15th for the 9 hours or so of it. **I believe that I got a different perspective sitting there and see the disconnect or lack of understanding between the two parties.**

From those in favor of the ban I saw the sincere concern for the animals which was great to see, but I also saw hatred towards those fighting for their industry specific jobs which I found disgusting especially because all these people are doing is fighting to be able to support their children and families. The two strongest points that were pushed was the animal abuse and extreme ways that animals are killed, and the second point being that there are amazing substitutes and that these substitutes should replace animal skin and that companies can replace the fur for these and continue their business.

Addressing the first point of **the inhuman conditions and practices in killing and farming of these animals**. The first thing I must address is the specific video that enrages every one of the animals being skinned alive furriers and fur clothing does not come from animals that were skinned alive. It has being proved and admitted by the people responsible of this video that PETA paid for people to skin animals alive which is sickening and PETA should face punishment for these actions along with others involving rescuing animals of abuse just to send them to kill shelters. My family owns and cares for many animals between chickens, ducks, and 3 dogs, and truly cares about the conditions for animals. Furriers seek for the better farmed conditions because it shows in the quality. I believe that maybe farms out there with small cages and are subjected to lesser conditions and I believe there should be standards set similar to what Tyson Foods was doing with chicken and the improvement that had to be made. Personally I believe that there are few to no furriers in NYC that are purchasing fur from farms with these conditions (which would exist in poorer countries in Asia) because to be a furrier in NYC you have to have the best quality fur and skins to compete in this market. To insure these concerns I believe there could be a seal of approval situation to insure proper practice is in place with conditions and humane killing, which would help both sides of this bill.

To the point of **using fur substitutes** I have many issues with as an environmentalist. Sitting and listening to people claiming to help save animals with plastic substitutes truly angered me. The skins used for fur clothing focuses on animals that are farmed in closed or limited properties. Hearing people stand and say how great plastic is, was a level of ignorance I've never come across. Farmed animals will have their skin sold to furriers and the rest of the animal used for animal product and in many cases animal food for cats (cats are the natural predator for the smaller rodent family animals) and other animals. Wild animals will have to face the true results of plastic especially the marine life (which as a free diver I have experienced first hand), which with the improvements made by the council we will be minimizing the plastic waste coming out of NYC. Assuming that you do approve of the greater use for plastic, Brand focused on fur cannot substitute the real for fake for their consumers. The more important aspect is that the men and women who work with the fur have no skills that can relate to other jobs and for those who don't speak English well or at all, they **cannot get another job**. This is the aspect

that people do not understand and that I saw Corey Johnson try to understand but was not convinced. The machines used and the skill set to attach the skins can not be transferred to a sewing machine for fabrics, the person trained to match the skin to another skin can not get a job to match fabric to fabric since it is either the same fabric or not, the person nailing the fur or stretching the fur can not relate those skills to any other job, and for people who don't speak much English and who's families rely sole on their mother, father, sibling, getting paid to do this job they will have absolutely nothing. This is what I found the council unable to grasp.

As a Finance graduate I naturally calculated the economic impact of this ban just for NYC using the numbers from the NYCEDC (from the US Census Bureau) and from the fur labor and company impact when adjusting for the 7,500 jobs associated in the NYC fur industry and that percentage out of the total tax revenue from the NYC fashion industry It will be a **loss of 81 million in revenue for the city**. This number I recall being similar to that of they economist that spoke in the hearing. In the wake of all the loss revenue and jobs from Amazon I would imagine NYC would not be looking to eliminate more jobs, cut 81 million from their revenue, and put out people with skill specific jobs that wont be able to get employed and the impact of their families that are always forgotten.

Dear council members,

I would like to inform you that, I've worked in the fur industry for 21 years, where I support me and my 16 year old son. If they ban fur in NYC me and many co-workers and other people will lose out on employment and jobs. I would say to you please support me and my son by not supporting the ban.

Thank you very much.

Lee Bell

Dear council,

I've heard from France you would ban fur from NYC.

Beyond over 7000 "future" unemployed people (I hope they'll not), I would like to give you my point of view about fur ban.

As you can see, I'm against the fur ban ! Majority of council members aren't vegan. So, can you explain how (and why) do you want to stop fur industry without hypocrisy? Hope you see what I mean. You CAN'T be for the animals protection if you're eating meat. Eat meat and ban fur is inconsistent.

Why do you stigmatised fur ? Less animals are killed compared to leather and meat !

You are for the ecological environment and against pollution? Stop real fur will increases faux fur production. So how faux fur is made? It's plastic! 2 years and you'll put it in the trash. Real fur coat can be used 10 years after production and it's biodegradable.

So do you really think about hidden face of fur ban? I don't think. Don't be manipulated by peta or other animals protecting associations.

Hope you've considered my message and you'll do necessary things to let fur industry in activity.

Cordially, Dorian.

Dorian Tolosa

Dear City Council Members

Yesterday, at the meeting, I realized and understood that one of the major concerns behind the ban was the safety and welfare of animals. I believe that the answer for furriers is to put together an effective plan with the city and state that is well regulated.

Clear guidelines regarding the welfare of animals in relation to the production of fur is a better way forward than an outright ban which would put thousands of hard working, law abiding citizens out of work.

New York has always been the fashion capital of the world. New York has been pivotal in leading the way with respect to what is and is not considered acceptable. This is an opportunity for New York to lead the way for the world with proper and effective regulation of Fur.

If people are allowed to smoke cigarettes and it is killing them, people are allowed to eat whatever they want to eat, like meat, people are allowed to drink alcohol, and why should people not be allowed to wear what they want to wear?

I think the world has a lot of problems. The world is so polarized. We are talking about killing animals when we ignore the fact that we have been killing each other. We need to find solutions to our problems and work together even if we are on opposing sides. New York needs to lead the way.

Please, do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Geters

Dear Council Members

I would like you to know that I have been working for the fur industry for 15 years. This job has helped me provide for my family, it has helped me pay my mortgage, and it has enabled me to send my children to good schools and have access to decent health insurance.

This job has helped me become independent and I would like to stay independent. If you take our jobs away what will our families do to survive? Have some compassion.

Sincerely,

Sunita Prem
W 29th St NY NY, 10001

Dear City Council Members:

My name is Jorge Beleno. I have been working in the Fur business for 40 years. It has sustained me through the years, providing food and shelter to my family and I don't know anything else to do. The fur business made me, I did not make the Fur business. It is all I have known for as long as I have lived.

I believe in freedom of choice; people should choose what they want to buy. We should leave it up to the people to decide what they want to purchase.

Thank you!

Jorge Moreno

To whom it may concern: This proposed ban is an infringement on the rights of Americans to wear and buy what they please. It's a violation of free trade and the rights of the individual and we the people are sick of having our rights trampled on by a tiny fanatical minority who want to take away everything from hamburgers to pets, to the right to trap the mice that invade your home. New York city and this country were founded on the free trade. Let's not forget what made us a great country, the freedom of the individual and free trade.

Sincerely,

Loren Stallsmith

To whom it may concern,

Hi my name is Jacob Roberge and my council member representative is Corey Johnson. As a student in fashion design at Parsons, the New School for Design, I have striven to find an in to an industry that can sometimes seem cold and unforgiving. Through my family lineage in fur trapping I centered my search in a niche market that I was familiar with. The fur industry gave a young student a job when others wouldn't. Through the fur industry I am able to support myself as a student in NYC. With crushing the fur industry, you are not only putting an end to generational businesses but you will also be putting an end to hopeful students. You are putting an end to an industry that gives back and provides for too many people. No fur ban!

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Jacob Roberge

There exists an inherent parallel between the fur trade with all of the symbols that define American freedom. American liberty from a tyrannical British imperial power has deep roots within the North American Fur Trade.

Starting as early as the 1500s, fur played a major role in the evolution and settlement of the colonies, especially the growth of the United States. The French in the 1500s would trade weapons and tools to the Native Americans for furs. In the 1600s, the English came to America to trade fur and established the Hudson Bay Company which was a reason that led to the French and Indian War.

At this point, The British had a foothold on the fur industry, and would collect large taxes from the colonists. The fur trade was one of the major sources of economic independence the colonists had from England. The competition and taxes within that trade, was one of the reasons which created a driving force that led our forefathers the vision to declare liberty from the British Empire.

As you can see, the fur trade has deep ties with American liberty. The proposed Fur ban is in direct conflict with all of the American values and liberties that we hold strongly and is dear to each and every citizen.

For the sake of free economic pursuit, liberty, and especially for the 150 local fur shops and 7000 employees that will lose their source of income for their families, I urge you to reconsider this ban.

Sincerely,

Ariel Gad

sources:

"The Fur Trade in Canada and America | Old Montana Prison Museums." Old Montana Prison Museums. <http://www.pcmf.org/wordpress/about/local-information/fur-trade/>.

"How Essential Was the French & Indian War to the American Revolution?" TheSocialStudies.org. <http://thesocialstudies.org/how-essential-was-the-french--indian-war-to-the-american-revolution.html>.

"The Economics of the American Revolutionary War." EHnet. <https://eh.net/encyclopedia/the-economics-of-the-american-revolutionary-war-2/>.

"The Economic History of the Fur Trade: 1670 to 1870." EHnet. <https://eh.net/encyclopedia/the-economic-history-of-the-fur-trade-1670-to-1870>.

Dear City Council

I strongly oppose introduction of the fur ban for number of reasons

1. It will destroy many jobs and peoples lives, if there was no demand for fur garments, all those bussiness would simply not exist. Please let people decide for themselves. The ones who dont like fur can simply not buy it, it should work both ways. Simple fairness springs to mind

2 Natural fur is... natural, not man made plastic substitute. Real one is renewable, durable, biodegradable and sustainable

3 City Council should not make decisions morality and force people to follow. City Council have a duty of care, care for citisens of New York, not destroying ther jobs.

4 Folding to small group of extremists calling themselves "animal lovers" is antidemocratic

5 We simply can not throw all animals into the same categy. Lets protect endangered species, farm the ones are to be farmed, keep our pets domesticated and controll the wild populations. Idealistic and utopian visions of animals having human rights are not progress.

6 Farmers are portrayed as enemies of animals, that is a simple manipulation and lie, same like most of materials used by anti fur protesters.

Those are only few of reasons against the proposed fur ban.

Kind Regards
Lucas Dlubek

Dear Council members,

I would like to request NO to the Fur Ban. I run a small business in Rochester NY and my fur and leather supplies come from New York City. This proposed ban will have a larger impact than just those working in the region.

Of course you are hearing about how some bad players in the industry are using abusive practices toward animals for their fur, but there are bad actors in every industry, including food production. The forced death of any animal can never be pleasantly viewed, so it begs a larger question that goes beyond this one debate - are humans allowed to use animals in the first place? Or, was our existence solely built with the intent of living off of plant life only? It's my opinion that we indeed were intended to use animal life, but as with anything, I think there are rational and respectful limits. I think the real debate can be around setting limits of what's considered abusive and weed out the people/businesses using poor processes and set laws / regulations, but the total outlaw is not the right answer for everyone. For example, I don't buy factory produced meats and poultry due to their poor living conditions, but am intent to seek out responsibly produced products. The same goes for the supplies I buy for my business.

The opponents believe using fur is outdated and a frivolous apparel choice. If this is true, the animal industries will die off on their own because people will stop buying and all will close down...therefore, no laws prohibiting needed. Supply and demand will end all use of animals naturally, if it's as obvious as they insist.

Lastly, it is clear that this debate is not just about fur products, it's a larger strategy to remove all use of animals for food, apparel, medical research, human comforts/enjoyment/therapy. This is just the beginning and I don't want others making my ethical choices, choosing my convictions of how I lead my life. This is a form of fascism and I stand against this forced allegiance to obey another person or groups convictions / beliefs. Let us ALL make are own choices.

Thank you for hearing my voice.

Respectfully,

Richard Amorese, Rochester NY

My name is Youjin Seo and my council member is Ben Kallos. I came here in 2007 as a college student and attended Parsons. After graduating it was really hard to find a job as a foreign student for a while, but my company gave me a chance and hired me as an assistant designer. They gave me an opportunity, trained me and sponsored me to be a good fur designer. This company made a fashion student who only had a dream into a well-trained, highly skilled fashion designer, specialized in fur.

Fur is a part of the fashion industry, like leather, fabric, embroidery or any other material which create beautiful clothes. Fur making is traditional garment craftsmanship and the art of fur work is beautiful and only highly skilled people can do it. It is truly couture work and needs a lot of respect like other crafts in the fashion industry.

I have so much respect for the people in this industry and so grateful that they gave me a chance. This company sponsored my Visa and green card. Without this company I wouldn't be able to stay in USA and have my dream come true to be a fashion designer.

But if this fur sales ban goes through, we will no longer have income, no manufacturing and no industry after all. My skills that I spent so much time and effort to be a good designer will go astray and I won't be able to design anymore because my skills are applicable only in fur design. After so many years of trying to make my dream come true, this has to stop because of the fur ban? I won't be able to have a job and won't be able to stay in USA. What do I do after all these years of spending time and effort here?

This is an email in opposition to the Fur Ban.
I feel this is a PERSONAL right, and has nothing to do with city business.
If you don't like fur apparel, you don't have to wear or buy it. It is not required by law to wear, and should not be restrictive to anyone who wants too.

I wonder what will be next...leather, linen, polyester? And what about pork or chicken. What give the council the right to regulate our personal decisions?

Not only is wearing fur a personal decision, this ban will cost multiple jobs, livelihoods, and additional empty and closed store fronts.

And one final note, do any of the council members have leather belts, purses, jackets, pearls, or any other product that comes any living creature? Think about it. And if you do you're a hypocrite!

-Miles Steenbergen

To the City Council,

I strongly object to this proposal. It is not only economically reckless, it infringes on my rights of personal choice.

You are discarding thousands of able bodied New Yorkers of there livelihood, from manufacturers to wholesale and retail salespeople.

With no apparent plan to retrain or replace there employment.

I have spent my life fighting for liberal causes as a Democrat, and a New Yorker of more than 30 years.

This proposal has the same weight of personal freedom as a woman's right to choose.

What's next? Leather, down, beef, chicken???? What about the poor cotton plant??

THESE ARE SPARKS OF LIVING IN A POLICED STATE.

You are proposing that you come into my closet and make my personal choices of what I can purchase and ultimately what I wear, and when. When last I looked my address was in the USA not Russia!

This is a obvious cave to PETA and and a political stunt for PR.

PLEASE STOP AND CONSIDER VERY CAREFULLY THE RAMIFICATIONS OF WHAT YOU ARE PROPOSING!

Timothy Lloyd Pope
TLP Consulting
515 Madison Ave
New York, NY
10022

Statement of Nina Cheng
Before New York City Council Committee on Consumer Affairs & Business
Licensing
May 15, 2019

Position: Against Intro. 1476

Fur is an industry with extremely large scope, and banning the sale of fur and shearling would have wide-sweeping consequences—it would significantly impact and possibly destroy the businesses and livelihoods of thousands of furriers and designers working in New York City. Notably, this ban would disproportionately affect minority-owned small businesses in New York, especially women and LGBTQ men, who comprise an overwhelming majority of New York’s vibrant community of fashion designers. However, I urge City Council to consider not just the affect this ban would have on your constituents, but also to the livelihoods of many communities all across America, particularly Indigenous peoples, who rely on New York-based fur sales for their income. This includes the Yup’ik Eskimos in Alaska, a small, impoverished community of Alaska Natives living along the Yukon River Delta, from whom I directly source beaver furs.

The Yup’ik Eskimos still lead a traditional Aboriginal lifestyle, hunting and fishing for subsistence and getting around via sled dogs. Their sole sources of income are salmon fishing and fur-selling, with fur sales being the Natives’ only source of income during the winters. The sterling reputation of their two natural resources is buoying the fragile economies of these tiny Delta villages, which are among Alaska’s poorest communities. Strikingly high fuel costs and disastrously low fish counts in recent decades have pushed the mostly Indigenous region deep into poverty. The passing of this bill, which would likely cause a domino effect and spread across other major cities in America and beyond, would have a devastating impact on this small community of Alaska Natives people, who are trying to build an economy and retain their traditional Aboriginal lifestyle with the limited resources they have.

When I was first launching my company, I took the opportunity to attend a lecture by Peter Singer, the prominent ethical philosopher best-known for his book *Animal Liberation* and his advocacy for animal rights. In a public Q&A, I asked him about his thoughts on the fur industry and the vehement criticism it elicits. His response surprised me—he said that he wasn’t concerned about fur, as the industry paled in comparison to the size and scope of the meat industry, and urged that those

concerned with the welfare of animals to focus instead on reducing the intake of meat consumption to make the greatest difference.

Most people participate in the use of animal-derived products, and just as eating meat is an individual choice that is not regulated by the City, buying fur or shearling should be an individual's choice. If the proposers of this bill were concerned for the welfare of animals as well as the livelihoods of their constituents, the correct action to take is not to first ban the sale of fur, already the most tightly-regulated and humane of all animal industries, but to take measures to encourage the sale of ethically and sustainably-sourced fur. Millions of people around the world appreciate fur not only for its beauty and warmth, but for its environmental sustainability and remarkable longevity that allow garments to be passed down from generation to generation. Furthermore, they also recognize that synthetic clothing is the antithesis of responsible environmental conservation—faux fur (and other synthetic apparel) is non-renewable, made from petrochemicals, takes over 1000 years to biodegrade, and is harmful to wildlife. A city that voted to ban plastic bags and plastic straws cannot in good conscience also ban fur, effectively pushing citizens to buy synthetic, plastics-based outerwear.

I urge City Council to consider measures that prioritize both animal welfare, the environment, and the thousands of people and jobs that would be affected by this ban both in New York and beyond—and to vote against the proposed fur ban.

Nina Cheng | WILD AND WOOLLY
Founder & Creative Director
nina@wildandwoollyNY.com

May 15, 2019

I am currently a resident and employer in DISTRICT 3. I donated to Corey Johnson's City Council bid in 2017. My support stopped after reading about this bill in early 2019.

As a Native New Yorker growing up in DISTRICT 27 (Queens Village) since the age of 3 years I have seen how this city has evolved for the better. However this bill which intends to prohibit the use of shearling, fur and hair on calf is anti-immigrant, anti-women and anti-minority as migrants, women and minorities represent the majority of people working in the fashion manufacturing in NY. The potential loss of these skilled jobs will have a tremendous impact on peoples lives. I see this as a first salvo in taking away a child's ability to dream - exactly what my parents gave their children when they immigrated to New York from a dictatorship in Haiti in the late 1970's.

This bill is also anti-entrepreneurial as it will put at risk a lot of small and medium sized companies.

Today as a young independent business owner in the fashion industry, selling to Saks, Bergdorf Goodman, Nordstrom and Neiman Marcus **locally** this bill will have an immediate impact on my bottom line. I also fear what the passing of such a restrictive bill might foreshadow regarding other natural materials the fashion industry works with: wool, cashmere or even cotton?

DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

Victor Glemaud
W 34th Street
NY, NY 10001

Councilman

My name is Larry Marchfeld. I have worked in the fur industry for over 30 years. I presently work for Reich Furs a family run business who employees over 10 workers. Through the 30 years of employment in the fur industry I have established myself as a professional and a businessman. I have been able to help put my 2 children through school and also help them pay their student loans as well as give them financial support. My dad passed away roughly 3 years ago and I am lucky enough to still have my mother who is 82. I help support her so she can continue to live a enjoyable life. If this fur ban goes into effect my livelihood will be in jeopardy. I will no longer be able to help pay my children's student loans which will then put them in a hardship situation. I will not be able to help support my 82 year old mother who depends on my financial assistance. I will not be able to pay my own mortgage, I will not be able to afford health care and at 61 years old I will be forced to seek employment. The many employees that work in the company that I am employed for will also lose there jobs and will not be able to pay there bills. Everyday these workers walk around our office with fear and uncertainty in their faces of what may happen to them if this ban goes into effect. Please vote No on this fur ban and save our workforce, our industry, our livelihoods and most importantly our families.

Best Regards

Larry Marchfeld

Councilman

>

> To let you know, my family entered the fur business immediately after my father returned from world war two. We continue today with the fourth generation of our family in this business.

>

> We are a proud and hard working industry and our business is one of the first ones in the history of the United States. NYC , once the proud fashion and fur center of the world. All of the people in the Fur business follow proper animal husbandry and care of animals. The industry has very strict guidelines and certification that has been followed for many years.

>

> Sir; We believe in freedom of choice.

>

> It is beyond my understanding and comprehension that you would try to remove an entire industry and over 7500 jobs from wonderful people that really do not know any other work.

> And where will you go next, meat, fowl, leather etc.

>

> We ask you to concentrate on human issues :

> Homeless people living on our streets

> Hunger

> Mental health (current program a disaster) Public housing is full of

> mold and lead pain and no heat.

> Public transportation

> Education system is terrible

> Etc etc

>

> Please rescind this unfair bill

>

>

> Richard Reich, retired

> ER Fur Trading corp.

My name is Samantha Ortiz and I am a resident of Astoria queens and live in Costa Constantinedes district. I am President of my family's fur business, which has been around for 4 generations. The business started in the 1950's after my great grandfather and family fled Poland and came to the US for freedom. After fighting for our country in WW2 my great grandfather returned home to NYC to start his own fur trading company in the garment district, one that continues to operate today. This legal, highly regulated and sustainable, tax paying NYC operated business has supported our family for generations, and today – in 2019 I stand here fighting for the freedom to continue operating in NYC on behalf of my family, our employees and myself. A ban on fur sales in NYC would be detrimental not only to the 150 small businesses– but would additionally effect the NYC economy with the loss of over 7,500 jobs and over 76 million dollars in tax income in the first year alone. Our employees would be out of jobs, irreplaceable niche jobs that they have a lifetime of experience in. Jobs that cannot be simply replaced by moving to another textile factory. These are proudly skilled artisans in the craft of fur and shearling and they cannot turn around and sew a silk dress or something of similar nature. To suggest so without fully understanding construction is ridiculous. This proposed ban would eradicate an entire industry. It would cause manufacturing to be obsolete here. Proposed bills like this are the attacks that destroy jobs and small business. The kind of attacks that destroy lives of taxpaying NY residents and wipe out a consumers right to choose what they can and cannot purchase. This is a slippery slope, first it's fur , shearling - then it's leather, wool, silk, eggs and meat. Let's not kid ourselves. Government needs to regulate our streets, not our closets and rights to consumer choices. My own family relies on my income to survive, without my income we are finished. This bill would force my family and I out of NYC. The job loss would be devastating, I would lose my home. My family would have no where to go. Our employees who have relied on us would be on the street with no hope and no jobs to turn too. The emotional loss of our family heritage would be equally devastating.

As a resident of NYC, I see firsthand the issues that need your attention. I have called NYC my home for over a decade, and over the past few years the rise in homelessness , failing infrastructure and rodents infestations is appalling. Our city should be focusing on fixing these issues , fighting for the people they represent – not against us. Fight for the humans living on the street in filth, fight for the children and adults involved in school and street shootings each week that we have become so numb too. We need you to tackle gun violence, the rising cost of living, the crumbling public housing system, unemployment, pollution and the list goes on. I urge you to attack these issues head on, not to attack our tax paying small businesses and livelihood.

Thank you
Samantha Ortiz

President
Reich Furs

My name is Theo Piper and I'm 70 years old I wanted to come and testify but I wasn't allowed all my life since I came over to this country I'm a furrier I have learn everything about the fur business I have faced all kind of problems but in my life I had never thought that all my friends that they going to loose there jobs and a lot more thank you for your consideration..!!



BANTAM LEATHER ATELIER
270 WEST 39TH STREET, STE 200
NEW YORK, NY 10018

5/15/19

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a small business owner in New York City's garment district involved in the fur and leather industry. I am writing this letter to fully oppose the enactment of a fur ban in New York City.

Imposing a fur ban would have a major negative effect on the operation of my business and many others like it in the city, ultimately leading to many businesses closing down which in turn would force widespread layoffs of employees. Many of my employees, who have worked for decades with my company, are no longer at a suitable age to be trained nor do they have the desire or ability to find other forms of employment. My employees rely on working with my company in order to provide a living for their families and the needs of their children.

If the fur ban is imposed I will be forced to close my business leading to all of my employees losing their jobs. This would greatly impact their opportunities to support their families and provide them undue hardship. Furthermore, this issue is not exclusive to only my business as many other companies in the clothing industry will follow suit if the fur ban is imposed.

The negative impacts of the fur ban would have far reaching consequences on the lives of many people and would instantly turn their lives upside down and affect their financial stability and decisions about their families future. For these reasons I respectfully request that the fur ban be reconsidered.

Sincerely,

Janos Papai
Owner
212-594-1211
bantamleatheratelier@gmail.com

Hi. My family and I live and work in NYC (usa raw skin trading corp. 6054 little neck pkw. Little neck NY 11362). This proposed fur ban is a terrible thing for the people in this industry. My son and his family are able to live in NY because of the fur business. In the past 35 years my business has provided work for at least 13 families. New York will lose 78 million dollars in revenue the first year alone. This is a witch hunt against law abiding productive citizens. Anyone who sponsors this bill should be ashamed of themselves. Last off all these families and their relatives I am sure will not support re election of anyone who supports this fur ban.

George Kletsidis

Hello

This is absolutely absurd!

You should be ashamed of yourself letting PETA (whom by the way are complete hypocrites) rule a decision for the rest of us. And even if this is your feeling, it's your right to have an opinion however not your right to decide on mine or anyone else's. Wouldn't you agree whit that?

Be smart, don't make the wrong decision which will haunt you for the rest of your life. Be the better person and allow people freedom of choice.

Thank you for reading this and being a true leader for peoples freedom of choice and for supporting our native land and culture.

Nella Frank

Speaker Johnson,

Although I do not work in the fur industry I am writing to oppose the proposed fur ban, Intro. 1476, for the following reasons:

1. The destruction of small businesses, jobs and revenues for NYC. Total chaos you will cause these citizens.
2. After what happened to Amazon, the message it sends: "Don't come to NYC to do business, because if you don't do what we say we'll make your life hell."
3. You will not stop the fur trade with this legislation. You will simply drive it to other states and/or other countries, like China. They'll be happy to have the business.
4. Sustainability: Fur lasts for decades. I have personally inherited a fur coat from my grandmother that I was able to have remodeled into a jacket. Fake fur is made from petrochemicals, and in time is discarded causing more harm to the environment. I've bought in Vintage shops lovely old coats trimmed with fur that's still in excellent condition. Fur is not wasted. It's warm and lasts.
5. Fur today is regulated and similar to farming. The animals are raised for a purpose, in the same way we raise cattle for meat and fish farm, but instead its minks, sheep, rabbits, etc. No one is shooting leopards, a wild animal that was going extinct; that stopped ages ago.

6. Fur is the best material for walking the cold streets of NYC during the winter. Are you planning to stop down coats from being sold too, since that requires geese to be killed?

I can't imagine what the Council is thinking with this legislation. You claim to be "progressive" and progressives always want the government to do more to help people and redistribute income, yet the policy suggestions are destructive and destroy businesses and revenues.

How do you intend to pay for your policies when you continue to drive business out of New York City, appealing to a minority of loud citizens instead of the general common-sense public.

--Ellen Sandles
New York City Voter

To whom it may concern,

My family doing fur business More than 20yrs based in NYC, and sell to whole country. If ban fur sell, lots of people will have no jobs and no income, please think about other people, not only the people who loves animal, they're not depend on on fur industry!

Thanks

CHRYSALIDS xingzhang1@qq.com

Dear NYC Council Members,

I am not a citizen of New York, but I am a Canadian furrier and I am writing to express my concern about a proposal to ban the sale of fur products in NYC. New York is an important market for many Canadian fur companies and the proposed ban would seriously harm our businesses and the jobs and livelihoods of our employees and others who work with us. Many of us came to this country to escape arbitrary discrimination and persecution; we saw North America – and especially the United States -- as a defender of liberty. We do not understand how your government can consider imposing an arbitrary ban of this kind.

Following are some **reasons why banning fur sales in New York is a very bad idea:**

These proposals to ban fur sales are a flagrant example of arbitrary government infringement on fundamental human rights. No one is forced to wear fur, and animal activists are free to campaign against the fur trade, but this does not give them the right to impose their personal beliefs on others. After decades of anti-fur campaigning, many people still clearly want to buy fur. The activist response is to seek legislation to take away our right to choose for ourselves. This should have alarm bells ringing on all sides of the political spectrum!

It is illogical and discriminatory to consider banning fur sales when 95% of Americans eat meat and wear leather. Of course, PETA and other “animal rights” groups that are lobbying to ban fur sales are equally opposed to *any* use of animals, even for food. But most North Americans do not accept this extreme view; most of us believe that humans *do* have a right to use animals for food, clothing and other purposes, so long as these animals are treated responsibly. There is no justification for banning fur sales while hundreds of millions of cows, pigs and sheep, and several billion chickens, are killed each year for food in North America. Even philosopher Peter Singer stated in his landmark *Animal Liberation* – the book that launched the animal-rights movement – that it is completely hypocritical to campaign against the fur trade while most Americans continue to eat meat, eggs, fish and dairy.

As a society we do, of course, sometimes restrict personal choice, but only for very important reasons. To ensure that animals will be there for us in the future, for example, we ban trade in endangered species. But endangered species are never used in the fur trade; all the furs we use today are raised on farms or culled from abundant wildlife populations. This is assured by state, national and international regulations. Animal welfare must also be respected — and decades of scientific research and government regulations ensure that fur today is produced responsibly and humanely. Trapping in North America is regulated by state (in Canada, provincial) wildlife authorities, in accordance with ISO standards and the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards. Fur farms are being inspected and certified to ensure compliance with codes of practice developed by veterinarians and animal scientists. There is simply no credible evidence that fur animals are treated less respectfully than other animals we use for food or clothing.

Wildlife populations often must be culled to protect property and human (and animal) health, whether or not we use their fur. Overpopulated beavers flood homes, farms and roads; raccoons and foxes spread rabies and other diseases; coyotes are the main predators of lambs and

calves – and now attack pets and even people in urban areas; predators must also be managed to protect sea turtle eggs and other endangered species; and the list goes on. But if we must cull some of these animals, surely it's more ethical to use the fur than to throw it away.

Why is it ok to raise rabbits for food but not to use the pelt for a fur garment? Why is it ok to raise sheep for wool and food and not use their pelts for shoes and fur coats and shearlings? Why is it ok for us to buy chicken in a cellophane wrapper at the grocery store, but wrong for native Canadian trappers to hunt beaver and muskrat for a food and income....should they throw the fur away? What happens to all the male baby chicks in hatcheries for laying hens? Will you stop the sale of chicken and eggs too? Dogs eat meat and cats eat birds; should pets be banned (as PETA proposes)? Will you stop all hunting and fishing?

Again: no one is obliged to wear fur, but that doesn't give government the right to impose this choice on the rest of us – especially because the fur trade is responsible and well-regulated. In fact, the modern fur trade is an excellent example of the sustainable use of nature, as promoted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Please do your research and listen to veterinarians and wildlife biologists, not animal activists. And please respect our rights to make our own decisions about what we will wear!

For further information about the modern fur trade, we invite you to consult TruthAboutFur.com.

Sincerely,

Pavlos Flikas
Starlight Furs
9090 Ave Du Parc #100
Montreal, Qc H2N1Y8
514-843-7591tel
info@starlightfurs.com

I was born and raised in Woodhaven, met my husband and we lived in Astoria. He worked in the fur district in the 1980's along with tens of thousands of other New Yorkers, making a decent living in the fur industry. As a result of short-sighted government policies at that time, the fur industry was decimated as jobs were lost to lower paid workers in China. Many of our friends lost their livelihood, their homes, while the lucky ones started over in their 30's as janitors, custodians, deli-workers, taxi drivers, etc. We had to move out of state for better opportunities. I miss New York every day.

Now there is a new threat to the thousand or so of those that persevered and rebuilt, mostly as retail stores, importers and specialty stores providing small scale trade for restyling, repairs and custom work.

I don't understand the economic elitism that allows the government to support the "anti-fur" group. Why is the same pressure not applied to the leather industry, where at least 10x the number of animals is involved?

And why is it necessary for the government to put the remaining thousand or so of decent, hard-working tax-paying citizens out of business to support the few who don't like fur? Let them protest with their pocketbook...you don't approve, don't buy furs, leather or suede!

Or look deeper into the issues facing the world today - cotton production and the groundwater pollution associated with that industry. Or the petroleum based alternatives (faux fur and nylon products) that are not biodegradable and are perhaps even carcinogenic.

Smoking kills people...but the government doesn't stop companies/people from producing or selling tobacco products!

This is not right. This is not how the government in a Democratic country operates. If you don't like or want fur, don't buy it. And don't be hypocritical, by penalizing a small luxury segment of the market using animal products.

Carol Demetrios
cdemet58@gmail.com

The idea of prohibiting the sale of fur clothing is very totalitarian. It is not up to the City Council to tell people what they can or cannot wear unless indecent. This idea is not a broadly majority supported initiative. And next free speech will be controlled by a few people, and there goes democracy. You shouldn't overstep your roles. Find something important to do. Fix the schools, the traffic, the poverty, the crowded streets and subways and buses as much as it is in your control. This is foolish nonsense. I do not support a fur ban and will watch the voting on it.

Marilyn Boddewyn

Dear Councilmember Van Bramer:

We are a constituent business with a fur manufacturing factory in your district at 36-20 34TH STREET, LONG ISLAND CITY, and 3 retail stores in New York City. **We currently employ over 90 New York City residents.** I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council and to tell your colleagues at the Committee of Consumer Affairs to not vote for the ban.

In addition to these fur retail stores, we are also one of the remaining large fashion manufacturers in New York City. Our annual sales are approximately \$25 million dollars in taxable revenue. Our logo clearly and proudly states “Handmade in New York City”. In addition, we also subcontract to other ready-to-wear fur manufacturers in the Fur District/Garment District of NYC, where there are over 100 fur manufacturers in the District. Our fur business accounts for the vast majority of our income.

We moved to Long Island City, your district, in 2007 and funded our current production facility with financing provided by the NYCEDC (Industrial Development Group). The financing was provided because we improved the economic and employment conditions in the area. **Our number of employees has doubled over the last 12 years.** In 2015, Build NYC Resource Corporation re-financed our building with over \$7 million of Revenue Refunding Bonds. A substantial portion of the proceeds were used to improve our building and provide additional resources specific for the fur business.

If you and the New York City Council bans fur, it will have a catastrophic impact on our operations and destroy the lives of 90 workers and their families.

- We will be forced to close our factory in your district in Long Island City.
- We will be forced close our 3 retail stores.
- All of our employees will be let go without severance pay and benefits including medical insurance which we provide to our employees at no cost to them.
- We will go into default on \$8 million in obligations on the NYC Revenue Refunding Bonds.
- All costs associated with our store leases of over \$3 million will be lost; we will default on our working capital debt of about \$6 million; and our inventory supply contracts will be abandoned that will result in a mire of law suits.

- We will default on our multiyear Madison Avenue lease which will result in a huge liability.

Our 90 employees, with families who are dependent on them, will lose their livelihoods if you vote for the ban. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost manufacturing jobs, even as the City Council has committed to preserve garment manufacturing.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and you are in charge of protecting me, my family, the 90 workers and their families as your constituent. You have been on record in fighting for small businesses (introducing 0737-2018; 0737-2018 – the Small Business Jobs Survival Act”) If this ban passes, and we will lose our jobs. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Should you have any questions, I invite you to inspect and meet with me at one of the retail stores in your district to learn more about our business operations, and the families it supports in your district and across New York City.

Thank you,
JOHN GEORGIADES, PRESIDENT & CEO
36-20 34TH STREET,
LONG ISLAND CITY NY 11106

Dear Councilmember Keith Powers:

We are a constituent business with 3 fur retail stores in your district, and also a fur manufacturing factory in Long Island City. **We currently employ over 90 New York City residents.** Our fur retail stores in your district are J. Mendel and Dennis Basso – we own both companies, and have leased fur department at Bergdorf Goodman. Their addresses are 787 Madison Avenue and 825 Madison Avenue respectively. I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council if it is put up for a vote at the Committee of Consumer Affairs and to tell your fellow Committee members to also vote no.

In addition to these 3 fur retail stores in your district, we are also one of the remaining fashion manufacturers in New York City. We received NYCEDC financing to improve employment conditions, and we doubled our employees in 12 years. Our annual sales are approximately \$30 million dollars in taxable revenue. Our logo clearly and proudly states “Handmade in New York City”. In addition, we also subcontract to other ready to wear garment manufacturers in the Garment District of NYC. Our fur business accounts for the vast majority of our income. If you and the New York City Council bans fur, it will have a catastrophic impact on our operations and destroy the lives of workers and their families.

- We will be forced close our 3 retail stores in YOUR district and let go our employees there.
- We will be forced to close our factory in Long Island City.
- All of our employees will be let go without severance pay and benefits including medical insurance which we provide to our employees at no cost to them.
- We will go into default on \$8 million in obligations on the NYC Revenue Refunding Bonds.
- All costs associated with our store leases of over \$3 million will be lost; we will default on our working capital debt of about \$6 million; and our inventory supply contracts will be abandoned that will result in a mire of law suits.
- We will default on our multiyear Madison Avenue lease which will result in a huge liability.

Our 90 employees, with families who are dependent on them, will lose their livelihoods if you vote for the ban. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost manufacturing jobs, even as the City Council has committed to preserve garment manufacturing.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and you are in charge of protecting me, my family, the 90 workers and their families as your constituent. If this ban passes, and we will lose our jobs. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Should you have any questions, I invite you to inspect and meet with me at one of the retail stores in your district to learn more about our business operations, and the families it supports in your district and across New York City.

Thank you,
JOHN GEORGIADES, PRESIDENT & CEO.
STALLION INC.
36-20 34TH STREET
LONG ISLAND CITY NY 11106

Attn; Speaker Johnson and Council members

Addressing our concern on the proposed fur ban and in particular to sheepskins.

These proposals to ban sheepskins and fur sales are a flagrant example of arbitrary government infringement on fundamental human rights. No one is forced to wear sheepskin or fur ,peta has the right to campaign against fur but that does NOT give them the right to impose their personal beliefs on others

In particular, when you talk about Fur ban you do not make a distinction of sheepskin, leather wool or fur. You do not acknowledge that these are products of the meat industry.

There must be a clear distinction made. Sheepskins are by product of the meat industry. If sheepskin is banned you are effecting farmers including dairy operations in NY and wasting resource. A resource that is wasted that is NOT synthetic by product has value. However, Synthetic micro fibers are hurting the environment, which peta is a proponent of, real wool and leather is biodegradable, these materials should not be thrown away.

If you really want to ban sheepskin than you must also state that you want to have all meat and leather shoes ban immediately, between hair on a sheep or cowhide and a leather wallet or leather belts or sheepskin slippers, sheepskin for bed sore patience, leather car seats , furniture, paint rollers, buffers etc

Also consider the loss of 1100 furjobs in NY alone with a \$ 75 million loss in revenue , many workers of middle and older age, who can not begin new carries would be out of work , what about the tax income that NY would loose from firms and individuals

The proposal statue , at the very least, should be amended to make a very clear distinction between animal products that are a BYPRODUCT of the meat industry and those that are not. If you do not want to make a clear distinction, then you must ban hot dogs, hamburgers, and see how that plays with the Mets or Yankees or all other sports. EVEN THE NY STATE proposal excludes these. A ban of sheepskins and furs will have negative affects throughout USA. My business for the past 70 years has employed workers from NYC , we and they have made a living. It is difficult that in America / New York a legitimate business can be put out of business because you listen to Peta who serve no benefit to anyone other than their own interest.

We and you are very proud of New York and don't want any political or special interest groups to dictate you or threaten you if you don't vote their agenda.

We are hopeful that you feel the same as we do and turn down this unfair proposal.

Thank you in advance

Rudolf Treitel

N.Treitel & Co.,Inc.
213 West 35th Street Suede 902
New York,NY 10001
Tel; 212 736 6138
fax; 212 465 1981

Dear Mr. Speaker Johnson

I wish to register our / my concern regarding the upcoming May 15th meeting to propose a ban on sheepskins, furs etc.

These proposals to ban fur sales are a flagrant example of arbitrary government infringement on fundamental human rights. No one is forced to wear fur, and animal activists are free to campaign against the fur trade, but this does not give them the right to impose their personal beliefs on others. After decades of anti-fur campaigning, many people still clearly want to buy fur. The activist response is to seek legislation that would take away our right to choose for ourselves. This should have alarm bells ringing on all sides of the political spectrum!

It is illogical and discriminatory to consider banning fur sales when 95% of Americans eat meat and wear leather. Of course, PETA and other “animal rights” groups that are lobbying to ban fur sales are equally opposed to *any* use of animals, even for food. But most North Americans do not accept this extreme view; most of us believe that humans *do* have a right to use animals for food, clothing and other purposes, so long as these animals are treated responsibly. There is no justification for banning fur sales while hundreds of millions of cows, pigs and sheep, and several billion chickens, are killed each year for food in North America. Even philosopher Peter Singer stated in his landmark [*Animal Liberation*](#) – the book that launched the animal-rights movement – that it is completely hypocritical to campaign against the fur trade while most Americans continue to eat meat, eggs, fish and dairy. You might see tht all these peta proponents wear leather shoes,leather belts, leather pocket booke etc..

As a society we do, of course, sometimes restrict personal choice, but only for very important reasons. To ensure that animals will be there for us in the future, for example, we ban trade in endangered species. But endangered species are never used in the fur trade; all the furs we use today are raised on farms or culled from abundant wildlife populations. This is assured by state, national and international regulations. Animal welfare must also be respected — and decades of scientific research and government regulations ensure that fur today is produced responsibly and humanely. Trapping in North America is regulated by state (in Canada, provincial) wildlife authorities, in accordance with ISO standards and the [*Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards*](#). Fur farms are being inspected and certified to ensure compliance with codes of practice developed by

veterinarians and animal scientists. There is simply no credible evidence that fur animals are treated less respectfully than other animals we use for food or clothing.

Wildlife populations often must be culled to protect property and human (and animal) health, whether or not we use their fur. Overpopulated beavers flood homes, farms and roads; raccoons and foxes spread rabies and other diseases; coyotes are the main predators of lambs and calves – and now attack pets and even people in urban areas; predators must also be managed to protect sea turtle eggs and other endangered species; and the list goes on. But if we must cull some of these animals, surely it's more ethical to use the fur than to throw it away.

Thank you in advance for your understanding

Sincerely

Rudolf Treitel

N.Treitel & Co.,Inc.
213 West 35th Street Suite 902
New York,NY 10001
Tel; 212 736 6138
fax; 212 465 1981

Dear NYC Council Members,

I am not a citizen of NY City currently, however I lived in New York when I was getting my MBA from Columbia University and we were starting our outerwear business. For 10 years we had showrooms on Seventh Avenue and paid New York taxes. Over the last 22 years, we have been attending as an exhibitor to multiple tradeshow at the Javits Center, staying in New York hotels, dining with customers in New York restaurants and contributing to New York economy consistently.

In 1993 when we arrived to US from Turkey as students to get our masters degrees at Columbia University, USA was a symbol of freedom and hope with her admired constitution and protections it provided to her citizens. We started our business out of our dorm rooms with no capital at hand, built our company with the promise of a better future and became successful in providing jobs and economic activity to New York and New Jersey over last two decades.

As a US citizen and a small business owner having survived the Dot com crash, September 11 terror attacks and 2008 economical Armageddon, we were hopeful to look at a more stable future, reminiscent of the hope and promise we felt 25 years ago. We never thought for a second that similar to the country we came from, we would face similar government imposed unfair and undemocratic actions. This is a dangerous overreach by elected officials and being done without proper due diligence and inclusion of all voices of the society. Having lived and experienced in undemocratic systems in their self-rationalizing ways, I see a similar pattern and lack of appreciation for what is at stake. If government officials sees themselves as the decider of what people should do not do, wear not wear, eat not eat, read not read the democratic system starts to weaken at its core.

Please don't reach to important decisions before looking at the issue from multiple points of view. Following are some **Reasons why banning fur sales in NYC / State is a very bad idea for America.**

These proposals to ban fur sales are a flagrant example of arbitrary government infringement on fundamental human rights. No one is forced to wear fur, and animal activists are free to campaign against the fur trade, but this does not give them the right to impose their personal beliefs on others. After decades of anti-fur campaigning, many people still clearly want to buy fur. The activist response is to seek legislation that would take away our right to choose for ourselves. This should have alarm bells ringing on all sides of the political spectrum!

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For further information please reference The [Truth About Fur](#) online.

Sincerely,

Sinem and Emre Oksan
Oxan Inc.
1465 Route 23 S, #174
Wayne, NJ 07470
Tel: 973-633-0300
Fax: 973-633-3911

Honorable Council Members, Committee on Consumer Affairs & Business Licensing,

I am writing about the proposed ban on the selling of fur within the 5 Boros of NYC & the toll it would take on the hard working taxpayers who own and work in this industry. I find it deplorable that we are looking to chase business out of NYC and into other states. We as citizens are getting taxed high enough and now you want to send these businesses packing to cater to a small fringe element of society. How will this stop people from wearing fur to begin with?

These measures will hurt people like my Uncle, who came to America and worked hard pouring his money into his business so it could succeed. He employs many people, pays taxes and was able to purchase a home and send his kids to college. All of that leads to revenue for NYC. Your proposed legislation would seriously hurt his family as well as the thousands working in the fur industry in NYC.

There is no reasoning as to why we should ban the sale of fur. There is no health risk to the people using the product or those exposed. Caving in to these extremist groups will have them clamoring for more bans on other animal products such as meat. They have even gone as far as claiming pet ownership is unethical. Are these the extremist you want to back? Enough is enough, the members elected where elected to represent us and not be a nanny to us. You're main function is to preserve the rights of the individual. Do the right thing and vote this farce of a bill down.

Sincerely
Peter Asimakopoulos
43rd St
Astoria NY 11103

Inge Ivchenko
W. 23rd St.
New York, NY 10011

Dear Speaker Johnson-

I was, to say the least, disappointed in your decision to introduce legislation to ban the buying and selling of fur in New York City. Truth be told, I am furious with this decision. Your legislation would kill jobs in the fashion industry, intrude upon an individual's right to choose, and in a broad sense, represents a clear case of government overreach into the lives of everyday people—as if government knows best. What's next, we can't wear leather shoes? Perhaps, we should all be vegan.

New York is arguably the fashion capital of the world. There are over 12,000 jobs at stake in the fur industry alone, not to mention the thousands of jobs at fashion companies that have fur in their winter lines every year. This would have a devastating impact directly on the fashion industry, and represents the government over-regulating free markets, and trying to kill off a segment of the industry that it believes is inhumane.

People have been wearing fur in the winter to keep warm since the beginning of time. The human race needed furs and hides of animals for all types of garments in order to survive. After thousands of years, the government now has the answer. People must wear what they are told is in line with progressive values. It seems this is the beginning of a broader agenda. Is fur the beginning, and next is leather, then wool, then all animal products, period. Where does it end? If individuals are against these products, it is their right to abstain from using them, and even try to persuade others that their point of view is the correct one—that using fur products is a wanton choice on the part of a modern consumer. But, once the genie is out of the bottle, it will set

precedent for the government to pick and choose winners and losers in any industry. That is unconscionable and unconstitutional, pure government overreach.

Human beings are faced with all sorts of moral decisions in their lives, and this is one that they have faced since prehistoric times. I have faith in the human race, that it can settle this matter without government intrusion, but with vigorous debate, and possible compromises that might lead to the goal your legislation strives for. However, the world does not need the government telling citizens what they may buy or not buy when going to a store on Main Street.

Yours truly,

Inge Ivchenko

Reasons why banning fur sales is a very bad idea.

These proposals to ban fur sales are a flagrant example of arbitrary government infringement on fundamental human rights. No one is forced to wear fur, and animal activists are free to campaign against the fur trade, but this does not give them the right to impose their personal beliefs on others. After decades of anti-fur campaigning, many people still clearly want to buy fur. The activist response is to seek legislation that would take away our right to choose for ourselves. This should have alarm bells ringing on all sides of the political spectrum!

It is illogical and discriminatory to consider banning fur sales when 95% of Americans eat meat and wear leather. Of course, PETA and other “animal rights” groups that are lobbying to ban fur sales are equally opposed to *any* use of animals, even for food. But most North Americans do not accept this extreme view; most of us believe that humans *do* have a right to use animals for food, clothing and other purposes, so long as these animals are treated responsibly. There is no justification for banning fur sales while hundreds of millions of cows, pigs and sheep, and several billion chickens, are killed each year for food in North America. Even philosopher Peter Singer stated in his landmark [*Animal Liberation*](#) – the book that launched the animal-rights movement – that it is completely hypocritical to campaign against the fur trade while most Americans continue to eat meat, eggs, fish and dairy.

As a society we do, of course, sometimes restrict personal choice, but only for very important reasons. To ensure that animals will be there for us in the future, for example, we ban trade in endangered species. But endangered species are never used in the fur trade; all the furs we use today are raised on farms or culled from abundant wildlife populations. This is assured by state, national and international regulations. Animal welfare must also be respected — and decades of scientific research and government regulations ensure that fur today is produced responsibly and humanely. Trapping in North America is regulated by state (in Canada, provincial) wildlife authorities, in accordance with ISO standards and the [Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards](#). Fur farms are being inspected and certified to ensure compliance with codes of practice developed by veterinarians and animal scientists. There is simply no credible evidence that fur animals are treated less respectfully than other animals we use for food or clothing.

Wildlife populations often must be culled to protect property and human (and animal) health, whether or not we use their fur. Overpopulated beavers flood homes, farms and roads; raccoons and foxes spread rabies and other diseases; coyotes are the main predators of lambs and calves – and now [attack pets and even people in urban areas](#); predators must also be managed to protect sea turtle eggs and other endangered species; and the list goes on. But if we must cull some of these animals, surely it’s more ethical to use the fur than to throw it away.

Why is it ok to raise Rabbits for food in Spain and France but not use the pelt for a fur garment? Should they throw the pelt away? Cows are raised for their hides and food. Why is it ok to raise sheep for wool and food and not use their pelts for shoes and fur coats and shearlings? Why is it ok for you to buy your chicken in a cellophane wrapper (all ready cut up) at the grocery store but it is terrible for a native Canadian to hunt beaver for a livelihood and food? What will you tell him? What happens to all the male baby chicks that are destroyed alive in meat grinders?

Will you stop the sale of chicken and eggs too? What will your cats and dogs eat for meat? Mink carcasses wind up in your puppy chow. Are your dogs and cats vegans? Will you stop all hunting and fishing? They kill animals with **GUNS!**

I am sure you are aware that this fur ban if passed will have negative ripple affects throughout the USA. My business has served our community for 91 years! Many families have made a living from my families business. Many charities including the arts, religions, needy families and people and wildlife have received charitable donations from my business. It is hard to believe that in **America** a legitimate business that has paid taxes, given to charity, employed good people for so many years can just be put out of business with the stroke of a pen! Is this a nightmare? Now I know how my Jewish ancestors must have felt in Europe in the 1930 -40's!

For further information please reference The [Truth About Fur](#) online.

Sincerely,
David Kriegsman (4th generation furrier)

PS: I am happy to answer any questions that you have about my industry. Just pick up the phone. (336)337-1322



502 EAST CORNWALLIS DR.
GREENSBORO, NC 27405
(336) 272-1322

DAVID@KRIEGSMAN.COM
KRIEGSMAN.COM

Leave the wearing of fur up to each Individual. This is the USA! It's such a waste of time and money to make this a law. I'm sure there are much more important matters to deal with such as homelessness, poverty, the cost of prescription drugs, rent hikes, illegal drugs and shall I go on!!

Sue Harris

There is currently so much wrong with the City do you really believe wasting your & the City Councils valuable time destroying an industry, shutting down businesses, closing jobs/family incomes and the taxes from the Fur industry is in the best interest of the City?

First Fix the schools, housing, the sadness of the homeless, the subways ... make your time meaningful, not meaningless.

What's next leather shoes?

SUZANNE Klein

Because some people in the city are animal lovers, does that mean the the jobs and livelihood of hard working New Yorkers will be lost? People before animals, please.

Frances Qualter

RE: Intro. 1476

I oppose the proposed ban on the sale of fur apparel. People should be allowed to make their own decisions on whether or not to purchase fur apparel.

Nancy Sheran
E 36th Street
New York, NY 10016

P.S. I had already decided not to wear fur coats, and I have read recently that some fashion designers have given up fur coats, but I do not believe it is right to impose my ideas about this on other people.

NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson
City Hall Office
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Johnson:

I respectfully request that you **vote no** on the Proposed Fur Ban in New York City. Our City should be an inclusive city on multiple fronts and that includes the freedom to buy fur within City limits. To attempt to eliminate an industry in the City does not make sound economic sense. Instead, it creates an illogical prohibition and panders to a special interest.

Where will such a ban lead to next --- purchasing any animal products? This is nonsensical and must be avoided.

Thank you for considering my concerns. **Please do not support the Proposed Fur Ban.**

Sincerely,

Patricia Dahl

pdahl@ebsr.org

May 1, 2019

NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson
City Hall Office
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Johnson:

Please **vote no** on the Proposed Fur Ban in New York City. To arbitrarily prevent businesses from selling a legal commodity to customers who do not need any special license to purchase the commodity is overreaching to say the least as well as potentially pandering to a special interest.

I am not sure what the goals are for groups endorsing the Proposed Fur Ban, but I feel they would be better to pursue their interests in a way that does not infringe on the legal rights of businesses and consumers. Bringing their case to consumers via public information would be a more appropriate method than abusing the legislative process with a frivolous issue.

Will a Proposed Wool Ban be next? Not good for those of us living and working in a very cold city.

Thank you for considering my concerns. **Please do not support the Proposed Fur Ban.**

Sincerely,

Noel Mick Moschetta

Dear Council Members,

I urge you to reconsider the ban on fur. I am a committed animal lover. However, I feel that banning fur infringes upon our freedoms. Will you ban leather next and all the products made from it? Ban the sale of meat? So many industries have disappeared from our city. This is the greatest city in the world. Where you can find anything and everything. Please leave the fur industry be. Let the people keep their jobs. Let the shops stay open.

Don't we already have enough empty stores? Don't we already have much more important things to worry about? Aren't there many, many quality of life issues we could be addressing?

Thank you for your consideration
Yoneet Solange

To: Council Members & Committee on Consumer Affairs & Business Licensing.

I am writing this email to urge our NYC Council Members to vote against the proposed ban of Fur Sale in NYC.

I believe the consumers of NYC should have the freedom to buy and choose the clothing they wear.

I believe legitimate business in NYC have the right to sale their merchandise, after all, this is the city of commerce and free trade.

Lastly, I believe the residents of NYC are in need of means to support their families. This includes the numerous families who work in association with the Fur industry.

Please vote NO on this bill.

Ling Yuk Wan-Chan, RPh.

Spencer Ave.

Queens Village, NY 11362

Attached is a signed copy of my petition.

Ling Yuk Wan-Chan, RPh.
215-65 Spencer Ave
Queens Village , NY 11362
May 16, 2019

I am writing this email to urge our NYC Council Members to vote against the proposed ban of Fur Sale in NYC.

I believe the consumers of NYC should have the freedom to buy and choose the clothing they wear.

I believe legitimate business in NYC have the right to sale their merchandise, after all, this is the city of commerce and free trade.

Lastly, I believe the residents of NYC are in need of means to support their families. This includes the numerous families who work in association with the Fur industry.

Please vote NO on this bill.



Ling Yuk Wan-Chan, RPh
215-65 Spencer Ave.
Queens Village, NY 11362
dragoncat888@aol.com
646-552-3383

May 15, 2019

To: Members of the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing

Dear Committee Members:

I would like to thank the Committee, and especially Chair Espinal, for holding today's hearing on Intro. 1476A to ban the sale of fur apparel. I am a resident of Forest Hills (Council Member Koslowitz's district) and I strongly support this bill. I hope all the members of the Committee will vote "yes" for it.

We should first clarify that the bill does not take away anyone's choice to wear or own fur; and there are exemptions for the sale of used and vintage fur, and fur worn for religious custom. Consumers can still buy fur online or anywhere outside of New York City. Rather, this legislation says that our city will no longer support an industry that needlessly causes immense suffering on animals. This is not a radical notion; in fact, national and local governments have been enacting partial or full fur bans for nearly 20 years. For example:

- About a dozen countries have banned fur farms (in effect, banning the production and sale of fur), including the U.K., Norway, Belgium, Austria, the Netherlands, Serbia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, and Japan.
- Other countries have partial fur bans, including more than 30 countries that have banned seal products due to the horrific cruelty involved in producing them. (Every year Canada holds a massive commercial seal hunt, whereby tens of thousands of seals are bludgeoned to death or skinned alive for their fur). Countries that have taken a stand against this brutality include the 28-member EU, Mexico, India, Taiwan, Russia, and yes – the United States!
- Other partial bans include The Netherlands (minks, foxes, and chinchillas), Denmark (foxes), New Zealand (minks), Sweden (foxes and chinchillas), and Hungary (minks and foxes).
- Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city, has banned the importation and sale of all fur items.
- Closer to home, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Berkeley, and West Hollywood have all passed laws banning the sale of fur; while California recently introduced a bill that would extend these bans to the entire state.

So you see, New York City is just the latest on a growing list of cities and countries to ban the sale of fur.

As I've listened to the fur industry's arguments against this and similar bills in other cities, I've been struck that they rarely, if ever, address the most central issue with fur...and that is, the wide-scale cruelty they inflict on tens of millions of animals every year. The cruelty is so indisputable and so unjustifiable that they don't even try to defend it. Rather, they use arguments such as "job losses" and "consumer choice" to divert attention away from the real issue.

The argument of "job losses" is a highly dubious. What is being changed by this bill is a single material used to make apparel. This is no different than a car company replacing steel with aluminum in their vehicles, or a furniture company using plastic instead of wood, or an apparel company using cotton instead of polyester in their clothing lines. The workers are using the same skills and knowledge – they're just using a different input. In addition, the small number of city residents who work in the fur industry – store owners, designers, fabric cutters, salespeople – can easily transfer their skills to another garment or fashion company. Again, this is no different than an employee working for a car company

that closes down – he or she can transfer those skills to another car manufacturer. How many nurses, teachers, administrative assistants, law enforcement officers, farmers, and even CEO's, have transferred their skills to new areas of their industry or even to new industries when they've been laid off or had to move for family or financial reasons? Millions of workers do this every year and it would be no different for the small number of workers in the fur industry.

As for the issue of consumer choice, I've always found this to be an odd way of looking at the fur ban. You see, companies are constantly changing and discontinuing their products for a variety of reasons – low sales, high labor costs, a shortage of materials, and even for ethical reasons. But we never look at this as an infringement on consumer choice. When Ford announced they were discontinuing the Ford Fiesta line, did any of their customers view this as some sort of violation of their consumer choice? And when Calvin Klein, Gucci, and Michael Kors stopped using fur, did consumers feel this took away their freedom of choice? Of course not! The fur bill is no different – it is simply discontinuing the sale of a specific material used in clothing. So why is it that when a company makes these decisions, we think nothing of it; yet when a government does it, some suddenly see it as an impingement on consumer choice? And how is it an issue of consumer choice when consumers can easily find other equivalent products? Those who want to buy the Ford Fiesta can easily find another similar vehicle...and it is no different for consumers of fur. Whatever it is they find appealing about fur – beauty, texture, warmth, durability – no one is going to have any problem filling those desires with apparel made of other materials.

And even if one truly believes this is an issue of consumer choice, I would ask you this question: At what point does inflicting abject cruelty on animals take precedence over consumer choice? We are seeing a growing number of countries and cities around the world that are saying preventing the torture of millions of animals is a higher priority than a consumer's desire to wear their fur. I agree with them and hope you will too. Please vote "yes" on Intro. 1476A.

Again, I want to thank Chair Espinal and the rest of the Committee for holding this hearing and for listening to my views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dolores Ferraro
71st Road
Forest Hill, NY 11375

My name is Sheila Schwartz, Ed.D. As founder and former chair of the United Federation of Teachers Humane Education Committee from April 1989 to June 2014, I would like to urge the adoption of a fur ban in New York City. The animals involved are treated brutally whether they are wild-caught or ranch-raised. There is no logical reason for an empathetic, responsible society to treat animals so brutally in order to wear their skins. Tradition is not a good excuse. Think of the horrible ways some groups of people were treated in the past. We would not want this treatment carried out today because of TRADITION. There are so many warm and viable alternatives available to fur today, ranging from faux furs -- which do pose some environmental concerns -- to the numerous alternatives including Ecoalf and Wuxly coats. There is no reason to believe that employees will be put out of work because of this changeover. POEPL E WILL STILL NEED COATS. Employees are intelligent enough to learn to handle and create jackets out of the alternative materials. As far as religious groups claiming to "need" fur, they can substitute one of the many alternative products as well. CRUELTY FOR THE SAKE OF TRADITION is not honorable and should not be part of a pious life. Fur may have been the only warm option at one time. Today converting to products that are cruelty-free is part of modeling more empathetic, kind and responsible behavior for our children. It is vital to creating a more thoughtful, honorable and empathetic society that cares about people and animals alike. PLEASE BAN FUR SALES IN NYC.

Hello,

My testimony in support of Intro 1476 to ban the sale of new fur in NYC is below as well as attached as a PDF if that is preferred. Thank you.

My name is Brandi Wagner, I am a clinical psychology graduate student at Columbia University. I live in Harlem in Council Member Bill Perkin's district. I would like to first thank him for reading my reasons for asking him to support Intro 1476 and for responding in support.

Throughout hearing from the opposition, it has been made clear that these people working in and around the fur business have little insight into the conditions these animals are kept in. They say canned statements about the "humane" treatment or killing, which is an oxymoronic term to begin with, but when asked to expound any further, they are repeatedly unable to do so. The people in this business are speaking only to the final product of fur, not to the production itself. Inviting council members to visit the manufacturer is one thing, but how many would invite you to the factory farm, where wild animals are experiencing stereotypy and living amongst their dead family members in a cage far too small, or to visit an animal who was in search of food for her cubs when she got caught in one of these horrific traps? How many of them have visited these farms and trapping sites themselves? It would seem clear that they stay out of this area because 1. I do not believe they could continue to speak with such pride and defense if they saw this ugly reality they were directly supporting and 2. As mentioned before, they are unable to speak intelligibly to the conditions these animals are living in prior to being electrocuted, gassed, or bludgeoned.

We now know that the "fur is biodegradable" argument does not hold up since it is treated with chemicals and preservatives that interrupt this process. But more specifically, the majority of this testimony is coming from people ONLY dealing with the finished product of fur. They are not speaking to the very important and unavoidable production process, which involves factory farming that causes air and water pollution and relies on fossil fuels. What good is a "sustainable" product if the way it is made causes considerable environmental damage?

Additionally, these furriers have highly transferrable skills and can easily swap materials for a more humane, sustainable alternative. In fact, there are initiatives and funds in NYC specifically to help the fashion industry thrive through change and progress. This ban could actually promote job growth and allow room for increased innovation by leading this wave of new material design and production.

Fear, comfortability, or tradition are never justifiable reasons to support an inhumane practice. In an effort to protect vulnerable populations, I ask you not to side with the fur industry who relies on public ignorance in how their products are made, but to support this bill that would end our unnecessary invasion into the homes, systems, and family lives of these animals for a material that 75% of New Yorkers do not want.

Fur comes at a moral cost that is too high for this city to bear any longer. We are a city built on determination, hard work, and creative thinking, We must not continue to support this cruel and outdated industry based on tradition and fear. Please help us keep New York an example of leading the way for necessary change and support Intro 1476. Thank you.

Brandi Wagner
W 115th St
New York, NY 10026

Hi, please support the ban of fur sales in NYC. I'm a CT resident and frequently visit NYC. I do not believe we should be exploiting and killing animals to wear their fur. It's 100% unnecessary and a disgusting practice. Thank you for your time!

Danielle danidarling06@gmail.com

Dear NYC Council,

Thank you for proposing this necessary bill to end fur sales in NYC.

My name is Rebecca Milvich.

I live in east village, Manhattan. Proud to have elected Carolina Rivera to represent our district.

I'm an accessory designer and work in the fashion industry in midtown.

All laws, trades and societal traditions must be re-verified all over again by every generation and every individual for the sake of human rights standards, community health and enrichment, and to respect the ecological balance which includes the sentient beings that depend on our intellect and compassion to have a rightful livelihood. As every generation carries certain misconceptions, delusions, prejudices, and inherited practices and industries...only through constant re-discovery, unbiased research, and education-can mankind and society truly advance.

Fur and skin is not fabric. These furriers don't actually know what this proposed ban is about as the majority have never been to the fur farms-they turn the check and use words like 'strict regulation' to hide behind greed. Wild animal welfare is not a concern-only the quality of the skins and pelts is important. No real vet would recommend a wild animal be breed in a cage, period. It is an industry that is regulating torture-not welfare. There is nothing ethical about using animal fur or skin, byproduct or not..and I hope the designers today and the council will recognize this as fact. The furriers that are distraught have it easy compared to the thousands of animals that were tortured for them, for their families-for vanity. I don't feel sorry for these business owners or employees..as they have been getting away with this for too long and have noticed the changes happening and have ignored the warnings.

We have a problem in our society that has crept and continues to creep into every facet of our day to day existence. That problem is called VIOLENCE. Violence having any place in mainstream culture-especially within those that are generally geared towards the affluent, lucky, or famous-has been a carrier of anger, hostility and oppression which brings with it depression and mental health issues. These issues formulated over decades and the contributors in our society are being recognized thru the use of social media and access to info at the top of the finger. Fur is for the privileged and the desperate. It's a wannabe status symbol that is

being exposed as I type. Fur products are made from violence. They promote violence and social insecurity. All fur products exist because a human suffered and an animal was tortured. No healthy community minded individual would personally accept and carry out the enslavement of wild animals to live their lives going crazy, without proper medical care, the ability to touch the ground, listening and watching their family members gassed or anal or vaginally electrocuted or skinned alive before them-this wouldn't be accepted in their own homes, yards, or communities..so why would any educated responsible individual or group of respected elected officials, condone this reality for an industry to profit within its territory, for fashion. Why would we wear it or buy it if we know that the entire industry is based on violence and torture of sentient beings and has disastrous effects on the humans livelihoods that suffer at the early stages of the products manufacturing and thru the distribution process. The shop owners the council will be hearing from are at the top of the industry, free from the acts of violence-they profit off human suffering of those with less advantage-and they don't care. People who live and have invested their life savings into land near fur farms have lost everything due to chemical destruction of the environment. What about them? Fur is not a natural product. Please don't allow the excuse of money by the few at the top of the industry to be the reason that we allow violence to continually profit off of New Yorkers and our tourists that are simply pawns in the cycle of violence. We have researched and verified that this violence is unnecessary and in fact deplorable for any human being to engage in, in 2019. I work in the fashion industry as a designer and I will never have any need to wear fur or any type of animal skins-to try to enhance my financial image, social status, or to stay warm. I have zero use for fur or skins in my designs or for photography, or to progress my personal initiatives, business or ability to create income. The images that I have seen of the intense amount of torture is what I see while I shop in New York. Many stores, but not so many that it will negatively impact jobs or New York's business owners. They can all sell faux fur or other designs that have zero fur influence-there's a huge industry of non-fur products and its time they get on board with the generations of researchers that don't take social traditions as factual or necessary. The faces of the individuals that continue to wear innocence animal without any idea what they are in fact promoting, can be greatly reduced if this bill is signed into law. Hundreds of millions of wild animals will not be bred into existence to be mistreated till death. Violence is not cool. Not here in NYC, not ever again. CT and Jersey can have the business.

Also, doesnt the council have faith that nyers can create and compete in new industries that can replace the bad ones? Have faith in New York's ability to adjust. The furiers are not exempt from change.

Lately, the human suffering and trauma created by the industry is extremely important to condemn. No one with a heathful lifestyle wakes up to murder animals for a living. It's an industry that promotes a lack of compassion and disconnect to the consumers. Its an industry that profits off the poor, the neglected and most financially desperate people. The industry leaves them with a lack of compassion that effects their families and communities. The fur industry is dead anyway and NYC should be the ones to see thru the soft fluffy luxurious smokescreen and make history by standing up and labeling it for what it is-Wrong. Unnecessary. Outdated. Desperate. And, Embarrassing to associate with. If we want to touch something soft-pet a cat. If you want to wear something warm, wear the recycled plastic products that test to be as if not more effective.

In a quick response to the gentleman who's parents work in the industry, the one with the full ride scholarship that wants everyone to be able to achieve their dreams. No one dreams of anally and vaginally electrocuting wild animals for their lives-I wonder if the hopes and dreams for their kids are more important the the dreams of the kids that work in these disgraceful factories.

Ban fur sales in NYC, please.

Thank you,

Rebecca Milvich

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you today to voice my support of Corey Johnson's bill to ban the sale of fur in NY. This is a brutal practice which needs to stop, and there are many synthetic and ecological alternatives to this material. I am a voter in NY state who will also take my opinion at the voting booth. Enough is enough!

Sincerely,
Julia Michas

--

"...that which we do not face in the unconscious, we live as fate." - C.G. Jung

May 15, 2019

Kristina Detmer
East 72nd Street,
New York, NY 10021

Council Member: Keith Powers

Dear City Council;

As a long time resident of this wonderful city, I'd like to express my whole-hearted endorsement of Intro 1476, the long overdue bill to ban the sale of new fur in NYC. As the fashion capital of the country, we have an obligation to be the leader in humane fashion. Killing animals for fashion in no way is humane.

I have friends on both sides of the political aisle, including far left and far right. We have spirited debates about a variety of current and controversial issues with heated arguments coming from both sides. This is not one of them. On this issue, and perhaps only on this one very issue, we have complete, blanket agreement that killing animals for their fur is wrong. I am not a liberal; I am conservative. And killing animals for their fur is wrong.

We've heard a lot that a small group of people stand to lose some economic benefits and jobs. Consistent with overall growth of a society, social awareness and technology evolve and advance over time. We can all look back and identify countless obsolete industry jobs that have been eliminated. Blockbuster, for instance, used to have thousands of stores. As inconvenient as it was for Blockbuster employees to find new work, should the loss of Blockbuster jobs have been a reason to not embrace new streaming technologies? Should we refuse to advance society because of the economic impact on the obsolete industries?

Plus, laws across the country are increasingly embracing prioritizing the well-being of animals, such as hot car laws, divorce and custody laws appointing an advocate to represent the animal's best interest, and laws allowing animals to be included in domestic violence protection orders. Society is changing its view of animals and New York City should be at the forefront.

Having personal freedoms does not allow us to behave any possible way that we want. Even living in one of the most free nations in the world, that notion is absurd. Laws govern our behavior all the time, from speed limits to animal anti-cruelty laws to zoning requirements to drug laws. I can't go to Duane Reade and

buy opiates or DDT. That's not an infringement on my supposed rights to buy opiates or DDT. I'm not allowed to go abuse a dog if I wanted to, and that's not an infringement on my supposed rights to abuse a dog.

While some have expressed concern that more laws will regulate other animal based industries, fear of going too far isn't a reason for not banning something that we all agree is wrong.

Plus, this bill is not prohibiting the wearing of fur. You can wear fur every day of the year. No one is going to come into your closet and confiscate your fur items. However, this bill is taking the stance that New York City will no longer be a party to the fur industry's exploitation of animals.

New Yorkers are known for being accepting, inclusive, embracing of differences and for being champions of the underdog. No one can even dispute that animals being killed for their fur are being exploited from cradle to grave. This industry is not consistent with New Yorker's values.

Sincerely,

Kristina Detmer

Kristina Detmer

DEBORAH THOMAS TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF INTRO 1476

(THE BILL TO BAN THE SALE OF FUR)

May 15, 2019

Although I am sorry that I cannot attend the NY City Council hearing on Intro 1476 in person today, I would like to submit my written comments IN SUPPORT OF INTRO 1476 to Chairman Espinal and the Committee.

I am animal lover and advocate, and a humane New York City voter. Being an animal lover, I do not wear fur, but have always taken a "live and let live" approach regarding the buying, selling and wearing of fur. However, after becoming educated about the inhumane methods often used in the mass production of fur garments, I feel that no innocent animal should have to endure such cruelty and die so horrifically for human vanity.

I have seen pictures of people clubbing beautiful Canadian seals to death in order to make seal coats, and the whole idea makes me sick! There is no reason for this in 2019!! Many methods now exist to produce "fake fur" garments, as well as garments made of other synthetic materials, that are just as stylish and warm as real fur, without the cruelty. After the Fur Ban, I would hope that the current fur manufacturers and sellers would find business opportunities in those fields instead. In doing so, they will have crossed over to the right side of history, and many humane New Yorkers, as well as fur-bearing animals, will be extremely grateful.

Thank you.

Deborah Thomas
dthomas.soprano@yahoo.com

I know you heard many points of view yesterday at the Council Meeting in City Hall, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for holding these hearings. Thank you Corey Johnson for introducing this important bill. NYC will make history when this ban becomes law. When! NOT if !! Over 75% of NYC citizens, Democrats, Republicans and in-between are in favor of this ban on fur. It is a non-partisan issue! It arises from a level of compassion and empathy that should have been in place years ago.

The fur industry wrecks havoc on the environment and commits countless of Draconian (Beyond the imagination) of horribly cruel , agonizing practices on innocent animals! The chemicals they use on the pelts after slaughtering to keep them from rotting and decomposing have been ranked by the World Bank as one of the 5 worst industries for toxic-metal pollution. And yet furriers have the gall to call out faux- fur products saying they are bad for the environment.

So I have three questions to ask furriers....

1. How can you look at yourselves in the mirror? Knowing the only way you claim you can make a "living," is by bludgeoning, clobbering, anally electrocuting, torturing frightened little animals who never did anything to hurt you! This behavior and practice of slaughtering the innocent is beyond comprehension and repulsive.

2. When you muzzle these poor creatures to keep them from fighting back and maybe even biting you, as they scream out in agony, how can this not affect you. How hard, calloused, demonic have you allowed yourself to become? All do to un-necessary (!) vanity -seeking garments! Shame!

3. Do you show your grandchildren images/videos of the fur-making process and where those "lovely" (read bloody) fur garments come from. Would you show any child you care about footage of the fur "processing" practices? I think not!

And please do not call what you do euthanasia. How dare you. Euthanasia is putting sick animals out of misery in the kindest, gentlest way possible. There is NO comparison to the brutal way fur-bearing animals are slaughtered and die an agonizing death!

We believe in Karma. One way or another furriers will have to answer for the crimes against nature and the animal kingdom....Shame!

To the Council....

Respectfully, Laurie E. Jordan

We support this ban as do so many others for so many reasons as stated at the Hearings! NYC make History! Stop the torture and mutilation of millions of innocent animals and destruction of the environment. Go Fur Free. LA and San Francisco did it. So can we!!

Thank you and Kudos to Corey Johnson, My council rep and hero on the west side (Hell's kitchen) for his amazing animal advocacy!
Laurie Jordan, West 43rd Street, NYC, NY

Dear Esteemed Council Members:

Please know that I enthusiastically support bill 1476 which would ban fur in NYC.

I feel that it is immoral and unjustifiable that certain animals would undergo horrendous treatment resulting in death so that people could indulge their desires for fur coats and related attire.

Thank you for considering my view.

Michael Klausner, Ph.D.

Klausner, Michael klausner@pitt.edu

Dear Members of the New York City Council Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Intro 1476, Prohibiting the Sale of Fur Apparel in New York City. I respectfully urge you all to support and cosponsor this important and compassionate bill. The time has come to stop selling fur, which is the product of torturing animals to death for their fur. The truth and fact is that millions of minks, foxes, coyotes, rabbits, baby seals. etc.. suffer a horrific destruction for their fur - a death which is tantamount to the crime of felony animal cruelty (had they been a domesticated animal such as a dog or cat in the U.S.). Yet, even dogs and cats in China don't escape this gruesome ordeal as millions of them are brutally slaughtered every year there for their fur. And over half of all imported furs into the U.S. come from China.

I would like to emphasize that the overwhelming majority of New York City residents (in all five boroughs) support the proposed ban on sales of fur apparel as evinced by a recent poll. The New York City Council represents these residents. I have often heard the complaint that Congress in Washington D.C. is broken because it is controlled by special interests. The fur industry is a special interest group. On Wednesday May 15th, its speakers got to have their voices heard but please remember that their opposition to Intro 1476 does not reflect the will of the overwhelming majority of NYC residents who instead support a prohibition on the sale of fur apparel in NYC. Many persons are aware that torturing animals to death for their fur is an atrocity and wearing real fur is simply unnecessary. Humans can do better and many are. Countless persons are choosing either not to wear real fur or are buying faux fur. As you know, the cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Berkeley, West Hollywood have enacted bans on the sales of fur. They did not give in to the the fur lobby and did the right thing for the general population as well as the animals.

I need to bring to your attention that at the hearing, the fur industry group continuously disregarded the council rule - to not applaud during a speakers' testimony. The furriers brazenly applauded after their speakers made comments. This tactic was wrong and unfair. It was an attempt to manipulate the committee into believing that their speakers comments were so compelling that the audience had to clap and ignore the council rule. It is detrimental because when the committee plays back the audio recording, they only hear applause after furriers comments which creates the false impression that the general audience agrees with the furriers. When in reality, it was just those from the fur industry clapping. Meanwhile, us decent folk in support of Intro 1476 respected the council rule and withheld our applause. And whenever one of our speakers made a positive point, we waived our hands in the air. So I respectfully request that the entire committee be informed of this. My fear is that when the audio is played back, this deceptive tactic employed by the fur industry group could have the potential to dupe the committee into thinking or just somehow feeling that the whole audience agreed with and supported the comments made by speakers of the fur industry. This was not the case.

I hereby submit the aforementioned poll as an exhibit for the record for the committee to remember and consider. It can be found at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ca8b23865a707e04a9a1299/t/5cd5c1bb24a694961ea76eb9/1557512635922/Mason-Dixon+Fur+Poll+5.10.2019.pdf>

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Denise M. Walsh
46th Avenue
Bayside, N.Y. 11361
District 19 - represented by Council Member Paul Vallone

Thank you members of the New York City Council Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing for allowing me to speak in favor of the proposed bill to prohibit the sale of fur apparel in NYC, Intro 1476. I also greatly appreciate that Council Speaker Corey Johnson and respective members sponsored this important and compassionate legislation.

The time has come to stop selling fur, which is a product of the horrific killing of animals such as foxes, coyotes, minks, rabbits and yes even millions of dogs and cats in China. It is a fact, that each such animal will suffer an unspeakable and barbaric death; whether it be by being stuffed together in a box and gassed, neck breaking, anal electrocution, strangulation, skinned alive, drowning, slaughtered, being caught in painful traps and suffering in the wild until the trapper arrives to suffocate the animal by standing on its neck and chest, etc... It's absolutely awful.

And prior to, the animals suffer tremendously by being kept in miserable wire cages on so called "fur farms". Wild animals love to roam for miles every day. But in these facilities they are denied their natural existence and instead are perversely confined to small cages. How terrible. Those trapped in the wild fare no better, as they will suffer alone in pain until the trapper arrives to bludgeon them to death. Truly sad.

Further, in the U.S. and other countries such as China, there are no animal welfare laws to protect these vulnerable fur bearing animals being held captive. Think about it. The persons on the fur farms or trappers can do whatever they want. And indeed they go on to kill these animals in the most excruciatingly painful manner and do so with complete impunity. More than half of the fur garments imported into the U.S. for sale are from China, where again millions of dogs and cats are slaughtered and skinned alive for their fur every year. It's unconscionable and hard to watch the videos.

In 2008, New York became the first state in our nation to enact a law which banned the gruesome practice of anal electrocution of fur-bearing animals. It was learned that the animal remains conscious for two or more minutes during the induced heart attack because the electrical current does not stun the brain. The pain is unbearable and so New York rightly made anal electrocution a crime of animal cruelty. But the egregious practice is still prevalent today in other states in the U.S. as well as countries such as China. And those fur farms and slaughterhouses are then going on to sell their furs to designers and manufacturers who then sell the furs coats and fur trimmed jackets to retail stores in NYC for sale to the public.

Many persons have decided not to wear fur because it inflicts a horrific and painful death on the animals. Further, countless fashion designers such as Gucci, Chanel, Coach, Calvin Klein, Burberry, Versace, Michael Kors, Armani, Polo Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, Ann Taylor, J. Crew, Donna Karan have dropped fur in recent years after learning about the cruelties involved.

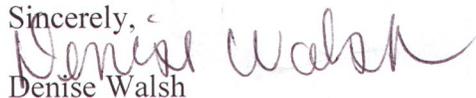
Also, the cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles, West Hollywood and Berkeley have enacted bans on the sale of fur apparel. They all did the right thing. So why does this barbaric cruelty still exist? The reason...so some persons can have the unnecessary luxury of wearing an animal's fur - an animal who had to be brutally killed for it. This is wrong and not what civilization, humanity, compassion, America and New York City is all about.

Humans are different from animals. But we are also like them -both species feel pain, fear, terror and suffer. As a society we owe it to ourselves and these innocent helpless animals to finally say "No" to the atrocity of torturing animals to death for their fur. As a fashion capital of the world, NYC can lead the way in making this happen.

In closing, I respectfully request that you cosponsor Intro 1476.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Denise Walsh

220-55 46th Avenue ~~██████████~~

Bayside, New York 11361

District 19 - New York City Council Member Paul Vallone

My name is Viola Agostini and I live in North Crown Heights section of Brooklyn.
Councilmember Robert Cornegy's district. I am submitting testimony in support of Intro 1476.
I support this bill cause it is time for a better and more compassionate city.

It's time to educate the communities about the atrocities behind the fur industry because most people that wear fur are unaware of the torture involved in making the coats.

If you take a look at the crowds that supports the ban and who doesn't, where do you see your future voters?

Where do the young generations stand? They stand on a less cruel and harmful society where earning money doesn't mean compromising ethics and morals.

This fur ban is not an attack on race or religion.

I lived in New York for the last 10 years but I am from Italy. When I was younger I used to wear few of my mom's furs. Even back in the early 2000's, my friends were making fun on me when I was wearing fur, telling me that I look like an old lady. So fur was already on his way out of style in the fashion capitol of Florence. It was being viewed as something older pretentious people wore.

When I told my mom how I felt about it, she understood my message and gave the fur to our dogs as a bed.

She didn't want anything to do with fur after that and she also said that she will look older by wearing them!

My parents are church people and they do think that animals are here for us but not to be skinned alive for vanity!

I don't think Pope Francis would agree with the churches in Harlem backing something so cruel and vicious.

Fur is NOT a necessity.

People can keep wearing and buy vintage or used furs if they please but let's stop making New York a city complicit to more deaths by fashion!

Thank you for reading this.

Viola Agostini

Peace&Love 🌻🌱🌿

#GoVegan 🌱

My name is Anna Tagliabue, founder of Pelush - a zero waste Faux Fur clothing company based in New York City.

Today, we can accurately imitate any kind of animal fur existing in nature, and even invent new ones. We are in the middle of a Fur Revolution, or as I call it a #ReFAUXlution.

Fox, mink, chinchilla, broadtail, coyote, rabbit, lamb; all these beautiful creatures don't have to be slaughtered for vanity. In many cases, their fur is used as an accent, not even providing warmth for clothing.

Technology has rendered this obsolete, and now we can celebrate our beloved animals as inspiration, with exciting, new high-technology textiles that have replaced the need to kill animals for fur.

It's very simple. There should be NO confusion about it.
There is NO GRAY AREA. There is RIGHT and there is WRONG.
Killing animals for fashion's sake is WRONG.

How can we justify wearing real fur in the 21st Century?

I have devoted 20 years of my life developing the antidote to this cruelty. Before that, I worked in the high-end luxury fashion industry selling animal furs, until I had a life changing epiphany, and realized that my industry was really a killing machine profiting from a barbaric, and antiquated trade in cruelty.

I remember first discovering imitation fur textiles and immediately seeing the vast potential of such products. They are beautiful and innovative, like something from the future. I thought to myself "if we can produce something so beautiful that looks and feels like real fur, why do we have to enslave, exploit, torture and kill innocent animals for vanity?"

So I began researching, and reinvented my career in fashion as a mission to not only create beautiful, functional clothing, but to ensure that are free from cruelty, suffering and blood.
Please, respected members of New York City Council, do the right thing, make the right choice, there is no confusion. Animal fur is immoral, unethical, unsustainable, and completely unnecessary. It's very simple — IT'S WRONG.

Anna Tagliabue
District 4 Keith Powers

I am Rachel Borkowski I live in Midwood, Brooklyn in council member Chaim Deutsch's district. As a constituent and Jew I want to express my deepest sorrow that Chaim is opposed to this bill. As a Jewish woman who has a history of holocaust survivors Im sure they would agree that killing innocent beings, separating families and anally electrocuting these animals is horrific beyond belief. The fur industry, not only effects the animals, it effects the environment and the moral compass of society. When you inflict harm on millions of animals you wage a war on our earth. With this bill already passed in San Francisco and California, the next logical step is to outlaw fur it NYC. Speaking to the furers, I'm so happy to participate in programs to help them use their skills for other jobs. This message of compassion will be heard all over the world.

Thank you.

Rachel

Rachel Borkowski
Animal Connection Rachel@animalconnection.info

New York City Council (via email hearings@council.nyc.gov)
New York City Hall
New York, NY 10007

May 15, 2019

Public Testimony in Support of Intro 1476 – Fur Ban

Honorable New York City Council Members:

My name is Brenda Bush and I live in Tribeca in Council Member Margaret Chin's district. I urge her to SUPPORT this bill. I was one in the long line waiting for many hours outside City Hall on May 15, unable to get inside because the chamber was full. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit testimony via email.

Polls indicate that a majority of New Yorkers support a ban on fur. Please don't be swayed by the tactics of the fur industry. The opposition is fighting fiercely for their livelihoods, but the inherent cruelty of fur is leading consumers, cities and countries to move away from animal fur. People are no longer willing to cause extreme pain and suffering purely for fashion.

The fate of animals today is similar to that of humans who were subjected to slavery and other civil rights injustices—they, too, are tortured, abused, and neglected as humans once were and sometimes still are. Many of the arguments in opposition to the fur ban are the same arguments made by former slave owners. They argued that owning slaves was historical, cultural, free market and freedom of choice. They also argued that abolishing slavery would destroy their livelihoods and the economy.

Torture and oppression cannot be justified in the name of fashion and community status. To claim to believe in equality and nonviolence, while being willing to oppress and abuse others for fashion is hypocrisy. In a modern civilized society, there is simply no excuse to buy garments made from brutality. More ethical alternatives already exist. Animals have no voice, and they have no choice. Someone has to speak on their behalf. Animals deserve better than to become a garment.

Fur industry workers are New Yorkers too, but they are part of a dying industry. NYC has survived many layoffs and changes in industry in its history. Sometimes layoffs are the byproduct of corporate greed; sometimes the result of technology and innovation. This time, it is for the greater good and a collective will of the people that fur is a barbaric tradition that needs to end. The city should support family legacy businesses to transition to other businesses. Supporting a ban on fur is not choosing animals over humans. It is possible to care about more than one issue at the same time. Caring for humans and caring for animals is not mutually exclusive.

The animal advocates that the fur industry tries to portray as crazy and racist—are the same advocates that fight for issues of social justice and equality for humans around the world. One of the greatest leaders of social justice and equality in all of human history, Martin Luther King Jr, recognized the interconnectedness of social justice struggles. He is revered around the world for his commitment to justice and nonviolence, and courage to speak for equality. If we allow some to be treated unfairly, it lowers the bar for how all of us relate to one another. In other words, "No one is free when others are oppressed." Where would we be today if advocates of justice and equality did not speak up for the oppressed?

Animals are victims of the fur industry; they are living a nightmare before they are brutally killed -- all in the name of fashion. This kind of brutality is contrary to human dignity. This is modern-day form of slavery. The animals have no voice to end the cruelty and oppression that is being done to them. The people of New York are asking their legislators to take the lead and end this abuse. Yes, it is monumental and historic. It's also the right thing to do, founded on a vision and principle of NYC as a better place for all. This City Council has the opportunity to show true leadership here. If you want a city of tolerance and peace, you will need to lead the way.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Bush
Harrison St,
New York, NY 10013
bush.brenda@verizon.net

Hi.

My name is Juliet Schulman-Hall and I live at Remsen Street Brooklyn, NY 11201.

I support the banning of fur. It is inhumane and cruel. As I walk around the streets of New York and see huge parkas with animal bodies practically attached, something that can quite obviously be changed to faux fur, I am greatly saddened. As someone who has dedicated a lot of my life thus far to helping animals, I have always been angered by the way in which companies harm animals for profit. This should not be the case. Most New Yorkers believe that fur should be banned and those against would understand the banning of fur after watching the gut wrenching practices it takes to skin animals. The fur industry can never be humane and it should not continue. I know that with this ban it will not outlaw fur in other parts of the country, however, this is a demonstration and other places will follow in our footsteps--- change occurs slowly but surely.

Thank you for taking your time to read this.

Best,

juliet schulman-hall

Hello,

My name is Caitlin Leighton, and I work in the apparel industry as a technical designer. I support the passage of Intro 1476, which would ban the sale of fur within New York City.

As a worker in the apparel industry, I think that fur is a relic of old times past. It is unnecessary for an animals lives to be taken in such cruel ways, just for the sake of fashion. As humans we need to extend our compassion beyond cats and dogs, to all animals that are inhumanely trapped and killed for fur.

I think that the job loss from taking away this industry can be regained by opening more apparel factories in these spaces, and with these business owners/workers. With all the tariffs being put in place this can be an opportunity to bring manufacturing back to New York City.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to reach out for further insight or information.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Leighton

(516) 456-7153

W 142nd

New York, NY 10032

Yaw Choo Sim
Shore Parkway
Brooklyn, New York 11214

District #43, Council Member Justin Brannan.
Re: Intro 1476

I am writing to ask the city council to support Intro 1476, the bill that will ban the sale of fur in New York City.

Recently retired, I was a paraprofessional and have worked with the Department of Education for the last 25 years. Working with students with learning disabilities in middle school, I have taught my students to be kind to one another and to show compassion. As an educator you are to teach your students these virtues through communication and by setting an example. You teach these children to respect not only people, but other non-human beings. These are the same virtues that I have instilled in my two daughters and am proud that both women have grown up to make a career in social services.

It wasn't until recently that I was made aware of what happens to animals in the fur industry. Not only does my youngest daughter work for an HIV/AIDS organization, she is also an animal rights activist. As a young woman who provides aid to marginalized groups in New York, she has taught me that all issues are interconnected. If it wasn't for her compassion, her empathy, or her drive to educate and bring awareness, I would not have known this was happening.

Since immigrating to this country in the late 1970s and moving to New York in 1985, I always saw people walking around in their fur coats in the NYC weather. I was aware that the fur came from an animal but paid no mind to "how" the coats were made. I did not think about it until my daughter showed me footage. It wasn't until then that I empathized with those animals who were subjected to a cruel industry. As a parent and an educator, how is it that we teach children to show compassion, to be kind, be respectful - all while employing people to commit such horrible acts against innocent animals? I've seen parents walking around in fur coats while holding their child's hand - how are they to teach their children to show respect to others if they aren't setting the example? We teach our children to not bully one another, but these animals on these fur farms are in fact, bullied by those working in the industry.

Why is it legal for someone to have the ability to skin an animal alive for their fur? Their skin? All while it's a crime to punch or kick someone's dog? What is the difference? There is no difference, as it's both animal cruelty.

I personally think the selling of fur or any other animal skin - should be illegal. I sympathize to those working in the industry and from my understanding, their skills can be transferable to other materials used in fashion. I wholeheartedly believe they will be able to find work - wherever they go. Especially since there are eco-friendly, cruelty-free, and sustainable

materials being crafted in science labs, this would be a great opportunity for them to use their skills on these new materials.

As someone who is nearing 60 years old, I have had different jobs, with most of my work in the public school system. I learned to adapt to new skills prior to teaching children. I feel those in this industry can quickly adapt to new changes - and that's what makes New Yorker's resilient. When times change, so do people. We need to move to a more sustainable and cruelty free future. We need to do this for our future generation of children and and for our planet.

There is no doubt that the fur industry is cruel and harmful - not just to the animals, but to the environment. Just a simple google search to see footage/photos of animals being skinned alive, anally and vaginally electrocuted, bludgeoned, gassed, drowned, trapped in snare traps are absolutely deplorable. The chemicals used to tan the fur is damaging to our environment and harmful to our health (as stated on a number of reputable websites).

Please, I ask that you support Intro 1476 and make New York City to ban the sale of fur. Let New York City be the progressive city moving towards a city of compassion, empathy, and ethics.

Thank you,
Yaw Choo Sim

Dear Council:

There are so many hard and complex problems which face us as a city. How will we heal the gap of rising inequality? How will we cope with the strains of climate change? How can we provide a decent retirement, education, basic living standards, and healthcare for all? These problems seem so difficult and intractable that it gets difficult to know where to even start. Dealing with these issues calls for resources and coordination at a national and even international level.

And then there are easy wins like the fur ban.

The fur trade, as you know by now, via extensive testimony, is based on a foundation of horror and cruelty. It inflicts pain and death for nothing but vanity and status.

We are better than that as a city. The fur trade is not the biggest problem facing us, but it is one that with the stroke of a pen you can actually solve. You can make the world a better place and stand up for what is right. We don't need Federal legislation or an international treaty. We don't need tens of billions of dollars of financing. We just need you, the New York City Council.

Please vote in favor of Intro 1476.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Shafter

Jonathan Shafter
West End Avenue
New York, NY 10025

Fur is an outdated and cruel industry that has no place in modern New York City. New Yorkers are better than that!

Julia Hagl

Please let's stop the cruelty. Skinning animals in the name of "fashion" is wrong and inhumane.

Llinesa Guzman

Fort Washington Ave

Good day, my name is Elliot Reed and I am a New Yorker and a Coney Island Polar Bear Club member.

There is only one clear victim when it comes to fur business and it's not those who are making money of the backs and skin of the innocent.

Animals are being exploited, abused and tortured solely for fashion. Please let that sink in.....

Being forced to chew your own leg off to escape a hunting trap is absolute torture.

Taking someone's life just because you are able to is the ultimate form of abuse.

Commodifying living beings for the purpose of benefitting yourself is exploitation.

New York is better than this.

Sincerely,

- Elliot Reed

I am writing to you today to offer my support for into 1476.

As a Brooklyn resident I strongly feel it is time to move away from the horrid and cruel practices to sell animals fur in our beautiful and modern city.

It is 2019 and many more options to be fashionable and keep warm in winter exist today.

There is no need to be a fashion victim and cruelly raise, abuse and torture animals for this purpose.

Please support the ban of fur sales in our modern city.
New York City is better than that!

Felicitas Oefelein
Brooklyn, NY

Hello

My name is May Friedman, residing at
Peck Ave
Oakland Gardens NY 11364

I own and operate a Fitness Studio in Queens
Vibez Studio
3243 Francis Lewis Blvd
Flushing NY 11358

I have a bachelors' degree in Business Information and Technology

The most important part of operating my successful fitness studio over the past seven years now, is **researching and evolving with the current trends**. I am constantly working on changing up the classes we offer, equipment we use and finding new and innovative workouts.

If I don't stay hip and relevant with the times my classes will simply die out. This is standard practice for all businesses wanting to succeed. Including the Fur Industry.

Fur is plain and simply outdated. Undercover footage exposed the horrors of making furs and social media helps the footage spread like wildfire. Consumers made it clear that they do not want to contribute to so much pain and suffering.

According to a FORBES article from March 2018, Fiona Dyer, GlobaData's consumer analyst **said: the shift towards plant-based foods is being driven by millennials, who are mostly likely to consider the food source, animal welfare issues, and environmental impacts when making their purchasing decisions.**

In October of 2017 one of the biggest international fashion leaders

and influencers in the world

GUCCI announced its fur ban stating "it's not modern"

CHANEL - December 2018 announced its ban on exotic skins stating "it cannot be ethically **sourced.**"

COACH - October 2018 CEO Joshua Schulman told *Business of Fashion Magazine* that the **decision (to ban fur) was a reaction to what the brands customers were asking.**

This list goes on with top designer brands **Versace, Burberry, Zara, Michael Kors, H&M** and so many more quickly following.

You will be doing the fur industry a justice by providing them with a reason to transform **and evolve their business before it's too late.**

There is an influx of designers creating Faux Fur stylish fashions. Their products equally (if not better) provide style, warmth and an opportunity to buy and sell for profits.

The Fur industry cannot sit back expecting to continue business as usual. **Like it or not, FUR IS DEAD. Evolve to new innovative cruelty free designs or Close.**

There is a global shift away from animal products that is growing and expanding rapidly. **The world had its eyes on NYC and you have this pivotal moment in time to make history with the likes of abolishing slavery, women's right to vote and same sex marriage.**

The time to ban fur is now and the opportunity to save innocent lives and make **history is literally at your fingertips.**

Please support into to 1476 to ban fur.

--

Best,

May

Vibez Studio

(347) 889-6987

<http://VibezStudio.com>

Dear City Council Members,

I am a voting NYC resident of District 25. I am urging you to support Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur in New York City. There is no humane way to raise and slaughter an animal for their fur. We all know that in our hearts and minds. Fur is not a symbol of affluence and status. Fur represents cruelty and ignorance. It is outdated and not a necessity. It is time for us as human beings to steer away from knowingly violent practices and start being honest with ourselves. It's not about our right to choose it's about making the right choices. The choice here is to live in a city that doesn't support outright cruelty and violence towards animals in the name of fashion. The days of looking the other way are over. It is time to move forward. Let's start making positive changes in our communities. New York City is ready to ban the sale of fur.

Thank you for your time.

Denise Grappone
34th Avenue
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

To whom it may concern:

I support the passage of the fur ban, Intro 1476. The practices that provide us with furs are inhumane and unnecessary for the well-being of the human population. This pertains to both the raising of animals for fur, and the trapping of wild animals for fur.

Sincerely,

Dr. Erika Crispo, PhD

E 41st St.

New York, NY 10017

erika_crispo@hotmail.com

Animals who are trapped for their fur are drowned, beaten and stomped to death. They literally chew off their own limbs in an attempt to escape. Even dogs are injured and killed by traps.

Animals on fur “farms” are gassed, anally electrocuted and have their necks broken. There is no excuse for fur in this day and age. Furthermore, killing animals because they are beautiful represents the worst of human arrogance, cruelty and greed.

THIS IS WHY **I SUPPORT INTRO 1476!** THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

Peter Wood
Mitchell Place
New York, NY 10017





To Whom It May Concern,

I totally and unequivocally support this NYC fur ban of all new furs.

I now reside in Nassau County but grew up in Brooklyn and Queens. I am always visiting NYC. As a child I was ignorant to the sale of fur. I recall having a coat as a young teen with a faux chinchilla lining. I so loved wearing that coat inside out. When I got older my parents were thinking of buying a home in Farmingdale and lo and behold they had chinchillas they were raising in their basement. At that moment it hit me.....this precious innocent animal could someday be horribly slaughtered so someone could look fashionable!

Here we are a supposed wiser, kinder human race considerate of our animal friends and yet a useless use of an animal is still "necessary"? All arguments against this ban are absurd.

I love NYC, always have, always will. Please make a difference and support this ban.

Pat Bialoskurski
Wagon Lane
Levittown, NY 11756

Hi,

I am writing to ask that you please SUPPORT INTRO 1476 to ban the sale of fur in NYC. I would greatly appreciate your attention to this very important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Kerri Savage
East 20th Street
NY, NY 10009
Kerrisavage@gmail.com

"As a fashion capital the entire globe looks to when deciding what to add to their closets, New York City has a responsibility to make it clear that animal brutality is never in style," said Lady Freethinker President Nina Jackel. "This long-overdue ban on fur sales will show the world that NYC remains a forward-thinking leader that other cities should aspire to emulate."

My name is Patricia Galm, residing at E. 93rd St., NYC, and a constituent of Ban Kallos. I am writing to strongly urge the support of Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur in NYC. As a civilized society, we need to show kindness and compassion for all sentient beings and to put an end to the barbarism inflicted upon millions of animals every year by the fur industry. Healthy animals who want to live their lives are not "euthanized," as furriers would like us to believe; they are simply slaughtered. Many industries must adapt to changing times as we evolve as a society, and the fur industry should be no exception. There are many wonderful synthetic alternatives today, making the wearing of fur incredibly gratuitous. As the fashion capital of the world, this is a great opportunity for NYC to join other progressive cities and countries by setting a good example. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please let's get this bill passed!

Respectfully,

Patricia Galm
E. 93rd St.
NY, NY 10128

Dear Sir/madam:

I am writing to you today to offer my support for into 1476.

As a Brooklyn resident I strongly feel it is time to move away from the horrid and cruel practices to sell animals fur in our beautiful and modern city.

It is 2019 and many more options to be fashionable and keep warm in winter exist today.

There is no need to be a fashion victim and cruelly raise, abuse and torture animals for this purpose.

Please support the ban of fur sales in our modern city. New York City will be a better place for all.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Wilson H. Lau
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Speaker Johnson and City Council Members,

As a NYC voter and taxpayer I am writing to express my support for Intro 1476 and to urge the City Council members to VOTE YES for this ban.

Fur taken from cruelly trapped or "ranching" wild animals, represents one of the most primitive and ignoble aspects of an unevolved society, which is promoted by an industry that exists and profits from animal suffering and death. There can be no acceptable rationale or excuse in this day and age, for aiding and abetting this archaic Neanderthal holdover. With all that is now known about animal sentience - and their capacity to feel pain and suffer, we must move forward in educating the public and teaching our children the meaning of compassion, by example.

Please do the right thing and help end needless suffering and death.

Thank you,

Zizi Suleman

NY, NY 10003

I live in Westchester and work downtown.

Fur is cruel and only dried up old hags and ignorant celebrities are stupid enough to wear it.

I urge you to ban it.

Thank you.

**Patti Stinson
Westchester, NY**

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STOP CANINE PROFILING. BSL IS BS

Please **DO NOT** add me to your email list without my permission.

You cannot email me at patti-stinson@googlegroups.com. You can reach me at pattistinson13@hotmail.com

My rules of responsible rescue - <http://pattistinson13.wix.com/patti-page>

I no longer use language that accepts the current concept of animals as property, commodities and/or things. Rather than refer to myself and others as "owners" of animals, I now refer to myself and others as "guardians" of our animal companions and to animals as "he" or "she" rather than "it". I urge you to do the same.

I am writing this email to express my support against the sale of fur in NYC. I am a 25 year old second-grade teacher who has grown around animals and have educated myself on the fur industry. Not because I was forced to, but because I was curious how in this century we are still allowing endanger to animals. I have seen countless horrific videos, spoken to many researchers and advocates, witnessed protesters, and shed countless tears with hopes to one day change the way we treat the voiceless and innocent souls we are so blessed to reside with on this earth.

This is a fight I am devoted and dedicated to - forever! Starting with my home in NYC. Yes, I understand the ban of fur can limit individual expression of ones preference for clothing, but many of these people are not educated about the process of receiving the fur products and tend to ignore the brutal facts. We have to begin to accept that this is the future. Times change and the direction we take proceeding forward is crucial! As we become more educated, we understand the importance of our planet and how precious innocent animals are. We need to do what is right for the future, not what is right in the moment. A fear for some - job loss. Yes, there will be job loss. But these jobs will be replaced one day, as with other incidents of job loss. Should we continue murdering thousands of animals because of a hundred temporary job losses? No!

Rather than being oblivious, let's lead with bravery, sympathy, and leadership. Please stand up with me for the voiceless - let's be fur free!

Signed by Karina Ignatova
84th street
Brooklyn, NY 11214

To the NYC City Council,

I am writing in support of Intro 1476, to ban fur sale within the 5 boroughs of New York City.

The methods used in raising the millions of animals whose fur will be harvested for the fashion industry are inhumane, and prevent the animals from living natural lives. They live their entire lives in cages, and are killed via gassing or electrocution, which are medically and ethically objectionable procedures. Rabbits, minks, foxes, raccoons, and other wild animals deserve better.

Likewise, procedures used in trapping wild animals are cruel, using traps and nooses that can result in days of prolonged suffering, including suffocation, wounds, self-trauma, hemorrhaging, not to mention being terribly frightened.

Consumer trends have leaned away from real fur. Please, City Council, provide strong support for intro 1476 and show NYC to be a compassionate city that will not continue to back cruelty to animals.

Sincerely,

Carol Zakaluk
East 136th Street
Bronx, NY 10454

I support the fur ban because no one (animal or human) deserves to be electrocuted to make a coat. We have moved beyond the need to kill animals to make clothes as a society and New York City should step up and be a leader in the fight for ending the suffering of innocent animals for something as shallow as coats.

People working in the fur industry (a minuscule number in comparison to the number of animals tortured) will be able to find other jobs as the market economy as indicated for centuries. Perhaps even by working with fake fur. Time to be on the right side of history and ban the inhuman torture of animals.

Jenna Haber

Hello, my name is Jeanine Lunz and my address is Himrod Street in Brooklyn, NY 11237. My council member is Raphael Espinal. I support Intro 1476 to ban fur sales. As a licensed veterinary professional of more than 20 years, I dedicate my life to caring for animals. It breaks my heart when I see someone wear a fur coat or trim. Many people are unaware of what happens to an innocent animal to make an item made of fur. They are often anally electrocuted, gassed, drowned and suffer immensely while still alive by being caught in steel leg traps, being starved, dehydrated, etc. Some people think animals do not have feelings but I witness every single day that they do. I see them happy, I see them frightened, I see them when they do not feel well, I see another looking out and nursing for another when he or she is sick. Animals definitely have feelings and feel pain and a dog or cat is no different than any other animal. No living being should have to suffer especially for fashion when there are so many alternatives out on the market today that also use eco friendly materials. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
Jeanine Lunz

Fashion. Forward.

Mac Smith
10th Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11215
Brad Lander (D) NYC Council Member
Bill number (Intro 1476)

Good afternoon. As a boy growing up, I was always caught up in the imagery in fashion magazines. They felt like visual fairy tales. My grandmother and I would pour through her issues of Harper's Bazaar and Vogue swooning and earmarking the pages that felt particularly lush or awe inspiring. Growing up in Maryland, this all seemed so far away, a magical land off in the distance across moondust-swept mountain tops.

But what wasn't shown on these glossy pages of paradise was how behind this fantasy of leather mules, feather shifts and fur boleros was a real nightmare. The suffering of thousands of foxes, minks, rabbits, birds, racoons and more who were literally woven into those threads. Each of these animals was treated like the proverbial golden goose, an iconic tale of animal commodity at the hands of greedy men that we still spin to children as moralistic. I didn't understand it then and it wasn't until I finally joined the fashion industry that I truly could witness the commoditization of animals.

In 2005, I moved to New York City opening an exciting chapter for me in dream field: fashion. I started in magazines and now write for major lifestyle brands. While I was living out what I thought was a dream come true, I could never shake this nagging feeling of guilt: how could I launch and promote coats, handbags and shoes made from the very animals I claimed to love? You see I've been an animal lover even before I could dress myself. From the moment I could walk, I was stumbling towards animals to hug and pet them. At 19, I went vegetarian. I finally made the leap to go vegan 4 years ago, never looking back. But that refers to my kitchen. Slowly, after removing all animals from my plate, I took to the medicine cabinet. Then my shower. The last has been my closet, where I still have leather reminders of a time when sadly chic mattered more to me than consciousness. I can't go back and change that time, so instead I leverage it, allowing me an empathy to speak to others in my industry without judgement. I know what motivates my peers and know that on both sides of the retail equation, change is in vogue. The list of designers (Chanel, Gucci, Burberry, Versace, Michael Kors, DVF, etc) that no longer think fur is fabulous grows every day. I never thought I'd see the day when the conversation has come so far even with photographer, Alexi Lubormirski starting Creatives4Change, a pledge by stylists, editors, designers and more to quit the use of fur, exotics *and* feathers. Everyone is more educated now. Consumers at my current company clamor for transparency, even going so far as to give us criticism when we thought of including fur in our Fall line. I was blown away by the compassion over fashion feedback I received daily from our customers. As a society, we have collectively woke from our slumber, no longer choosing the convenient "don't think about where it comes from."

That said, there will always be other points of view. Look, I love animals. I believe everyone here loves animals. I could stand up and lecture about the morality of using animals as things, as materials for things. I could pull at heartstrings and trust me, I wish that would be enough. But everyone at one point in their life has turned a blind eye to suffering, especially when we're taught at a young age by society that that is the "natural way and order of things."

The path I choose instead is to say definitively that facts support us today. A new poll released by a coalition of over 50 public-interest organizations, found that 75% of New York City voters support a bill (Intro 1476) introduced by Speaker Corey Johnson prohibiting the sales of fur apparel. 75%! That's huge. It's clear customers and craftsmen alike know that fur is passe. That animals are not fabric and that fur should stay where it belongs: in the archives and on the animals.

Today is a monumental chance to be part of the change, to be part of correcting the narrative. Both New York and Fashion have something key in common: they are always laser-focused on looking forward. Well the future is now. And the vote is in favor of a New York City-based fur ban.

My name is Sheryl Barnes. I have lived in Brooklyn for the first 30 years of my life. I now live in Dutchess County, NY. I have watched as my mother wore fur when I was little and I loved animals. I couldn't make sense of my feelings until I was in my 20's when realizing how my mother got that fur. I was repulsed. I was shocked and from that moment on I was an activist. How could anyone not know, in this day and age, with all the live video that these animals suffer. We are evil if we know this and allow it to continue. I have lived a compassionate lifestyle since that truth and it is time for NY to join the other communities that know this as well. We are all sentient being on this planet and have worth in just being who we are, not to serve someone else's purpose , but to live safely, free from harm to do what we were meant to do on this only planet that we have. Please support this ban. It is the sign of a true human being that realizes we must not allow others to suffer on our behalf.

Thank you,

Sheryl Barnes
Sherwood In
Stormville, NY 12582

I support the fur ban because no one (animal or human) deserves to be electrocuted to make a coat. We have moved beyond the need to kill animals to make clothes as a society and New York City should step up and be a leader in the fight for ending the suffering of innocent animals for something as shallow as coats.

Plus they can make wonderful fake fur now! No need to have real fur!

People working in the fur industry (a minuscule number in comparison to the number of animals tortured) will be able to find other jobs as the market economy as indicated for centuries. Perhaps even by working with fake fur. Time to be on the right side of history and ban the inhuman torture of animals.

Nicole Haber

Good evening,

My name is Jessica Pisano, I reside at E. 38th St. Brooklyn NY 11234. I support the ban of selling fur in New York City.

Thank you.

- -

I support Intro 1476 Bill to ban sale of fur in NYC.

Sincerely,

Liz Chidder

My name is Cynthia King. I live in Kensington Brooklyn, Council Member Brad Lander's district.

I AM WRITING IN SUPPORT OF INTRO 1476 - THE FUR BAN

I am a business owner, a teacher, a wife, a mother, and a voter.

Fur symbolizes inhumanity, captivity, oppression and violence. I refute the notion that fur has some specific cultural importance as we know that, unfortunately, status seeking and materialism belongs to many cultures. As a teacher I work to empower our young people with things of TRUE value like empathy, compassion.

I try to teach young people to avoid following detrimental trends - like the excessive spending of money outside of our community - especially on things that they've been convinced represent "success" "achievement" "luxury" but really only empower the owners - the oppressors - the industry - people who do not uplift our community.

The fur industry is a cruel and barbaric one.

Animal cruelty is linked directly or indirectly with every type of violent crime. Domestic violence (child abuse, spouse abuse, and elder abuse) is closely associated with animal cruelty. Perpetrators use animal cruelty to control women and children in abusive situations.

The connection between animal cruelty and violence is indisputable. The fur industry is built on animal cruelty. We must not turn a blind eye to an industry that perpetrates violence - the exact opposite of what our community needs.

Let's embrace this moment of progress and ban the sale of fur in our city.

We know NYC leads the world (although L.A. is ahead on this issue)

The fur industry has sunk to a new low. To try to maintain profits and relevance, they feign concern for communities that they only see as a revenue source - not as a genuine ally, or partner, or even as their equal!!!

It is common sense that we should try to alleviate suffering whenever we can.

I commend Speaker Johnson on his courageous and compassionate leadership

Thank you for considering my testimony and the testimony of an overwhelming number of compassionate New Yorkers.

Cynthia King
east 7th Street
Brooklyn NY 11218

Cynthia King
ck@cynthiakingdance.com

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to provide written testimony in SUPPORT of Intro 1476 to prohibit the sale of fur within New York City. I have spoken personally with my Council member Alan Maisel, and would also like to express my testimony here.

In this age of innovation and scientific advancement, fur is the epitome of unnecessary human cruelty in pursuit of fashion. There is no need to subject animals -- wild caught or farmed -- to a life of torture and an untimely death when high-quality faux fur exists, and when new, even higher-quality faux furs and other materials not made from animals are both created and improved upon every year.

Furthermore, we live in an age of rapid change and development with respect to jobs and industries. To claim that workers in the fur industry would not be able to find equally productive jobs in the emerging faux-fur and ever-growing fashion industry are claims made in bad faith at best, and are purposefully misleading untruths at best.

When New York City worked to ban smoking indoors, the prospect of lost jobs and lost revenues were made by the opposition, but the larger goal was to protect the health and well-being of others. So too should New York City step up to protect the lives of these animals, and not ignore their suffering in favor of those who profit from their suffering.

The fur industry has been around for a long time, but as history has repeatedly shown us, the length of time that an institution has existed does not automatically justify the continued existence of that industry.

The fur industry is unjustifiably cruel, and it's time in this great city is coming to a close, via the dollars spent by consumers on more ethical materials, and via legislation to ban the sale of animal fur.

Sincerely,
John S. Thomassen
Business owner and resident of Marine Park, Brooklyn

Council

I can add little to this discussion that has not already been said by the passionate People who showed up at the committee Hearing last week to articulately share their knowledge and thoughts in support Of banning the sale of fur in our city. We Have become so disconnected from the world we are supposed to be sharing that The the enormity of the disconnect boggles the mind. when I Heard the comments questions and concerns expressed by Corey Johnson, Fernando Cabrera and others, Tears of joy Invaded my eyes. I was so proud to hear my own feelings of 65 years reflected back to me from my own government, I was just overwhelmed. Thank you so very much.

Barbara wood
Richmond terr
Staten Island 10301

Hello,

As a fashion merchandiser I am excited to be part of an industry that is embracing change, embracing sustainability, and embracing cruelty-free fashion. In the past year, many luxury designers—including the likes of Gucci, Burberry, and Jean Paul Gaultier—have completely removed fur from their collections. However, we still have a long way to go.

Over one million animals are tortured and killed by the fur industry every year. Innocent wolves, beavers, coyotes, and many other fur-bearing animals are subject to inhumane trapping, gassing, and electrocution all in the name of fashion.

As consumers become aware of how their clothing is made, they are demanding transparency and seeking out ethical alternatives. Why should we allow garments made by such cruel practices to be sold in New York City?

Fur belongs in the wild on the backs of animals, not on the backs of urban New Yorkers. As the fashion capital of the world, it is our responsibility to set a conscious standard for the industry. Let's make fur a thing of the past and move forward with the passage of Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur.

Thank You,

Neysha Vázquez
65th Pl
Glendale, NY 11385

Hi, my name is Jaime Lee and my address is 73rd Place in Middle Village, NY in council member Robert Holden's district (30). I am submitting testimony in support of Intro 1476. As a mother of a 10-month-old baby I know firsthand how incredibly strong the bond is between a mother and her baby. I would do anything to protect her from harm and keep her happy, healthy and safe so I can only imagine the pain, stress, fear and despair i would feel if i never got to see her again. Imagine just for a moment that you were a fur bearing mother, looking for food for your babies and suddenly you become trapped in a steel leg hold trap, unable to move or get back to your babies. Your only option is to chew off your own leg or your babies will starve to death or be killed by a hunter. Also, imagine seeing your baby trapped, in agony and unable to move while you helplessly try to save her and the only way for her to be free is for you to chew off her leg. THIS is the reality of animals who fall victim to the fur industry and it's NOT for survival or any reason other than human greed, vanity, tradition and profit. I get stressed out when I am trying to get home to my baby and get stuck in traffic so can only imagine how painful it would be for any mother being trapped, separated and mutilated while her babies are left to die and fend for themselves. In the year 2019, you would think that a species who considers themselves to be highly a intelligent and civilized society would find alternative, cruelty-free and sustainable ways to stay warm, make money and look fashionable without directly causing unimaginable and unnecessary pain and suffering to some of the most innocent and defenseless beings on our planet. These animals are NO different in their ability to suffer, love their families and feel pain, boredom, frustration, sadness and fear than the cats and dogs we love, welcome into our homes and consider family. There is so much suffering already in this world that is unavoidable so if just some of the suffering can be easily minimized or eliminated then why wouldn't we do our best to reduce the suffering of others. The choices we make today will directly impact the values, ethics and traditions of our future generations. There is a reason why we no longer support human slavery, the oppressive mistreatment of women and other barbaric ways of the past and it's time to evolve. There is NO excuse that will justify the continued torture and murder of sentient beings for fashion and if we want to evolve towards a more peaceful, sustainable and compassionate future then the time is NOW to start setting a positive example for our children and change for the better. If we ever want to see progress, it is crucial that we do what we know is right and STOP making excuses to continue doing what we know is wrong. That is why major fashion designers are dropping fur left and right! Please, I urge you to look deep within your heart and do the right thing to help ban the sale of fur in NYC by supporting Intro 1476!

Thank you,

Jaime Lee

If these fur honchos see nothing wrong with the way these fellow mammals are treated, we should treat THEM that way and see if they change their minds since they are clearly humanity- and empathy challenged.

Please do the right thing. Please support this bill.

Gabriele Schafer
Dean St. Bklyn, 11217

PLEASE BAN FUR!

“The fur industry tortures and kills millions of fur-bearing animals each year. The tide is turning against this cruel industry: major fashion brands have committed to going fur-free; countries around the world have banned fur farms; and cities like San Francisco, West Hollywood, and Los Angeles have prohibited fur sales. Fur is a dying industry, and New York City is poised to become the largest city in the U.S. to ban the sale of fur! No doubt this will have a rippling effect across the entire country,” said Chris DeRose, Founder and President of Last Chance for Animals.

Jane Harris
10 First Place
Brooklyn, NY 11231

Hi, as an animal lover I am writing to you today to offer my support for into 1476.

As a Brooklyn resident I strongly feel it is time to move away from the horrid and cruel practices to sell animals fur in our beautiful and modern city.

It is 2019 and many more options to be fashionable and keep warm in winter exist today.

There is no need to be a fashion victim and cruelly raise, abuse and torture animals for this purpose.

Please support the ban of fur sales in our modern city.
New York City is better than that!

Christine Leitner
Brooklyn, NY 11231

BAN FUR IN NEW YORK!!

Thank you

Rita Dronsky

Please support Intro 1476.

The production of fur relies upon inhumane methods of trapping and husbandry, which drastically compromise the health and welfare of the animals used. Millions of rabbits, mink, foxes and other wild animals are confined lifelong in cramped cages on factory fur farms, deprived of their abilities to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are typically killed via medically and ethically objectionable methods, such as gassing or electrocution.

Additionally, animals may be trapped in the wild for their pelts. Animals caught in crippling leghold or noose-style traps undergo immense physical compromise and suffering, which can include asphyxiation, hemorrhage, ulcerative wounds, psychological distress and self-trauma. These animals are often forced to spend days lingering without food or water. In addition, it remains a public health and environmental concern that these archaic traps may injure and kill unintended targets, including threatened species, pets or even children.

Consumer choices have for many years been trending away from fur products. We hope the New York City Council will take a firm lead on this issue.

Thanks,

Angela Gonzalez
West 52nd Street
New York, NY, 10019

Hi there,

My name is Laura O'Connor and I live here in New York City at Christopher St., 10014.

Originally I'm from Canada though I am now a permanent resident and I'm a strong supporter of the successful company called Canada goose. they use coyote fur as a trim around their hoods. However the coyotes are trapped for days and sometimes not all their paws off. The reason this annoys me is not because I'm not aware of the need of fur for her to survive in Canada historically but because especially now in the boreal shield eco-zone it is so laughable to think that this is a necessary thing. Originally I'm from Canada though I am now a permanent resident and I'm a strong supporter of the successful company called Canada goose. they use coyote fur as a trim around their hoods. However the coyotes are trapped for days and sometimes not all their paws off. The reason this annoys me is not because I'm not aware of the need of fur for her to survive in Canada historically but because especially now in the boreal shield Eco zone it is so laughable to think that this is a necessary thing. We have developed alternative materials. And there are really only a handful of days in New York City or even much of southern Canada where that type of fur is necessary. As a matter of survival I agree that humans can use fur and should be able to but let's face it nobody in New York City needs a decorative coyote fur trim to survive. And consequently especially given the intense suffering these animals endure to create these "fashion" Products, I am against them and other obnoxious painful to witness things which induced depression such as horse drawn carriage is walking up and down Broadway Street.

I hope you guys do choose to ban it. I'm sure people who sell it can find some other way to carve out a financial existence. By the way did we originally have to tell slave owners or slave recruiters "sorry guys you just need to get a new job?" I also feel this way about dog breeders and Store owners who sell puppies which usually come from puppy mills. It's like so absurd to me that the government Hasn't made it illegal to do these things until all of the numerous dogs in shelters are adopted.

And by the way if you're going to assume that I also support the inhumane treatment of animals and concentrated animal feeding operations I do not I only buy organic humanely treated meat for my family even though I myself do not eat it. And by the way if you're going to assume that I also support the inhumane treatment of animals and concentrated animal feeding operations I do not I only buy organic humanely treated meat for my family even though I myself do not eat it. I hope New York City distinguishes itself on the world stage with this band as being a compassionate city that recognizes it's climate does not necessitate the trade, the all too often in your main one at that, of I hope New York City distinguishes itself on the world stage with this band as being a compassionate city that recognizes it's climate does not necessitate the trade, the all too often inhumane one at that, of fur.

Thanks and have a great day

Laura O'Connor

Dear Councilmembers:

Please support Intro 1476 to ban fur sales in NY. It's time to stop the barbaric and inhumane practices used to produce unnecessary fur products.

Thank you,
Vivian Scott Woodburn

1476Ban killing animals for fur.

Susan Grabina
West 18th st NYC. NY

Hello. I am writing this letter to express my support for a fur ban, not just in NYC but in the country. I came to the demonstration at City Hall and I asked the “No Fur Ban” supporters why they don’t want a fur ban and I’d like to address how ridiculous and insensitive their reasons are.

#1 Reason- Because fur is a huge business in NYC and this city was founded on fur and fashion and the fur trade. Actually it’s not a huge business anymore. Fewer and fewer people are wearing fur because it’s well known how brutal the killing of these animals is. It would be considered torture if it was done to a person, but the supporters for fur state, “well the animals don’t feel anything”. This are not people who are sensitive to the suffering of anything but themselves. NYC has a long history of lots of things that are no longer here, as does the rest of the world. People used to get around by walking, then we rode horses, then we had horse and buggy, now cars. We don’t we ride horses anymore because we have cars, and we don’t need fur anymore because we have other types of material that provide warmth. There are plenty of industries that have been around as long as people have been around, ie. Prostitution, drug use/ dealing, slavery, gambling and now we know those are despicable things in society but there are the few that continue to engage in these despicable things, either for the money or the feeling it brings them. It’s the same with fur, it’s a despicable industry and it needs to be cast into our past.

#2 Reason- Because people deserve to choose what fashion they wear and the black community holds fur as a social status symbol. Killing anything for anything but for the purpose of survival, is again heartless, cruel, insensitive, and selfish. If we, as a society, believe that you are successful because you can afford a fur jacket, please tell me how that is any different than the social status of owning slaves. Slave owners used to believe the more slaves one owned, the richer they were. Slaves were not free, kept captive and forced to work under cruel conditions and if they disobeyed, they were hung. In that regards, possibly slaves had it better, at least they were not sentenced to death. These animals are suffering, kept captive, not free and have a death sentence. Some of these animals were caught in traps that smash the bones in their paws and then are clubbed to death. How is the suffering and pain endured by any living creature acceptable for a fashion statement or a status symbol. Isn’t that the same treatment the jews endured from the Nazi’s? Or isn’t that the same as people in Africa mining for blood diamonds and the horrific conditions they live with? Why is ok for an animal to suffer? Because it is an animal? Tell anyone who truly loves their dog, cat or other animal, that their pet doesn’t feel pain or love, or fear or happiness. These animals feel all the same emotions we do.

#3 Reason. Because it provides jobs for people. This may be the only valid argument and to this, I can only make this analogy. There are plenty of jobs that are no longer needed, because we as a society are evolving. Throughout NYC and other areas, there used to be toll booth clerks, were did they all go? They were replaced by technology. Jobs become obsolete and people must learn new trades in order to continue to be relevant and contribute to society as a responsible citizens. We are no longer ignorant to the suffering and evil treatment of these animals for the name of fashion and the majority sees the need to replace this industry with more respectable businesses. Just like there used to be horse and buggies all over NYC, and there are barely anymore, the fur industry needs to be a past of NYC's history as well.

Jason Wilde

Cel: 917-846-0855

Fax: 973-507-5112

Jason Wilde jwilde@pinnaclemortgage.biz

I am testifying for fur ban. I am writing this email to seriously convince you guys to please pass a law or bill that will ban fur. Animals are not decorations or objects and do not deserve to be brutally killed and tortured just for fashion. That is truly greedy, evil, and against nature order. That is violating nature law. All living being have the rights to live. How would you feel if someone killed you for your teeth or skin? Treat others the way you want to be treated. Humans are not above everything and do not own this planet. Do the right thing. Respect our animals. Have some compassion.

Jillian Donnelly

Dear sir/madam:

Please stop the cruel treatment of animals for fur. You can make a change. Animals have feelings just like we do.

Thank you for reading this, now it's time to take action.

Sincerely,

Michelle Martinez

☐     "Support Intro 1476 to Ban Fur"

Hi Everyone

I wish I could be there in NY, on the stairs holding fur is cruel signs and ban fur now.

I have waited for fur bans my whole life.

PLEASE, Support Intro 1476 to ban fur.

Those cruel at heart, always 'use' the 'loss of work' as an Excuse for their Horrific Atrocities, I'm quite tired of it.

Violence breeds Violence.

Thanks,

Inger Eppeland
S.Robertson Blvd.
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

no more fur ny we must evolve from the cave if we are a
civilized nation thank u

jacqueline stone parisfrance11372@gmail.com

Dear New York City Council members,

The fur industry admitted that anal and vaginal electrocution is their standard method for killing animals for fur, and that they live in tiny cages that are too small for them to turn around. Even more disturbing is that fur industry honchos callously stated that they see nothing wrong with these horrific, agonizing torture practices.

Please support Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur in New York City.

Thank you for your attention to my profoundly grave concerns.

Sincerely,

Georgeanne Matranga
Village Green Drive
Port Jefferson Station, New York 11776
DTPORGE@aol.com

My name is Maria sheahan and I support Banning fur it is a cruel and inhumane treatment of the animals and years ago is necessary for clothing but today there is so much technology that we can replicate the fur, there is no need for this cruel and barbaric practice anymore it's only lining the pockets of big business and the animals are suffering for it.
Stop the barbaric practice of wearing dead skin!

Personally with all the parasites and bugs and ticks out there I would not want to be standing next to someone with Fur on anyway.

This is a disgusting barbaric practice that needs to be stopped it's no longer needed and the disease that you can get from it and that it would Harbor in the fur it's disgusting the animals are being exploited and abused offer their fur the remainders are thrown away senseless killing so someone could walk around looking like a polar bear

Maria M Sheehan
Against wearing tortured animals

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to urge you to support the passage of Intro 1476. This legislation would prohibit the sale of fur within New York City.

The production of fur relies upon inhumane methods of trapping and husbandry, which drastically compromise the health and welfare of the animals used. Millions of rabbits, mink, foxes and other wild animals are confined lifelong in cramped cages on factory fur farms, deprived of their abilities to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are typically killed via medically and ethically objectionable methods, such as gassing or electrocution.

Additionally, animals may be trapped in the wild for their pelts. Animals caught in crippling leghold or noose-style traps undergo immense physical compromise and suffering, which can include asphyxiation, hemorrhage, ulcerative wounds, psychological distress and self-trauma. These animals are often forced to spend days lingering without food or water. In addition, it remains a public health and environmental concern that these archaic traps may injure and kill unintended targets, including threatened species, pets or even children.

Consumer choices have for many years been trending away from fur products. We hope the New York City Council will take a firm lead on this issue. I strongly urge you to support Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur in New York.

Sincerely,

Marion Richman, MD

West End Avenue

New York, NY 10025

To torture & kill these innocent animals for fur is absolutely disgusting! They are abused & killed in such a horrific manner! In todays era Faux fur looks just as good.

Please support “Intro 1476” & end this needless suffering!

Thank you

Joel Ruffino-Fischer sjfischer@comcast.net

Dear Council Members:

On behalf of the tens of millions of fur-bearing animals who are viciously killed every year in the fur industry, I ask that you stand with compassionate New Yorkers and vote to end this violent trade in animal skins.

The animals' gruesome deaths are documented all over the internet by animal welfare organizations; I encourage you to watch as these defenseless beings are electrocuted, drowned, snared in leg-hold traps, and bludgeoned for human vanity and greed. I trust that the Council Members, particularly my Council Member Ben Kallos, will find that such barbarous acts are not "humane" and have no place in a civilized society.

I thank you in advance for your consideration and your compassionate vote.

Sincerely,

Theresa Wheeler
East 93rd Street
NYC, NY 10128

Support intro 1476 fur ban

I was unable to attend the rally but totally support this fur ban and the totally inhumane practices of supplying animal fur to the industry at the expense of the health and safety of animals. Jill Susser

Jill E. Susser Jsusser@nyc.rr.com

Please ban fur in NYC. It is the right and humane thing to do.

Sheila O Shea
South 2nd Street
Brooklyn NY 11249

- -

I am writing to express my horror at the fur industry and my deep support for the 1476 fur ban bill. New York City deserves legislation that reflects the progress of humanity and recognizes the barbaric practices of this deadly industry. Please support animal welfare.

Janelle Batta
Harlem

- - -

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE BAN ON FUR! THANK YOU FOR
YOUR HUMANITY!**

weiss capmind@optonline.net

To the NYC Council members:

I am a New Yorker and a social justice advocate and want you to vote YES on Intro 1476 to prohibit the sale of fur in our city. This ordinance, like the one I worked on in Los Angeles, is fair, progressive legislation that saves animals from a life of inhumane confinement, mistreatment and cruel trapping. There are humane alternatives to fur and this bill does not prevent consumers from wearing their existing furs or even buying second hand furs. Most fur is sold in department stores and there are few furriers left in NYC --- we're in 2019 now so I don't think we need to be overly concerned with the jobs of people skinning animals alive in China and Canada. In any case, jobs having to do with cruelty to animals ought to be phased out ASAP. The animals killed for fur have exactly the same qualities we love in our pets and they need our protection.

Furthermore, a citywide survey [found that 74% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans and 79% of independents support the sales prohibition.](#)

The poll, released by a coalition of over [50 public-interest organizations](#), found that 75 percent of New York City voters support a bill (Intro 1476) introduced by Speaker Corey Johnson prohibiting the sales of fur apparel.

It's the right thing to do. Do not be swayed by people making money off the backs of animals killed for fashion. We do not have the right to continue to allow them to profit from cruelty. Let's do this. Vote YES!

Carole Raphaele Davis

Co-Founder, [#MeToo France](#)

Director of Campaigns, Europe, Friends of Animals www.friendsofanimals.org
www.rivierarescue.blogspot.com

"If you save just one life, it is as if you saved the entire world."

Pleaseeee support intro 1476! No living creature deserves to be tortured just so some shallow people can wear their fur!

Raisa Hebra rh11385@ymail.com

- - -

Dear City Council,

You have the power to start to change an age-old practice of legalized torture.

Please carefully consider the historic importance of your vote and put yourself on the right side of the moral compass.

This issue is no different than those involving the treatment of slaves, women, and all beings who were felt to beneath the dignity and the protection of the law.

Thank you,

Eric Uhlfelder
Jane Street
NY, NY 10014

To Whom It May Concern:

As a proud citizen of this country and an even prouder New Yorker (50 years strong), I feel that the sale of furs in our great city, the capital of the world, would somehow tarnish the greatness that makes New York what is today. Are we really about vaginal and anal electrocution for those who embrace vanity? Can we not arise from the "old world" thinking and lead the country, if not the planet, into a new "excellence" where "all" are treated compassionately and humanely?

We can do so much better and it begins with supporting Intro 1476.

Sincerely,

Enzo Barrios
East 55th St.
New York, N.Y. 10022

Hello,

I'm a lifelong New Yorker and would like to see all fur sales banned in New York. Please support Intro 1476 to ban fur.

Thanks,

Yael Ryzowy Silverstein

- -

Please outlaw fur in NYC so it can be outlawed Nationwide.

Elizabeth McMahon elizmcmahon@gmail.com

To whom it may concern.

My name is Karolina Tyszkowska and I'm writing to you in support of Intro 1476 the bill to stop the sale of fur in NYC.

I support this bill as I believe the fur industry is cruel and fur production is unnecessary and unsustainable (especially in NYC In 21st century).

We now have superior materials that are not only better for environment but also can last longer than fur or any other animal derived fabric.

Fur industry is truly barbaric, and we as a society need to stand up for the animals that suffer for fashion garments. They are born in captivity, closed in small cages, just to be skinned for their fur at the very end of their short lives. Those animals are born and bred to be killed AND TURNED INTO FABRIC. Those animals are often just babies- and as a new mother - I couldn't imagine any innocent being going through something like that.

Many of those animals are trapped and taken out of their natural environment (for example foxes).

I truly believe that if we decrease the demand for fur, the industry will eventually realize that it's time to evolve to more humane type of creating garments.

At the last hearing of intro 1476 there were many concerns about the furrier's jobs. But as many designers pointed out- the skills carried by fur industry workers are in demand and they can be easily transitioned into other fields - the only thing that has to change is the actual fabric (FUR).

Lastly, I believe that NYC as a capital of fashion need to make a stand and become a leader in this historic fur ban , just like other big cities that already took this step.

Please support INTRO 1476

Sincerely ,

Karolina Tyszkowska

Berry str

Brooklyn, NY, 11249

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to urge you to support the passage of Intro 1476. This legislation would prohibit the sale of fur within New York City.

The production of fur relies upon inhumane methods of trapping and husbandry, which drastically compromise the health and welfare of the animals used. Millions of rabbits, mink, foxes and other wild animals are confined lifelong in cramped cages on factory fur farms, deprived of their abilities to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are typically killed via medically and ethically objectionable methods, such as gassing or electrocution.

Additionally, animals may be trapped in the wild for their pelts. Animals caught in crippling leghold or noose-style traps undergo immense physical compromise and suffering, which can include asphyxiation, hemorrhage, ulcerative wounds, psychological distress and self-trauma. These animals are often forced to spend days lingering without food or water. In addition, it remains a public health and environmental concern that these archaic traps may injure and kill unintended targets, including threatened species, pets or even children.

Consumer choices have for many years been trending away from fur products. We hope the New York City Council will take a firm lead on this issue. I strongly urge you to support Intro 1476 to ban the sale of fur in New York.

Sincerely,

Yevgeny Azrieli, MD

West End Avenue

New York, NY 10025

Please lend your support to intro 1476 to ban fur.

Valerie Vlasaty
East 94th St.
New York, NY 10128

- -

I am in support of ending the unnecessary suffering of animals abused by the fur industry.

Oriana Soddu
North 8th Street
Brooklyn NY 11211

oriana@orianasoddu.com

- -

Dear Council Member,

As a lifelong New Yorker, a staunch opposer to animal cruelty, and a concerned citizen, I am extremely pleased that our city has the opportunity to join San Francisco and Los Angeles in banning animal fur sales. I strongly urge you to support Intro 1476- the Fur Ban bill. The fur industry has been doing its best to fight Intro 1476 ever since it was introduced. All of their arguments fall flat. The truth is that the fur industry profits exclusively off of animal abuse and animal torture. Please put an end to their ability to do so in NYC.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Warmest regards,
Jade Monahan
Avenue B
NY, NY 10009-8416

Dear Council Members,

I have been inspired and overjoyed to see the support for Intro 1476 to prohibit the sale of fur in NYC.

I am equally sad and embarrassed to learn that members on the opposing side do not think that anal electrocution and other barbaric methods of torture should be considered wrong or harmful in any way. It is a troubling world we live in.

What I know for certain is that violence begets violence. Lack of compassion breeds lack of compassion. It is time we step up and lead the way for the rest of the country.

Please do the right thing and ban the sale of fur in our fair city.

Sincerely,
Hamilton Haas Regen
Remsen Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Keyla M. Cruz and I live in Williamsburg Brooklyn. My counsel member is Antonio Reynoso. I am writing to declare my support of the fur ban. The fur industry uses cruel and inhumane methods on the animal they so callously use for fur. They are annually electrocuted, flayed alive, and abused in unmentionable ways. The majority of New Yorkers agree that the sale of fur in our city should be banned. Fur is not a necessity. It's often used as a medium to show off one's socioeconomic status, never for something good and vital.

I'm an animal lover and I can't fathom the idea of wearing their skin: skin I don't need, but that means the difference between life and death for them. As a proud New Yorker, it would make me beyond happy to see the ban be officially enforced.

Thank you for your time,

Keyla M. Cruz
S. 2nd. St.
Brooklyn, NY 11211

Support Intro 1476 to ban fur

Enough said

Dena Lenard afrodeniac@gmail.com

- -

My name is Mr Simone Conigliaro
Caldwell Ave Maspeth, NY 11378

Please ban fur sales in NYC, animals deserve better. There's no reason in this day 2019 to abuse, torture and kill animals for a fur trim, coat or any other use. Animals die slow painful deaths, so that we can wear their skin, we have no rights to.

Thank you for supporting this ban
Yours truly
Simone Conigliaro

- -

Hello,

My name is Jane Seymour and I live at 12th street in Brooklyn, NY. Please support intro 1476 to ban fur. New York is the greatest city in the world and we need to be at the head of change. Kindness matters. Torture and death should never happen, especially for fashion.

Thank you,

Jane Seymour

Dear City Council,

I support Intro 1476 that would ban the sale of fur in New York City. Fur is a product and symbol of human cruelty. This is the 21st century. We no longer need to electrocute or trap animals to clothe ourselves, nor do we need more means to accentuate social stratification in our polarized world.

The number of jobs affected by this measure is truly minimal, though I am in favor of measures to ease the transitions to other occupations for those workers.

The argument that banning the sale of fur will lead to banning the sale of leather and meat is specious. Public support for banning fur is far greater than public support for banning meat, and there are far more humane ways of raising and killing animals for food than there are ways of obtaining furs.

Finally, I am Jewish, and I do not give any heed to the argument from Hasidic Jews that fur is necessary for their hats. Nothing in the oral or written Torah demands this. It is a custom, which, like any custom, can change over time.

Sincerely,
David Shimoni

Bennett Avenue
New York, NY 10040

It is a cruel, painful and useless and not to mention archaic practice to be using animals for sources of food and especially for clothing. NYC is not a forrest in the middle of nowhere, no one needs to wear animals. But just like everything else no one cares because it is not happening to them. Are you going to be that person or a leader? It's up to you. Ban fur!!!

Chris Nicolo

As a lifelong outdoorsperson, I have seen animal conservation explained in terms that leaned to extermination. More hunting permits are given than we have animals.

Do you think those hunters / trappers are following the rules and playing fair? I can tell you first hand: NO. There are despicable practices in trapping animals that occur all over the world and here in NYS. The coyotes trapped for NOTHING but their fur in Canada to be an ACCESSORY on a \$600 jacket sold in SOHO. This fur is not needed for human survival and is not even utilized for that purpose.

Please support INTRO 1476 and do our small NYC part to show the world the USA is a total joke .

Denise Owens

Irving Place

Brooklyn NY 11238

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to advocate in favor of the ban of fur sales in New York City and hope that my testimony will be considered when the final decision is made.

It is appalling to think we are even having this conversation in the contemporary retail market, one that is pushing for more transparent and sustainable practices across the entire supply chain. As a small business owner and professor of fashion retailing in NYC, I do my best to inform my students about the fur supply chain and how it is rooted in corruption and the unnecessary cruelty of both animals and humans, all to provide a luxury good to those wanting to show off their wealth.

In today's market, there are many alternatives to fur-based products that are not only sustainable, but cheaper to produce and can create an even greater amount of jobs within our industry. Advancements in both science and design have allowed us to move past this unnecessary practice; offering alternatives that benefit the greater good for all species. Is this not the normal course of action, to find a better alternative so lives are not sacrificed in the process (i.e. coal cultivation or child miners)?

Our students are supporting you on this ban. They know and understand what is happening to produce these furs and it is unsettling to them. They also know that there is no job future or long-term growth in the fur industry. In the almost ten years of teaching college level courses, I have yet to have a student who has moved into a position where they are working directly in the fur supply chain (that I am aware of). While there will be jobs lost in the beginning, it will be nothing in comparison to the countless number of harmless and defenseless animals that you will be saving.

Thank you for providing the forum for me to speak. I sincerely appreciate it.

Best,

Dimitri Koumbis

--

Dimitri Koumbis

BISHOP COLLECTIVE
bishopcollective.com

Say hello.
[Instagram](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)

I support the ban on the sale of fur in New York City. Killing animals for fur is cruel, inhumane and only serves the vanity of rich, uncaring people. Please count me among the thousands of caring New Yorkers who think the sale of fur is unnecessary and heartless.

Thank you.

Jane Halpern

East 79th Street
NYC

To New York City Council Members,

I'm writing this testimony to urge each and every council member to support and vote yes on Intro 1476 to end the sale of new fur in NYC.

Fur has no place in our society, it is a ultra cruel and selfish symbol of wealth and oppression against other animals. There is absolutely no reasonable excuse for any human to wear the dead fur of a non-human being; it is time to evolve and being to embrace with unflinching unity the integral web of life we share with our fellow earthlings.

Fur is a disgraceful symbol of our colonialism over other animals; if our planet is to survive we must stop the senseless slaughter of innocent animals. The ban on fur is a good place to start.

Fur Free NYC!!!

Respectfully,

Janell O'Rourke

My name is Jamie Kurtzer and I live at E 78th st Ny ny 10075.

I beg you to please stop the unnecessary torture of innocent animals for fur. We are living in 2019 with so many other options for fashion that will keep us warm and be aesthetically pleasing. Nyc is a leader and we must kick start better treatment for all living beings. We cannot speak of love, peace, and acceptance when blood and violence stands before us in the lining of a fur coat. Thank you for your time.

Jamie Kurtzer

To whom it may concern:

I am contacting you to urge you to support 1476. The proposal to ban the sale of fur in New York City would be a step in the compassionate direction. If any one of you who owns a dog or cat can attest, even accidentally stepping on their little toes or tails leads to a yelp of pain. I ask you to imagine what it might be like if you are skinned alive for your fur, or electrocuted in the anus for your fur. It sounds horrific, but there is no such thing as humane killing of animals.

We share this earth with our fellow creatures in the animal kingdom. Killing for fur is barbaric and medieval. I urge you to respect our four-legged friends and show empathy and compassion. Fur is not a human need. In fact, I argue that if fur is eliminated, it opens up opportunities for businesses to be more creative and innovative with the products they make. Fur is old. Banning fur and making new innovative products opens up a whole market of buyers who would never dare wear fur like me!

In conclusion, thank you for even approaching the subject of banning fur. I hope the future demonstrates our ability to be compassionate and respectful towards the creatures we share this earth with.

--

Lauren Tartaglia
Northside Piers
Brooklyn, NY 11249

Hello friends,

I do hope you will support intro 1476 to ban fur from NYC. I believe that NYC can set a great example for other cities that want to phase out cruel, inhumane practices of violence on other animals. Fur is (quite literally) dead, and I'd love to see it phased out of my city.

Thank you,

Emilie Soffe

Please support Intro 1476 to ban fur in NYC. Animals killed for their fur suffer terribly, confined to tiny, dirty cages then anally or genitally electrocuted. This unnecessary cruelty must be outlawed at once.

Sincerely,

Lacey Levitt, Ph.D.

- -

Hello,

I writing this in support of the fur ban. The fact that humans are slaughtering these beautiful innocent animals for fashion and to make a profit is beyond despicable. This torture must end I want to be proud to say that this is not acceptable here in New York. I have 3 dogs and it's no different if some one skinned them alive for their fur. The mere thought makes me so horrified. Please push this ban, it's the right humane thing to do.

Regards
Maria Munoz

Honorable Councilmembers:

This will be brief. I was not at the hearing but I did watch all 7 hours on my computer. My reactions are as follows:

Amen to the testifier who said "I feel like I'm in an alternate universe negotiating whether gassing of sentient beings is humane or not".

Regarding the Furmark "expert" who said "my moral is not your moral" -- red flags and sirens should be going up at belief systems like that.

Regarding the lady and others in the fur profession who kept saying "for animals? for animals? what about people?" -- it is encouraging to me to see councilmembers who are friendly to progressive legislation for animals. But, I hope in short time your understanding of history, and your emotional intelligence will expand to seeing that the notion of human supremacy is not only inaccurate but a downright dangerous thing. What incredible spiritual lack and lack of empathy for someone to defend the unspeakable torture of beings for the sake of their livelihood. Do we forget the lessons of history? Do we not see the clearcut parallels with human slavery and defense of occupations and economies? To these people I say you are selfish and soulless. It would behoove anyone with any integrity to say "yes, these abominations must stop -- I will not be complicit in it anymore -- regardless of my age and habits I am open ready and willing to adapt to new vocational opportunities to reduce suffering in this world.

We are a very sick society especially with regard to how we treat and use non-human animals. Indeed and I hope you all see it, it's karmic ... what we do the animals, we do to ourselves.

I beseech all of you in the Council to take heed of the gravity of this and the many other related animal use issues that you are and will be considering. I beseech you to finally learn from history and not repeat it.

Also with regard to this as a single-issue campaign -- I heard Speaker Johnson reply to a pro-fur testifier that he was not in favor of a ban on animal products. Although this seems to be beyond the scope of the hearing at hand, and my fellow activists would probably not like me to bring it up, I am going to bring it up anyway. Please examine your speciesism with regard to some animals as deserving of moral consideration, but not others. It is like favoritism to lighter-skinned complexions over dark which occurs universally within all ethnic groups. It is like supporting gay rights or women's rights for only certain sectors within those. I heard Speaker Johnson say something about "drawing the line". The line should be drawn a lot farther away -- at the point of necessity of survival. Somehow you all can *feel* for the trapped or caged wild fur animal, but equivocate and turn a cold heart for animals of other use ... that suffer just as much. Please examine your moral schizophrenia. Surely as educated women and men who have been elected to public service -- you value moral consistency, and raising the bar very high

of what it means to be human. What we do to animals, not only the fur animals, degrades our humanity -- and no good can ever come of it.

On that note I conclude this, praying I have made a dent in your hearts and minds for the liberation of all animals from human tyranny.

Sincerely,

Paula Flanzraich
162nd Street
Flushing, NY 11365

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==

KARMA: WHAT WE DO TO THE ANIMALS WE DO TO OURSELVES

We must not refuse to see with our eyes, what they must endure with their bodies. ~ Gretchen Wyler

In their behavior toward creatures, all men are Nazis. Human beings see oppression vividly when they're the victims. Otherwise they victimize blindly and without a thought. ~ Isaac Bashevis Singer, author, Nobel Prize 1978

We patronize the animals for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, and greatly err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours, they are more finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other Nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time. ~ Henry Beston

It is difficult to get a man to understand something, when his salary depends upon his not understanding it ~ Upton Sinclair

<http://www.nationearth.com/>

<https://www.dominionmovement.com/watch>

<http://www.powerfulbook.com/index.html>

<http://vimeo.com/26718309>

My name is Melinda Lee, I live in the Mill Basin section of Brooklyn, NY and my council member is Alan N. Maisel.

As a resident of NYC and an animal lover, I am thrilled that a ban on fur sales has been introduced. No animal deserves the prolonged agony of a steel trap, only to be bludgeoned to death for a fur collar. Some of the methods animals in the fur industry are killed by include drowning, electrocution, being shot in the head and skinned alive. Millions of Coyotes, foxes, rabbits, cats, dogs and other animals suffer this torment yearly for a cruel product that has been on the way out for a long time. NYC is better than this. We do not and should not support torture of any being, especially the most innocent beings on the planet.

I support fur ban intro 1476 and really hope you would help us win against such a barbaric industry.

Sincerely,

Melinda Lee
William J. Farmer Inc.
369 Lexington Avenue, Suite 310
New York, NY 10017
(O) [646.237.7854](tel:646.237.7854)
(M) [347.517.3375](tel:347.517.3375)

William J. Farmer
REAL ESTATE · NEW YORK

It's time to end the abuse and inhumane treatment of animals by the fur industry. Animal fur is not women's apparel.
Please support the fur ban by endorsing Intro 1476 to ban fur.

Thank you,
Leah R. Jacobs
E. 9th St.
NY, NY 10003

- -

My name is Nicole Adams
74th street

Middle Village, NY 11379

Please ban fur sales in NYC, animals deserve better. There is no reason to abuse, torture and kill animals for a fur trim, coat, or any other use. Animals die slow painful deaths, so that we can wear their skin. Please help us give these animals the right to live, which they deserve.

Thank you,

Nicole

- -

Support ban fur
Patricia Aker pataker47@gmail.com

I am a NYC parent to 2 kids at NEST+m on the lower east side. I fully support this ban on fur.

As a parent I try to teach my kids the values of compassion, kindness and respect. The fur industry is opposite to everything we're trying to instill in our kids. It exploits animals and treats them as commodities with no feelings or emotions.

We fully support this fur ban and hope that it will move our 21st century society forward to a place where animals are viewed and treated with compassion. A world in which animals are respected for their own needs and desires to live a life free from harm, which are separate from our needs to exploit them. Collectively, we can do better than this, and we should!

It's time to leave fur as a relic in the past where it belongs... and on the animals, where it belongs.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

Robyn Moore
Grand St.
NY, NY
10002

As a lifelong New Yorker I am thrilled to support the passage of Intro 1476 to prohibit the sale of fur within New York City. New Yorkers of all political persuasions oppose animal cruelty and overwhelmingly support a prohibition on the sale of fur apparel.

Fur use in fashion is unethical and unnecessary. The production of fur relies upon inhumane methods of trapping and husbandry, which drastically compromise the health and welfare of the animals used. Millions of rabbits, mink, foxes and other wild animals are confined lifelong in cramped cages on factory fur farms, deprived of their abilities to engage in natural behaviors. These animals are typically killed via medically and ethically objectionable methods, such as gassing or electrocution.

Additionally, animals may be trapped in the wild for their pelts. Animals caught in crippling leghold or noose-style traps undergo immense physical compromise and suffering, which can include asphyxiation, hemorrhage, ulcerative wounds, psychological distress and self-trauma. These animals are often forced to spend days lingering without food or water. In addition, it remains a public health and environmental concern that these archaic traps may injure and kill unintended targets, including threatened species, pets or even children.

As a concerned constituent, I urge you to support Intro 1476. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Dana Monsky

Leonard St, Brooklyn, NY 11211

Distinguished Counsel Members:

On behalf of Fur Free Society, Inc., I strongly urge you to support the proposed ban on the sale of fur in New York City. All around the globe, countries and jurisdictions are banning farm farming and the breeding of animals for fur, including the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Netherlands and Germany, the latter of which ended fur farming by adopting restrictions so stringent that fur farming is no longer economically viable. Luxembourg has banned fur farming because “*animals are no longer considered as a thing, but as gifted non-human living beings with sensitivity and holders of certain rights*”. India has banned the importation of exotic animal skins, sparing the lives of minks, foxes, chinchillas, and reptiles such as crocodiles and alligators. Bill to ban fur are also being introduced elsewhere, including Ireland, Norway, Poland and Estonia.

Major designers are also announcing fur-free policies, including Armani, Gucci, Versace, Chanel, Coach, Burberry, Ralph Lauren, Michael Kors, Diane Von Furstenberg, Hugo Boss, Donna Karan & DKNY, Furla, von Holzhausen, The Kooples, Zhivago, Maison Margiela, Bottega Veneta, Nicholas K., TJ Maxx/Marshalls and Farfetch.com, Jimmy Choo, BCBMaxazria, and Jean Paul Gaultier, who called fur farming “absolutely deplorable”. Stores are refusing to sale fur, including Anglicare Australia, Burlington Stores, Stein Mart, and VF Corporation, parent company to The North Face, Vans, Timberland, Nautica and Yoox Net-A-Porter Group, the parent company of the world’s leading online luxury fashion retailer, Net-a-Porter. Fashion weeks, magazines and model agencies have also adopted fur free policies, including Nordic Fashion Week Association, London Fashion Week, InStyle Magazine, and the Linden Staub modeling agency.

Our strongest argument for the ban on fur sales, however, is that the use of fur is not “natural”, “sustainable”, “eco-friendly” or “green”. The fur industry greenwashes the real environmental impact, using false marketing claims to confuse and mislead consumers. The reality is that fur farming has the same adverse environmental impact as factory farming, polluting rivers and waters with industrial and animal waste. According to a 2013 Water Quality Survey commissioned by Nova Scotia Environment, lakes near mink farms in Nova Scotia, Canada are seriously degraded primarily from high phosphorus inputs resulting from releases emanating from mink farming operations. The David Suzuki Foundation report, *The Impacts of the Mink Industry on Freshwater Lakes in Nova Scotia*, concluded that lakes and rivers are under “serious threat”, with several lakes developing blue-green algae. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency warns that nutrient pollution from excess nitrogen and phosphorus from animal manure is a “leading cause of degradation of U.S. water quality” causing depletion of dissolved oxygen that fish and aquatic life need in order to survive, and that algal blooms endanger human health. I have attached a Groundbreaking Independent Research Study on the Environmental Impact of Mink Fur Production (CE Delft, January 2011), which concluded that in 17 of the 18 environmental impacts studied, mink scored *worse* than other textiles, and that carcinogens like chromium and formaldehyde used in the dressing and dyeing process compromise a fur’s biodegradability. In fact, the fashion industry itself acknowledges the detrimental impact of fur. In the *Pulse of the Fashion Industry 2017*, published by Global Fashion Agenda & The Boston Consulting Group, the report concluded that animal products are not only unjustified and cruel, but are also worse for the environment, concluding that among 14 common fashion

materials, animal products were listed among the top most environmentally detrimental materials.

Chemical and organic compounds used to “dress” and “dye” fur are similar to compounds used for leather and are highly detrimental to the environment and are known to be carcinogenic to humans. These chemicals include formaldehyde, chromium, aluminum, ammonia, chlorine, lead, methanol, sulfuric acid, toluene, chlorobenzene and ethylene glycol. The World Health Organization (2001, 79:7809) has warned that tannery pollution threatens the health of Bangladesh residents, finding that approximately 90% of people who live and work in the Kamrangirchar and Hazaribagh regions of India, where hazardous chemicals are discharged into the air, streets and river, suffer from diseases of occupation and environmental toxicity and die before the age of 50. An Italian investigation also found Chrome VI (Hexavalent), Chrome III (Trivalent), Formaldehyde and Nonylphenol Ethoxylate on clothing intended for children under the age of 36 months. From the upfront production process to the end result, fur production is highly detrimental to the environmental and hazardous to human health.

We thank you for your time and attention to this matter and ask that you support 1476 to ban the sale of fur in New York City.

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PULSE OF THE FASHION INDUSTRY



PULSE OF THE
FASHION INDUSTRY

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GLOBAL FASHION AGENDA

Global Fashion Agenda is a global leadership forum on fashion sustainability founded in 2016 and anchored around Copenhagen Fashion Summit, the world's principal event on sustainability in fashion for industry decision-makers. Global Fashion Agenda advances a year-round mission to mobilize the international fashion industry to transform the way we produce and consume fashion, for a world beyond next season. In partnership with sustainability pioneering industry leaders including Kering, H&M, Target, Li & Fung and Sustainable Apparel Coalition, Global Fashion Agenda sets the agenda for the industry on the most critical environmental, social and ethical issues, and advocates for a collective industry focus on the largest opportunities. Global Fashion Agenda is a not-for-profit initiative. For more information, please visit

www.copenhagenfashionsummit.com/global-fashion-agenda

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INTRODUCTION

The fashion industry has a clear opportunity to act differently, pursuing profit and growth while also creating new value for society and therefore for the world economy. It comes with an urgent need to place environmental, social, and ethical improvements on management's agenda.

In recent decades, the fashion industry has been an engine for global development. One of the world's largest consumer industries,¹ generating €1.5 trillion in annual apparel and footwear revenues in 2016,² it employs around 60 million people along its value chain.³

To continue the growth trajectory, the fashion industry needs to address its environmental and social footprint. The earth's natural resources are under pressure, and the fashion industry, although not the most obvious contributor, is a considerable one. Social conditions—also in the fashion industry—are far from those set forth in the United Nations' goals for sustainable development. With current trajectories of production and consumption, these pressures will intensify by 2030 to the point of threatening industry growth itself.

With resources becoming even scarcer, the industry will face rising costs from labor to materials and energy. Based on conservative projections, fashion brands' profitability levels are at risk in the range of at least 3 *percentage points* if they don't act determinedly, and soon.

The facts show a clear need for acting differently. The good news is that by changing practices, the industry can both stop the negative impact and generate a high amount of value for society, while also protecting profitability. We estimate that the world economy would gain about €160 *billion annually* if the fashion industry would successfully address those environmental and social issues.

As of today, the sustainability 'pulse' of the industry is weak. The newly developed global Pulse Score, a health measure for the sector (see page 28 for more details), is only 32 out of 100. The industry is not yet where it could and should be. The spread of performance is also quite large. The best performers on sustainability are the very big players as well as some mid-sized, family owned companies, while over half of the market, mainly small to medium-sized players, has shown little effort so far. The rest of the industry is somewhere in between. This is confirmed by the Pulse Survey (further information on pages 35/36), where two-thirds of polled fashion executives have not made environmental and social factors guiding principles for their companies' strategy.

Fashion brands with targeted initiatives will be best placed to improve their environmental and social footprint and counteract the rising costs of apparel production. They will pull ahead of their competitors with innovative ways of doing business and efficient production techniques that minimize the use of water, energy, and land, as well as hazardous chemicals. By realizing better working conditions and improving workers' safety, they will minimize their operational and reputational risks and create significant value for themselves and the world economy. These initiatives will improve the overall industry Pulse, raising the average and creating inspiring best practices for the low performers to learn from.

However, even if the entire industry caught up to the best practice front-runners, it would not be enough. Under optimistic and ambitious assumptions, only less than half of the €160 billion could be captured.⁴ The industry needs coordinated action *beyond today's solutions*. This report explains the size of the challenge and the need for innovation, collaboration and supporting regulatory action to close the gap.

About the report

The authors of this report—The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Global Fashion Agenda (GFA)—have developed a common fact base on the health of the industry, and have evaluated and quantified the overall opportunity for sustainability in fashion. GFA and BCG worked in close collaboration with GFA's strategic partners that have acted as a sounding board, comprising H&M, Kering, Li & Fung, Target, and the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC). Further, the SAC has acted as an exclusive data provider through the Higg Index. BCG has analyzed this data in depth, and has complemented the input to get a representative metric on sustainability in fashion: the Pulse Score.

TOWARDS A VISION OF A BETTER FASHION INDUSTRY

This first edition of the Report on the *Pulse of the Fashion Industry* exposes the challenges in a number of sustainability impact areas and along the industry's value chain, from design and development to end-of-life for apparel and footwear. It aims to provide transparency on the industry's stance in terms of its environmental, social, and ethical footprints—topics that have been much debated, yet without a common baseline and framework against which to evaluate change. It also reviews ways in which the industry can maintain and even strengthen its profitability despite the pressures of rising costs.

The overarching objective of the report is to provide a direction and guidance towards a better fashion industry. As a starting point, the report provides a common fact base on the current sustainability performance of the industry. Based on that it lays out a Landscape for Change and presents pragmatic, concrete, and economical actions that are already available for producing palpable change. The report promotes collaboration and innovation as main drivers to accelerate change.

BOLDER LEADERSHIP NEEDED NOW

What will it take to tackle the changes necessary to improve the industry's standing—and to safeguard its profitability? First, it is important to acknowledge that many laudable efforts are already being made across the industry. Individually, many companies are striving to optimize business practices. Collectively, too, many initiatives have been launched with the goals of educating consumers, striving for substantial improvements, building broad industry networks dedicated to environmental, social and ethical objectives, and more.

There is no shortage of non-government organizations and private foundations to provide education, incentive, and oversight. There are also working groups, forums, and conventions, with the Global Fashion Agenda's annual Copenhagen Fashion Summit as the world's leading event on sustainability in fashion.⁵ Much effort has gone to develop transparency indexes as standard supply chain measurement tools, such as the Sustainable Apparel Coalition's (SAC) Higg Index that is already in use by many companies. These enable all industry participants to understand the environmental and social impacts of making and selling their products and services.⁶

All of these well-staffed and well-thought-out initiatives have helped companies make real progress in sustainability and built a foundation for future improvement. Despite those efforts, the pulse of the industry is weak. Therefore we advocate for a consolidation and realignment of efforts and resources towards high impact levers, with fewer and stronger initiatives. It's now time to work for the broad commitment necessary to make the extensive, industry-wide changes required. We need to go beyond campaigns driven by single entities that yield incremental results. Individual fashion brands cannot drive major changes on a large scale across value chains, impact areas and geographies. And individual governments cannot set the regulatory framework for a global industry.

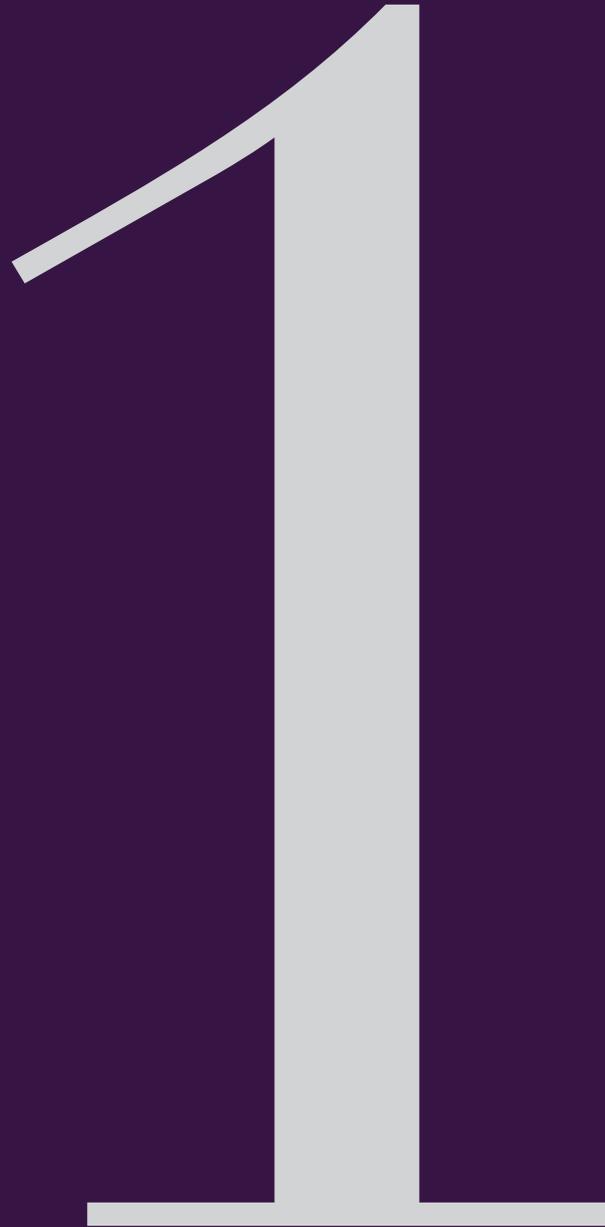
We need well-orchestrated, system-wide actions that involve a broad coalition of stakeholders. That requires bold leadership: from fashion businesses in prioritizing, collaborating and committing to actions on criti-

cal areas for improvement; from bodies such as NGOs, industry associations, and consortia in coordinating and driving the cross-industry and cross-functional collaboration to propel change; and from regulators in amplifying change with supportive incentives—or in interfering with strong dictates when the industry moves too slowly.

All this is more easily said than done.

There is, however, every possibility that change can happen in a short time. The fashion industry has in-built advantages: the creativity that is its most emblematic trait and the public admiration it continues to enjoy. Supported by disruptive technologies, fashion has the talent, the networks, the funding, and all of the resources it needs to transform itself. Now is the time to start doing things differently.





The fashion industry is highly fragmented, with thousands of actors involved and one of the most complex global production networks and supply chains. There is not a standard path for the cotton produced in one country, spun in another, dyed and processed in a different one and converted into a garment in a factory far away from the store. And often, there is no view of the ‘real cost’ incurred.

It is challenging then to truly gain an understanding of what the critical sustainability issues are and to fully grasp the magnitude of the value at stake.

In fact, there is a lack of reliable facts to guide action. It is not enough to respond to unsubstantiated statements such as “The global fashion industry is the second most polluting industry in the world”. Data and agreed-upon links between cause and effect are what spark ideas, create conviction, and sponsor action. With this report, GFA and BCG intend to start building a frame of reference that transcends misconceptions and for the first time offer a common baseline of facts and ideas, empowering the fashion industry to act.

This chapter provides global environmental and social facts at a glance and looks at how they relate to the fashion industry. It also presents a projection to 2030 that assumes the fashion industry continues on its current trajectory of production and consumption. To highlight the opportunity, we conclude by calculating the value at stake for the world economy and arguments for businesses to start acting now.

2030: 8.5 BILLION PEOPLE WILL REQUIRE CLOTHING

If the global population rises as expected to 8.5 billion people by 2030⁷ and the GDP per capita grows at 2% per year in the developed world and 4% in the developing world,⁸ GFA and BCG project that the overall apparel consumption will rise by 63%, from 62 million tons today to 102 million tons in 2030⁹—an equivalent of more than 500 billion T-shirts. Concurrently, soaring demand for apparel—much of it from developing nations—will see the annual retail value of apparel and footwear reach at least €2.0 trillion by 2030 (an over 30% increase of €500 billion between now and then).¹⁰

We explore below how the growth of the industry—in terms of value and volume—comes with increased environmental and social costs. We consider these mounting costs from the global and the industry perspective.

To gain a sense of the importance of each impact area, GFA and BCG have placed a monetary value on each externality. This enables a transparent illustration of how much value is at stake for the world economy—representing human economic activity, social and natural capital—in a tangible and comprehensive way. In this report we present exemplary evidence for the economic viability of sustainability initiatives. Estimating the full business opportunity for individual companies implementing sustainable practices will be a topic of future editions of the Pulse report. This assessment will be carried out in cooperation with corporate frontrunners on the subject.

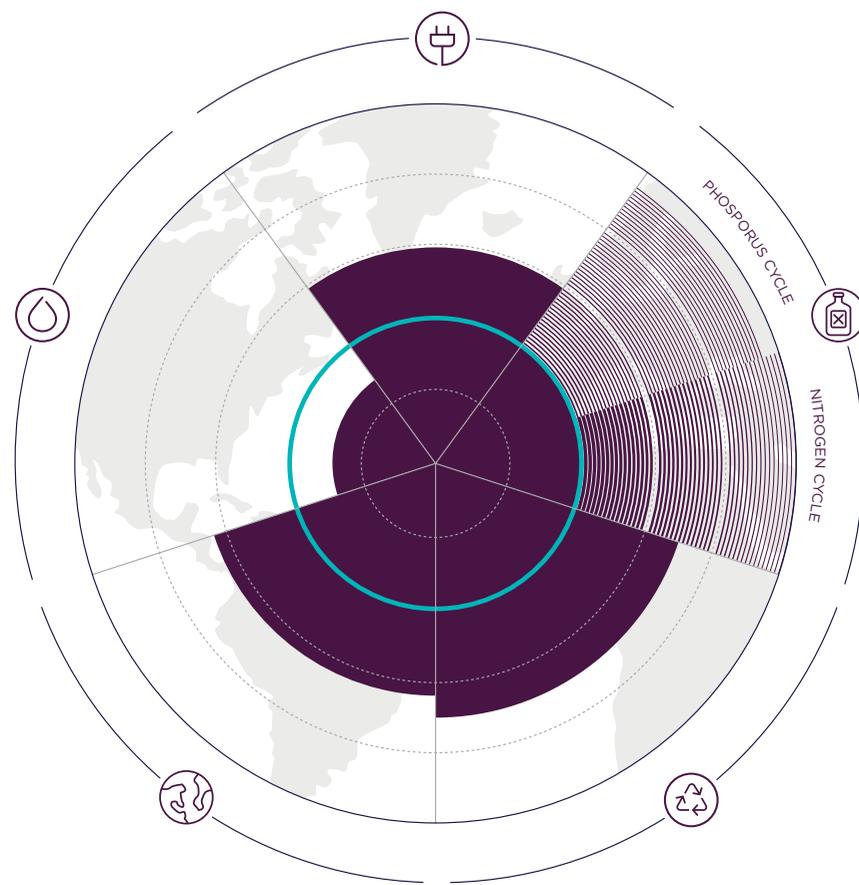
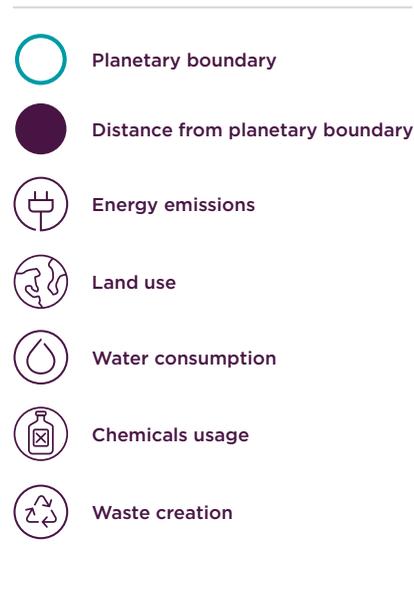
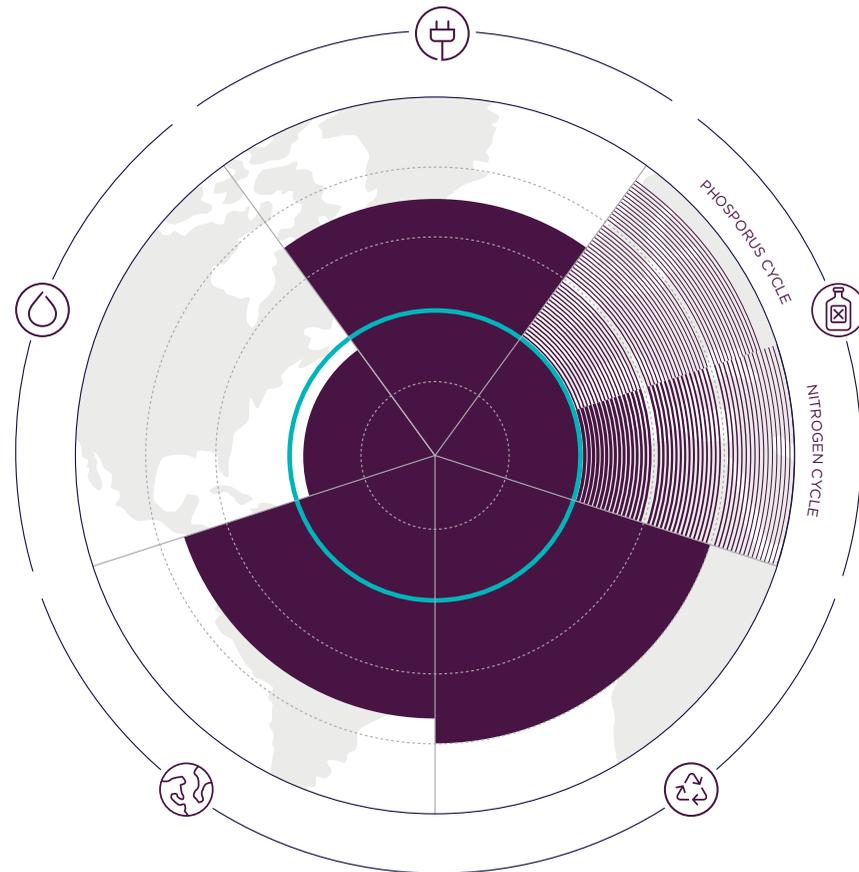


Exhibit 1 The Planetary Boundaries 2015

The Planetary Boundaries Have Already Been Breached

Exhibit 2 The Planetary Boundaries 2030

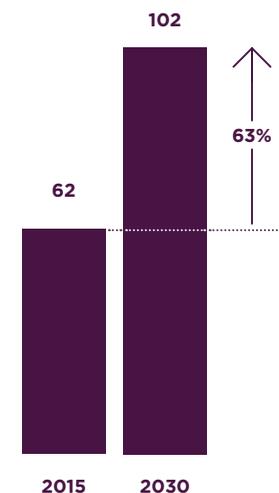
In 2030, the Planetary Boundaries Will Be Even Further Exceeded



Note: Illustration adapted from UN Environment Programme, Rockström et al. and Steffen et al., representing today's status. Source: BCG analysis; UN Environment Programme (2012); Rockström et al. (2009); Steffen et al. (2015)

Exhibit 3 Projected Environmental Impacts Increasing Fashion Consumption is Creating Further Environmental Stress

Projected global fashion consumption¹ (Million tons)



1. Fashion consumption of apparel and footwear. Source: BCG analysis



ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES PUT €110 BILLION VALUE AT STAKE

When we look at the planet from the perspective of several planetary boundaries, delimiting an environmentally sustainable *safe operating space* for humanity, as defined by a group of earth environmental scientists led by researchers from the Stockholm Resilience Center and the Australian National University, it becomes clear that the planet is already facing significant tensions based on human activity.^{11,12} According to these researchers the planet is already beyond its safe operating space in terms of climate change, waste pollution, changes in land use, and biochemical output.^{13,14} (See Exhibit 1.) That means we face increasingly higher risk of destabilizing the state of the planet,¹⁵ which would result in sudden and irreversible environmental changes with potentially large damaging impact on the world economy.

Although the harm is, of course, not all due to the fashion industry, the industry's present linear business model is an obvious contributor to stress on natural resources.

If production and consumption of apparel and footwear follow their current trajectories, increasing by another 63%, fashion's environmental footprint will continue to contribute to the negative impacts on the planet. (See Exhibit 3.)

The additional strain of an expanding environmental footprint can be observed on a number of impact areas, specifically water use, CO₂ emissions, use of chemicals, and generation and disposal of waste.

Given that the natural resources of the planet are already burdened, the projected increase in the industry's environmental footprint will exacerbate the situation. (See Exhibit 2.) In the worst case, the fashion industry will face distinct restrictions on one or more of its key input factors, leaving it unable to grow at the projected rate and in the long run unable to continue under its current operating model.

To understand the magnitude, context, and opportunities related to each area of environmental impact, it is useful to look at each in more detail.

Water Consumption

Although on average, global freshwater use has not yet exceeded its planetary boundary¹⁶ freshwater access is unevenly distributed across the planet. Certain areas of the world (e.g., North Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia) already live in a state of near-permanent water stress.¹⁷

The volume consumed by the fashion industry today is already large with nearly 79 billion cubic meters—enough to fill nearly 32 million Olympic-size swimming pools. GFA and BCG anticipate that water use will increase by 50% by 2030,¹⁸ which is critical, because some of the main cotton-producing countries such as China and India are located in areas that are already suffering from high or medium to high levels of water stress.¹⁹ Those levels are projected to become even more severe, as the shortfall between demand and supply of water is projected to reach 40%²⁰ by 2030. Thus, as water scarcity becomes more extreme, cotton-growing nations and the fashion industry may face the dilemma of choosing between cotton production and securing clean drinking water.

Estimating the value for the world economy (see *Impact Area Overview* on page 21/22 for more detail) of the 39 billion additional cubic meters expected to be consumed annually by 2030,²¹ results in **€32 billion** at stake per year. That is the potential benefit to the world economy if the fashion industry can find ways to consume no more water than it does today. The most significant water use occurs during the production of raw materials—notably in cotton cultivation—but many aspects of textile processing are also water intensive. Additionally, consumers are responsible for further consumption as they wash their clothes.

Energy Emissions

The level of atmospheric CO₂ already today exceeds by about 20% what is considered safe, according to the latest earth system research.^{22,23} The industry's CO₂ emissions are projected to increase by more than 60% to nearly 2.8 billion tons per year by 2030²⁴—the equivalent of emissions produced by nearly 230 million passenger vehicles driven for a year, assuming average driving patterns.

The value opportunity at stake to the world economy of improved energy management in the fashion industry is the largest in magnitude across all impact areas with **€67 billion**, representing effects such as shifting climate patterns. Because some of the fashion sector's primary manufacturing locations are particularly vulnerable to climate change and rising sea levels, large benefits can be reaped for both the world economy and the suppliers to the fashion industry. The industry's greatest impacts on the climate is from processing, followed by the use of apparel and the production of raw materials.^{25,26}

Chemicals Usage

The level of biochemical flows, represented by the flow of phosphorus from fertilizers to erodible soils, already exceeds *the safe operating space* by more than 220%.²⁷ Through cotton production, the fashion industry is a large user of fertilizers, with cotton consuming 4% of nitrogen fertilizers and phosphorous globally.²⁸ Excessive use of fertilizers can lead to runoff from the land into waterways. The negative effects include algal blooms depleting oxygen in the water.²⁹ Further, although the cultivation area of cotton covers only 3% of the planet's agricultural land, its produc-

tion consumes an estimated 16% of all insecticides and 7% of all herbicides.³⁰ Finally, organic and inorganic toxic substances (such as mercury and arsenic) discharged to waterways from processing plants damage the environment.³¹ The impacts to human health of water pollution include toxins building up in the body, possibly leading to cancers, acute illnesses, or other conditions.

To approximate the monetary impact, these effects are tied to occupational illnesses attributed to carcinogens and airborne particulates (see Impact Area Overview for details, page 21/22). By eliminating such health impacts due to poor chemical management by 2030, an annual value of around **€7 billion** can be gained.

Waste Creation

Today, humankind produces 2.1 billion tons of waste per year.³² In terms of annual ecological footprint, the world's population already produces more than 1.6 times what the earth can absorb in the same time-frame.³³

Assuming today's current solid waste³⁴ during production and at end-of-use, the industry's waste will increase by about 60% between 2015 and 2030, with an additional new 57 million tons of waste generated annually.³⁵ This brings the total level of fashion waste in 2030 to 148 million tons—equivalent to annual waste of 17.5 kg per capita across the planet.³⁶ The vast majority of clothing waste ends up in landfills or is incinerated; globally, only 20% of clothing is collected for reuse or recycling.³⁷

THE FASHION INDUSTRY WILL FACE RESTRICTIONS ON ONE OR MORE OF ITS KEY INPUT FACTORS, RISKING GROWTH AT THE PROJECTED RATE

A large opportunity for value creation awaits the world economy if the fashion industry manages to convert textile waste into raw materials through the use of advanced recycling techniques (discussed in more depth in chapter 3). But this type of recycling technology is not yet available for a broad range of fibers and it has yet to be proved economically viable at scale. Therefore, the current value is based on pure waste reduction along a *linear* value chain. Consequently, the opportunity to the world economy is modest at around **€4 billion** per year in 2030—although under a circular model of production and consumption, this value would be manifold higher.

34%

OF THE TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN MANUFACTURING ACROSS KEY ASIAN PRODUCTION COUNTRIES

60-80%

SHARE OF EXPORTS IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS BANGLADESH OR CAMBODIA

OVER 50%

OF WORKERS ARE NOT PAID THE MINIMUM WAGE IN COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA OR THE PHILIPPINES

COMPANIES ON AVG. SPEND

0.2%

OF SALES ON COMMUNITY SPENDING, WHILE THE UN PROPOSES 0.7% IN ITS DEVELOPMENT GOALS'

1. UN figure given for sovereign states

MINIMUM WAGES IN THE INDUSTRY ARE

1/2 OF WHAT CAN BE CONSIDERED A LIVING WAGE

NON COMPLIANCE TO MINIMUM WAGES CAN BE AS HIGH AS

87%

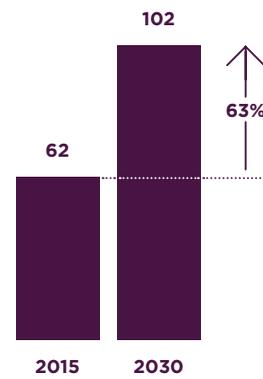
FOR WOMEN WHILE IT IS 27% FOR MEN IN PAKISTAN

THE INDUSTRY HAS ON AVG.

5.6

INJURIES PER 100 WORKERS PER YEAR, WHILE IN SUPPLIERS' FACTORIES OF A LARGE SPORTS GOODS MANUFACTURER NUMBER IS ONLY 2.5

Projected global fashion consumption¹



Social Impact

	Labor practices	Workers paid less than 120% of min. wage ² (millions)
	Health & safety	No. of recorded injuries (millions)
	Community & ext. engagement	Foregone community/ext. spending (€ billions)



1. Fashion consumption of apparel and footwear
 2. The authors of this report do not recommend 120% min. wage as representative of a living wage; level of 120% min. wage taken to show general insufficiency of min. wage level to make a living; further the taken threshold is advantageous due to data availability in ILO reports on min. wage compliance

Land Use

The area of forested land that has been cleared for various uses, including land intended for cotton cultivation, has exceeded the safe operating space by 17%.^{38,39} By 2030, it is predicted that the fashion industry will use 35% more land for cotton, forest for cellulosic fibers, and grassland for livestock—altogether over 115 million hectares that could be used to grow crops for an increasing and more demanding population or to preserve forest.⁴⁰ A global population of 8.5 billion in 2030 will require a 60% increase in agricultural production in order to feed everyone,⁴¹ which, as with the case of water, will result in the dilemma of whether to produce raw materials for textiles or to grow food for an increasing population. This is a strong incentive for the fashion industry to consider the impact of its raw materials on land use and to shift the material mix toward less land-intensive inputs. The scarcity of arable land might lead to higher cost of land or even restricted access for non-food crops in the future.

SOCIAL PRESSURES PUTTING €50BN VALUE AT STAKE

With approximately 60 million people employed in the fashion industry⁴² and 26 million of those employed upstream,⁴³ the fashion industry has an opportunity to create large-scale social change for millions. It provides employment for roughly every third manufacturing worker across key Asian production countries⁴⁴ and is a key driver of economic growth, accounting for as much as 80% of merchandise exports in Bangladesh and 66% in Cambodia,⁴⁵ for instance. The mandate for the fashion industry to drive positive improvements becomes very apparent. (See Exhibit 4.)

The growth in apparel consumption will also leave its mark along several social impact areas, specifically labor practices, health and safety, and community and external engagement. (See Exhibit 5.) In the following, each impact area is addressed in more detail—in terms of both social pressures and opportunities.

Labor Practices

As recently as 2015, 10% of the world’s workers and their families were living below the international poverty line of €1.8 (in purchasing power parity) per day.⁴⁶ If current patterns persist, 4% to 6% of the world’s population will still be below the poverty line in 2030, falling significantly short of the UN Sustainable Development Goal of zero poverty by 2030.⁴⁷ The fashion industry is not solely responsible for eradicating all poverty and hunger, but as a major employer and driver of economic prosperity in many developing countries, it is well placed to make a difference and improve social conditions.

In many Asian nations, the sector’s minimum wages are less than half of what can be considered a living wage.⁴⁸ The gaps between minimum wages and living wages are equally staggering in Eastern Europe and Turkey.⁴⁹ This issue is heightened with the many factories that fail to comply with their countries’ minimum wage laws. For example, in major textile manufacturing countries like India, the level of noncompliance reaches 51%.⁵⁰ If there is no systematic, concerted push to respond to those realities, more than one-third of workers in the sector globally are projected to be paid less than the minimum wage by 2030.⁵¹

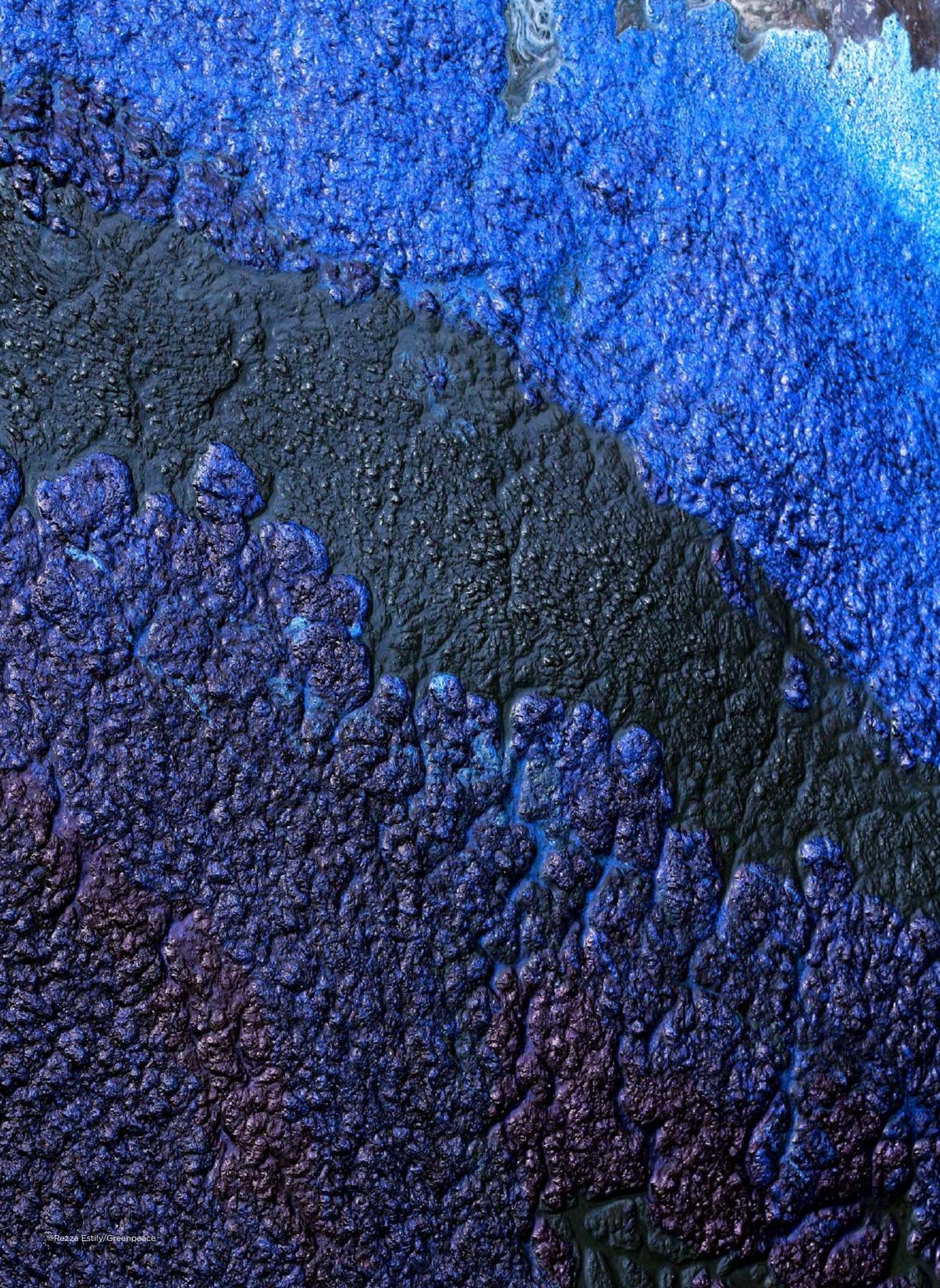
At a global level, gender equality has an especially long journey ahead, with 52 countries lacking constitutionally guaranteed equality. Further, the United Nations views gender equality as “not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.”⁵² This gender inequality also manifests itself in the fashion industry, where women are particularly vulnerable to low wage levels due to persistent gender pay gaps. (In India, women face a pay gap of 39% compared with men for the same job; in Pakistan, that figure is as great as 48%.⁵³ Further, women are more likely than men to be paid below the minimum wage. For instance, in Pakistan’s garment sector, 87% of women are paid less than the minimum wage, while the figure is 27% for men.⁵⁴ This is critical, as women often constitute the majority of the apparel, footwear, and textile workforce—as much as 74% to 81% in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand.⁵⁵

The topic of labor practices encompasses a broad range of social issues such as compensation, working hours, worker treatment, worker rights, gender equality, and child labor. In order to provide the broadest representation of this impact area, the focus in this part of the report is wages. Paying fair wages is a key area for the industry to act on. Because a large gap exists between minimum wages and living wages (see Impact Area Overview on page 21/22 for details), the first step could be for the industry to aim for ‘extreme compliance’ to minimum wages (paying 120% of the legal minimum) as reported by ILO.⁵⁶

Currently 14 million workers are paid below this 120%-threshold. If wages are not increased, that number is projected to exceed 21 million by 2030.⁵⁷ By not increasing the number of workers being paid less than this level, while maintaining the projected growth of the industry, there is an annual value opportunity at stake of approximately €5 billion by 2030.

Health and Safety

The early stages in the fashion value chain expose garment workers to health and safety concerns, ranging from factory fires to exposure to hazardous chemicals to working overtime. If business continues as usual,



THERE IS A *€160
BILLION-PER-YEAR*
UPSIDE FOR *THE
WORLD ECONOMY*
ROUGHLY 11% OF
THE *CURRENT
RETAIL VALUE*
OF THE *GLOBAL*
APPAREL AND
FOOTWEAR
SECTOR

the number of recorded injuries in the industry is projected to reach 1.6 million by 2030 compared to 1.4 million today.⁵⁸ The increase in the total number of injuries is modest at 7%. This is attributed to a decreasing trend as the industry is already striving to provide a safer working environment. Nevertheless, there is room for improvement when comparing the 2015 average industry recordable injury rate of 5.6 with that of industry front-runners—for instance Nike, with a recordable injury rate of 2.5 for 2015.⁵⁹

More than **€32 billion** a year can be reclaimed if the fashion industry were to succeed in preventing all workplace injuries (see Impact Area Overview on page 21/22 for details).

Community and External Engagement

Finally, it is worthwhile to compare the fashion industry’s community spending levels with a few global benchmarks. The UN Millennium Development Goals stipulate that the governments of the world’s wealthy countries should commit 0.7% of their gross national product to official development assistance to developing countries—a goal reaching back to the 1970s.⁶⁰ While nations and companies may not be directly comparable, it is interesting to note that fashion brands spend on average only around 0.2% of sales on community spending and other Corporate Social Responsibility-related activities.⁶¹ This is on a par with spending in the consumer electronics industry but lags far behind mining and pharmaceuticals, with averages of 0.4% and 1.2%, respectively.⁶²

If brands across the industry were to commit to increase spending to 0.7% (in line with UN goals) from 0.2% of sales, there is an annual value to be gained of **€14 billion** in 2030.

THE FASHION INDUSTRY HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE LARGE-SCALE SOCIAL CHANGE FOR MILLIONS

In summary, GFA and BCG contend that there is a €160 billion-per-year upside for the world economy that can be realized through more efficient and diligent use of scarce resources, by treating workers fairly, and by making progress on a range of issues up and down the value chain (see Exhibit 6 on page 20 and Impact Area Overview on page 21/22 for a summary). This is equal to roughly 11% of the current retail value of the global apparel and footwear sector or 90% of its current profit pool.

In addition to the environmental and social impact areas mentioned above, there is an ethical facet to a sustainable fashion industry. While we do not review in detail the ethical dimension in this first edition of the *Pulse Report*, it is by no means a trivial topic. The ethical

Exhibit 6 The Value Opportunity of Sustainable Fashion to the World Economy A Value of €160bn per Year Is at Stake

	Impact	Value at stake	Until 2030
Environmental	Water consumption	1 Reduced water consumption	→ €32 billion
	Energy emissions	2 Reduced energy emissions	→ €67 billion
	Chemical usage	3 Reduced occupational illnesses	→ €7 billion
	Waste creation	4 Reduced amount of waste	→ €4 billion
Social	Labor practices	5 Workers earning 120% min. wage ¹	→ €5 billion
	Health & safety	6 Reduced number of recorded injuries	→ €32 billion
	Community & ext. eng.	7 Increased community spending	→ €14 billion
Ethical	Ethical practices	8 <i>Not to be quantified</i>	
			-€160 billion/year

1. The authors of this report do not recommend 120% min. wage as representative of a living wage; level of 120% min. wage taken to show general insufficiency of min. wage level to make a living; further the taken threshold is advantageous due to data availability in ILO reports on min. wage compliance

dimension tackles challenging topics such as animal welfare, loss of biodiversity, corruption, and negative imagery – such as inadvertently pressuring girls and young women to live up to body ideals that might lead to eating disorders. These ethical reflections are important for the fashion industry to consider and are deemed to be a focus area in future issues of the report.

We focus in this report on the impact areas mentioned above, due to the availability of reliable data sources that would keep the subject tangible to the reader.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR BUSINESSES?

For businesses, acting differently than today and pursuing novel solutions offer an opportunity to maintain and ensure profitable growth going forward.

If no action is taken, fashion brands will find themselves likely squeezed between falling average per-item prices, deeper discount levels, rising costs, and resource scarcity along the value chain. Indeed, the sector today is built on a linear ‘one-way street’ of *take, make, and waste*: take, with raw material inputs that are becoming more expensive; make, with labor costing more and more; and waste, with value lost as clothing ends up in landfills.

Impact Area Overview The value per unit represents the monetary value to the world economy of one unit of the indicated proxy. The overall value at stake represents the yearly total monetary value to the world economy at risk by 2030 if the fashion industry continues 'business as usual'

WATER

Chosen proxy

Water consumption (billion cubic meters)

Value per unit¹ **Projected overall value at stake by 2030**

€0.81/m³ **€32 billion per year**

1. PUMA. (2011). PUMA's Environmental Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31 December 2010

The total monetary value represents the potential benefit to the world economy if the fashion industry achieves the projected retail volume growth while consuming no more water by 2030 than it does today.

The figures represent the effect of water consumption on society in terms of: health impacts (malnutrition); resource depletion; subsidy cost of water; opportunity cost of water; and the environmental impacts of the water supply sector.

The most significant usage is during raw material production — notably for cotton cultivation — but many aspects of textile processing are water-intensive too. Additionally, consumers are responsible for further consumption as they launder garments.

ENERGY

Chosen proxy

Emissions of CO2-eq. (million tons)

Value per unit² **Projected overall value at stake by 2030**

€62/t **€67 billion per year**

2. Kering. (2015). Environmental Profit & Loss (E.P&L) - 2014 Group Results.

The value opportunity at stake here is the largest in magnitude across all impact areas. The overall value is calculated based on the industry avoiding all additional emissions through energy use projected in 2030 compared to today. It represents effects such as shifting climate patterns, sea levels rising and increasingly extreme weather events. With some of the fashion sector's primary manufacturing locations especially vulnerable to climate change and rising sea levels, there are large benefits to be reaped for both the world economy at large as well as for the suppliers to the fashion industry.

The climate impact of the fashion industry is largest during processing, followed by the use phase and raw materials production

CHEMICALS

Chosen proxy

Pulse Score in chemicals (% achieved)

Value per unit **Projected overall value at stake by 2030**

T€143/DALY **€7 billion per year**

The overall figure shows the value opportunity if the industry eliminates today's negative health impacts due to poor chemicals management by 2030. Because of limited transparency in the early value chain and a plethora of different chemicals with varying levels of hazardous impact, it is difficult to choose a proxy that captures impacts ranging from pollution of waterways to the health effects of airborne chemicals. To encompass a multitude of initiatives aimed at better chemicals management, the chosen proxy is the Pulse Score in chemicals management, which is then tied to occupational illnesses attributed to carcinogens and airborne particulates measured in DALYs (disability-adjusted life-years). The €-value of each DALY lost due to mismanagement of chemicals in the workplace is estimated at €143,000³. This average value is calculated under consideration of a number of factors across large apparel and footwear producing nations such as the life expectancy, the value of a statistical life and number of garment workers in a given country.

WASTE

Chosen proxy

Amount of waste (million tons)

Value per unit⁴ **Projected overall value at stake by 2030**

€66/t **€4 billion per year**

4. BCG calculations, mainly based on PUMA. (2011). PUMA's Environmental Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31 December 2010.

The overall figure represents the value if the industry achieves to generate no more waste by 2030 than it already generates today while achieving the projected growth in retail volume.

An immense value creation opportunity is at stake for the world economy if the fashion industry manages to convert waste into raw materials through the use of advanced recycling techniques. However, this type of recycling technology is not yet available for a broad range of fibers and it is yet to be proven economically viable on a large scale.

The current value is therefore based on pure waste reduction along a linear value chain. The value per ton of waste represents effects such as emissions from decomposing waste (methane) and waste incineration (greenhouse gasses, air pollutants) and the effects of landfills and incineration sites (noise, dust, litter, odor, vermin, visual intrusion).

Environmental

LABOR PRACTICES

Chosen proxy

No. of workers earning <120% minimum wage (in millions)

Value per unit⁵ **Projected overall value at stake by 2030**

€642/worker **€5 billion per year**

5. BCG calculation, based on data from Eurostat; Huynh, P., & Cowgill, M. (2016). Weak minimum wage compliance in Asia's garment industry. ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. (Asia-Pacific Garment and Footwear Sector Research Note, [5]); Clean Clothes Campaign. (2014). Living Wage in Asia.; Clean Clothes Campaign. (2014). Stitched Up: Poverty Wages for Garment Workers in Eastern Europe and Turkey; results from the Boston Consulting Group and the World Food Programme. (2009). School Feeding Cost Benefit Analysis.

The overall value shows the value opportunity by not further increasing the number of workers being paid less than 120% of the local minimum wage while maintaining the projected growth of the industry.

Labor practices encompass a broad range of social issues such as compensation, working hours, worker treatment, worker rights, gender equality and child labor. Paying fair wages is a key area for the industry to act. One speaks of 'fair wages' when those are able to support the worker as well as two adult dependents or one adult and two children or four children, covering food, clothing, housing, travel costs, children's education, health costs and 10% towards discretionary income (e.g. savings, pension). The level of 120% of minimum wage is chosen to reflect the fact that the local minimum wage in the main textile-producing countries is often considered insufficient to make a living⁶. It does not represent a recommended level.

The value per worker represents the opportunity to the world economy of increased economic consumption and increased private investments.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Chosen proxy

No. of recorded injuries (in millions)

Value per unit⁷ **Projected overall value at stake by 2030**

T€21/injury **€32 billion per year**

7. BCG calculation, based on Nike Inc. (2015). Sustainable Innovation Is a Powerful Engine for Growth - Sustainability Business Report; National Safety Council. (2015). The ROI of Safety - Injury Facts; PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (2015). Valuing corporate environmental impacts; PwC methodology Document; World Health Organization. (2017). [Global Health Observatory (GHO) Data: Life Expectancy]; Markandya, A. (1999). The valuation of health impacts in developing countries. Environmental Economics and Policy Making in Developing Countries.; Clean Clothes Campaign. (2014). Living Wage in Asia.

The overall value represents the opportunity to the world economy if the fashion industry succeeds in eliminating workplace injuries from a current average of 5.6 per 100 workers to 0 by 2030.

The value per unit represents the cost to the world economy per worker injury, representing such effects as shorter healthy life expectancy, risk of premature death due to occupational hazards, and inability to provide for the worker's family.

COMMUNITY & EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

Chosen proxy

Foregone community spending (in billion €)

Value per unit⁸ **Projected overall value at stake by 2030**

€1.5/€1 spent **€14 billion per year**

8. BCG calculation, based on results from the Boston Consulting Group and the World Food Programme. (2009). School Feeding Cost Benefit Analysis.

The overall value opportunity to society is estimated based on the industry increasing community spending and other CSR-related activities to 0.7% of sales from today's level of 0.2%. Today, the fashion industry is not on par with other industries with regard to community spending; for instance, the pharmaceuticals and mining sectors donate 1.2% and 0.4% respectively.

This represents effects such as increased quality of life for workers and their families.

ETHICAL PRACTICES

As the ethical impact area comprises many, vastly different topics, representing it with a single proxy would go too short, even more so than in other impact areas. Furthermore, the overall value of many ethical issues can hardly be represented by monetary values based on currently available research and methodologies. Further, available monetary estimates for single topics lack applicability to the fashion industry and/or do not allow for a delimited consideration of the industry's impacts. We therefore decided to exclude this impact area in this type of analysis.

3. The source of this value are BCG calculations based on PWC (2015); WHO (2017); Markandya (1998); Clean Clothes Campaign (2014); SAC Higg Facility Module (2017); BCG Analysis

6. See amongst others ILO (2015). Employment, wages and working conditions in Asia's Garment sector: Finding new drivers of competitiveness. ILO Asia-Pacific Working Paper Series. Bangkok: ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Social



Between now and 2030, the industry's labor costs are expected to continue to outpace growth in retail value. While retail value is projected to grow at 2% annually,⁶³ the cost of labor in large garment-producing countries is expected to grow at least 4%⁶⁴ and as much as 5% a year.^{65,66} While this is a positive development for the industry's workers and supported by many brands, it does increase the pressure on fashion brands' profitability.

While cotton prices have been projected to remain relatively stable at a projected real annual growth of 1%,⁶⁷ we would assume that figure could increase given increasing water scarcity worldwide and how it might affect the cost of future cotton production. Energy prices are projected to increase steadily, with annual growth of at least 2.3%⁶⁸ to as much as 3.5% over the same period.⁶⁹ While energy is estimated to account for 6% to 10% of production and material costs, the greatest cost impact of energy prices is contributed by the close correlation between oil prices and the price of polyester.⁷⁰

The consequences for fashion brands are at hand: even if base-case projections are used for growth in energy prices and in wages, GFA and BCG project that, by 2030, fashion brands will see a decline in EBIT margins of more than 3 percentage points if they continue 'business as usual.'⁷¹ (See Exhibit 7.) That adds up to approximately €45 billion per year of profit reduction for the industry as a whole.

There are good reasons to consider the possibility of still higher costs. Wages may rise faster in the fashion sector than in other industries as the industry draws more public attention for its environmental impact and its low minimum wage compliance. Also, oil prices may rise faster than anticipated—particularly should strife in the Middle East expand or Venezuela experiences an economic collapse. In addition, governments may up prices on increasingly scarce water.

GFA AND BCG PROJECT THAT, BY 2030, FASHION BRANDS WILL SEE A DECLINE IN EBIT MARGINS OF MORE THAN 3 PERCENTAGE POINTS IF THEY CONTINUE BUSINESS-AS-USUAL

If energy, water prices, and labor costs grow strongly, the industry's profitability will be under even more pressure. Factoring in the negative externalities of increased water use (such as health impacts from water deficiency) in the price of water puts another 2 percentage points of fashion brands' margins at risk. The high-case assumption for labor costs adds another 2 percentage points and the same assumption for energy costs inflates that figure by an additional 9 percentage points.⁷²

Through investments in water, energy, and waste efficiency as well as labor productivity already feasible today, fashion brands will be able to counteract in a lasting manner several of those percentage points due to the cost pressures outlined above. As this report will show, there is a viable business case for environmental and social measures. The report also lays out the Landscape for Change and highlights the economic viability of robust, committed, long-term initiatives.

2

PULSE CHECK OF THE INDUSTRY REVEALS
THE NEED TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS

Worldwide, the fashion industry does not perform well on sustainability. Its overall pulse is weak, with a score of just 32 out of 100, and some dimensions are far below that figure. This chapter takes the pulse along two dimensions: 1) the overall fashion value chain, from design to disposal; and 2) eight impact areas, from water use and carbon footprint to labor conditions and ethical stance.

GFA and BCG analyze, for the first time, the detailed data from the Sustainable Apparel Coalition's Higg Index—the industry's self-assessment tool for environmental and social impacts throughout the supply chain. We complemented the Higg Index results with a survey of industry executives (the Pulse Survey), as well as with multiple interviews with experts, to arrive at an overall Pulse Score for the entire global fashion industry.

PERFORMANCE GAPS ACROSS SEGMENTS, VALUE CHAIN STAGES AND IMPACT AREAS

The Pulse is not uniformly weak across the fashion industry. There is a considerable gap in sustainability performance by segment and company. The clear driver of sustainability is company size, not price positioning. So the largest enterprises and a few sustainability-focused niche players are most advanced, while small and midsize companies, which together account for more than half of the industry, rate lowest. (See Exhibit 8.) These low-rating entities are a blind spot in addressing sustainability. Companies in the top revenue quartile have an average Pulse Score of 63, while bottom-quartile contenders are at 11.

THE FASHION INDUSTRY DOES NOT PERFORM WELL ON SUSTAINABILITY, WITH A PULSE SCORE OF ONLY 32 OUT OF 100

Not surprisingly, the Pulse Survey showed executives of large fashion brands indicating a stronger commitment of funds, head count, and other resources to progress toward sustainability than those from small companies. (See Exhibit 9.) Projections show the same pattern.

Small brands constituting around half of the industry, are lacking the knowledge and resources to significantly improve their footprint. They also have little control over and transparency along their supply chains. Even when their intent is good, they lack the critical reach to effect change.



©CFW

TAKING THE PULSE OF THE FASHION INDUSTRY

WHY A PULSE SCORE?

The Pulse Score is a global and holistic baseline of sustainability performance in the fashion sector. It is based on Sustainable Apparel Coalition's proprietary Higg Index and extends its scope to extrapolate its findings to the entire industry. The Higg index is the most extensive and representative existing transparency measurement tool of the industry. It covers the majority of large companies and was extended to gain a view on currently underrepresented small to medium-sized players.

Gaining full transparency on the sustainability level of the industry as a whole is important because it gives the industry a common understanding of what the most critical issues across the value chain and by impact areas are. Perhaps more important, it creates a foundation for the landscape for change, channeling investment and innovation into those areas that smart businesses will capture and benefit from.

As the Pulse report will be released annually, the Pulse Score further allows tracking the progress of the industry over time.

About the Higg Index

The Higg Index, developed by the Sustainable Apparel Coalition, is a suite of self-assessment tools that empower brands, retailers and facilities of all sizes, at every stage of their sustainability journey, to measure their impact on environmental and social dimensions and to identify areas for improvement.

The Higg Index has three modules: brand, facilities and product. The brand module measures amongst others the degree of transparency, environmental/social impact tracking as well as fashion brands' collaboration with facilities. The facilities module focuses on environmental and social measures implemented by fashion-industry suppliers. The product module provides general frameworks to be utilized especially by brands in their design processes to optimize design and material choices with regard to sustainability.

METHODOLOGY

The Pulse Score was developed based on:

SAC Higg Index Brand Module as underlying data set source, clustered into segments to detect patterns¹

And complemented by:

1. **Expert interviews** going through Higg Index Brand Module questions to test patterns and validate and pressure testing answers live with Sustainability Managers
2. **Pulse Survey** answers to reconfirm sustainability patterns and performance to increase sample size and fair market representation further
3. **Expert sounding board** to validate and discuss results

To get a representative view of the entire market, results were analyzed by company size and price positioning and reweighted according to the overall market structure based on revenue contribution.

THE PULSE SCORE

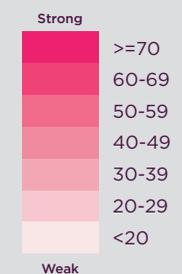
The Pulse is a performance score for measuring and tracking the sustainability of the global fashion industry on key environmental and social impact areas. By design it is impossible to achieve a score of 100 on sustainability, as this is intended to be aspirational.

Overall, the Pulse Score of the fashion industry is:

32 / 100

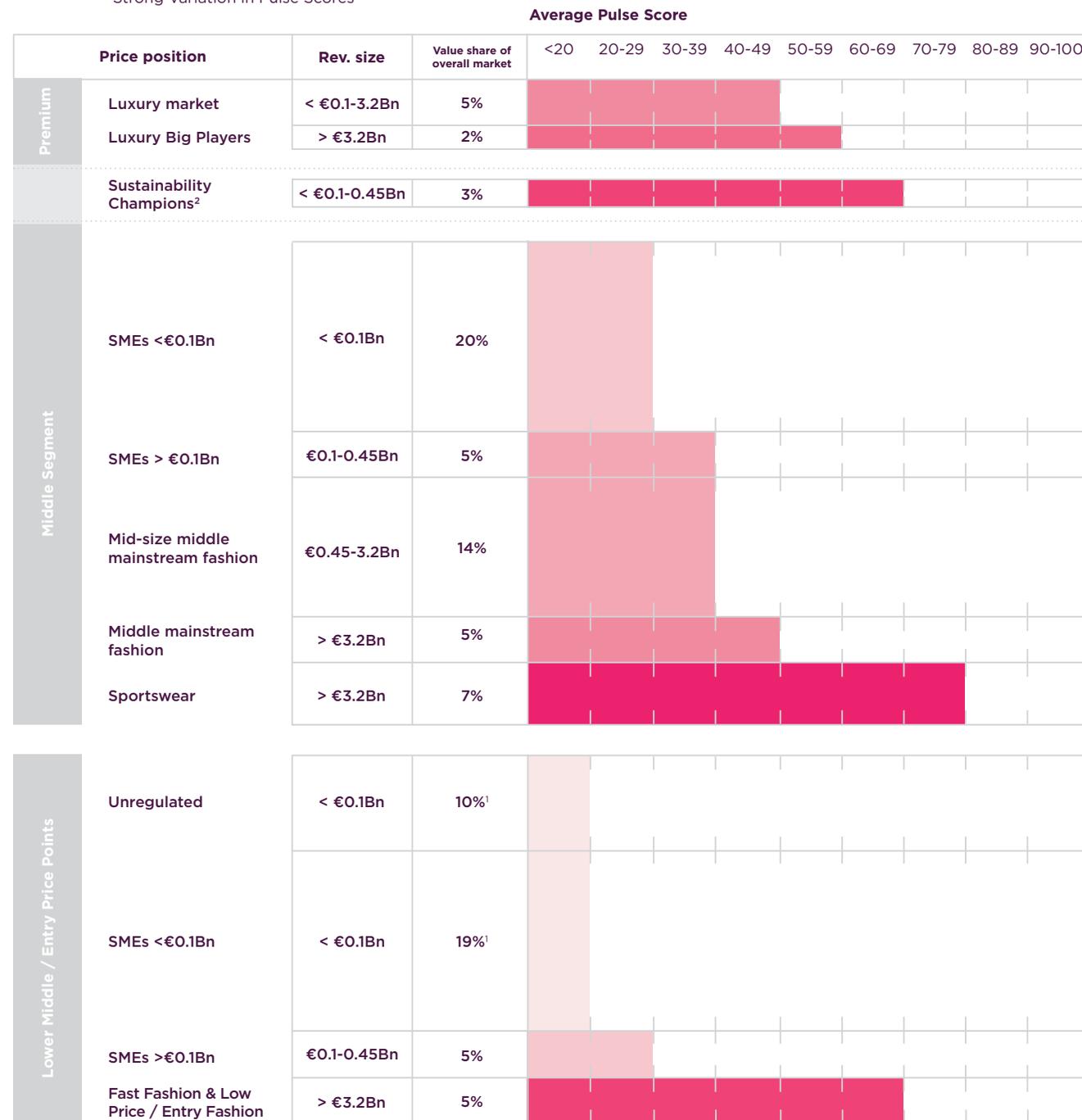
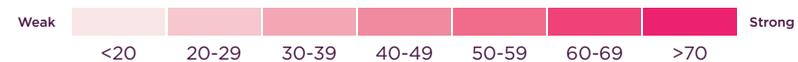
Measured on a scale from

1 — 100



1. The brand module is unverified, meaning in this context that it is based on a self assessment and that it has not been audited or reviewed externally.

Exhibit 8 Average Pulse Scores Across Market Segments and Revenue Sizes
Strong Variation in Pulse Scores

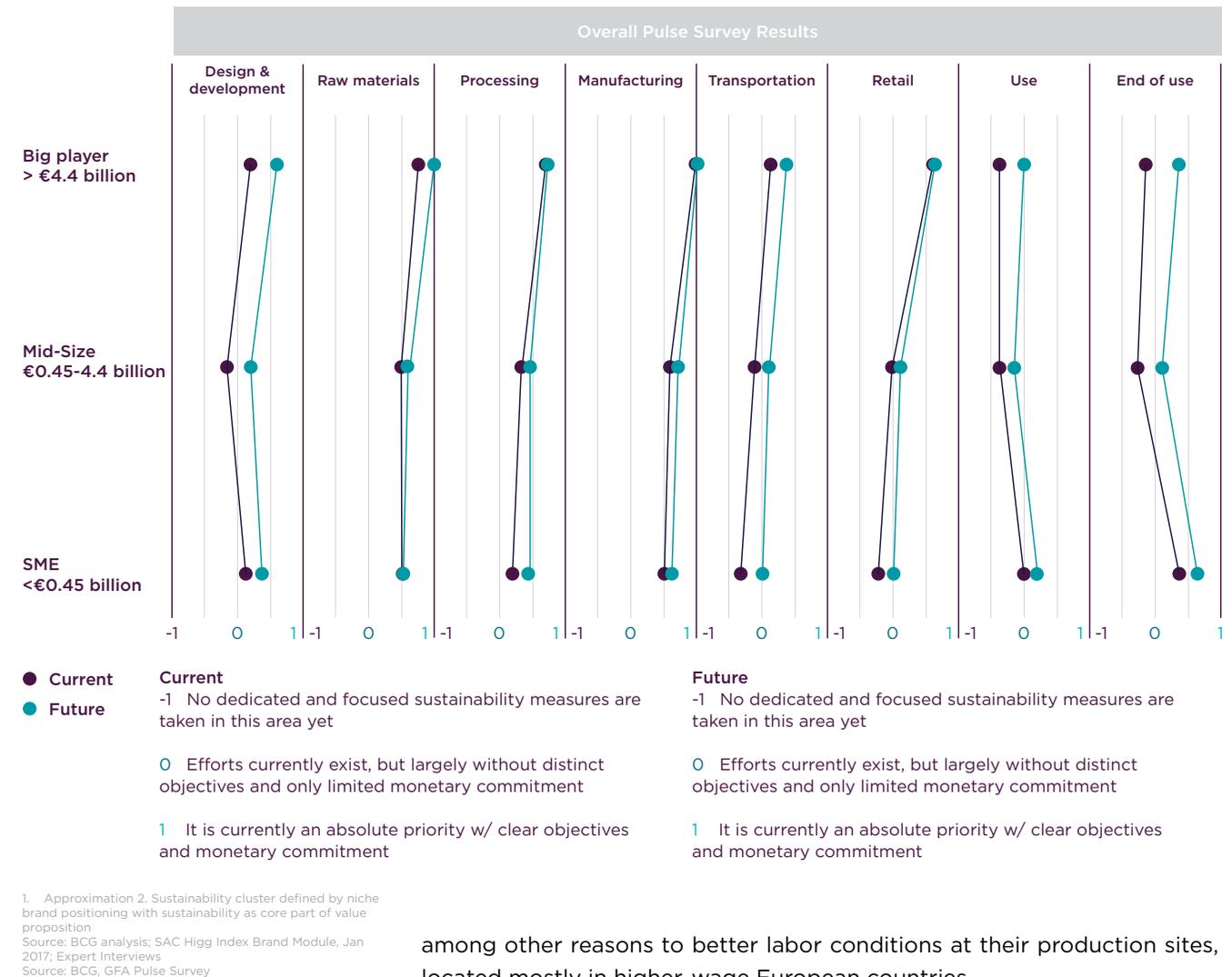


The report reveals that so called 'fast fashion' does not automatically represent a threat to the environment and the world economy. At least the large high-street players score consistently higher than most of the market. Many large entry-price high-street and sportswear brands achieve strong Pulse Scores, as do the small 'sustainability champions'. But most small and midsize premium brands show scores in the midfield.

The premium/luxury segment in the Pulse Score analyses comprises a broad selection of players from 'upper middle premium bridge' to high-end luxury. Large luxury conglomerates show strong performance, thanks

Exhibit 9 Current and Future Commitment to Sustainability Initiatives by Fashion Executives

Large Fashion Brands Indicate Stronger Commitments to Sustainability



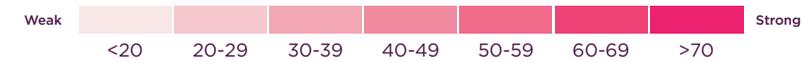
among other reasons to better labor conditions at their production sites, located mostly in higher-wage European countries.

The data indicates that family-owned brands are taking a stronger leadership role, as public companies are more likely to follow shareholders' expectations for short-term value maximization. Yet we can learn from the positive examples of some listed front-runner companies with credible activities.

Geographically, European brands score better along environmental dimensions, while US brands are more compliant on social and labor practices.

PERFORMANCE DIFFERENCES ALONG THE VALUE CHAIN

Pulse Scores also differ along the value chain. (See Exhibit 10.) The end-of-use and raw material stages are at an average score of 9 and 17, respectively, while design and development is little better at 22. Processing and transportation are the highest at 38 and 41. Some stages may enjoy better scores because their solutions are manageable for the company



	Design & development	Raw materials	Processing	Manufacturing	Transportation	Retail	Use	End of use	Total Pulse Score
Total	22	17	38	28	41	28	23	9	32
Top quartile	37	47	66	56	67	33	24	21	63
2nd quartile	22	16	43	26	47	35	26	9	32
3rd quartile	19	4	29	22	34	29	29	4	22
Bottom quartile	10	2	14	11	17	14	14	2	11

Note: Quartiles weighted by revenue; Normalized - unverified data
 Source: BCG analysis; SAC Higg Index Brand Module, Jan 2017; Expert Interviews

THE CLEAR DRIVER OF SUSTAINABILITY IS COMPANY SIZE, NOT PRICE POSITIONING

GAPS BY IMPACT AREA

We see further gaps and imbalances when we look across areas of impact. (See Exhibit 11.) Brands are more likely to return higher scores in areas like health and safety, which are regularly in the media spotlight and, especially in Europe, under regulatory scrutiny. Chemical use, subject to the EU's REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and restriction of Chemicals) laws, also delivers higher scores for many fashion brands: a Pulse Score of 37. But waste management and water management, which get much less consumer attention, are at only 20. If we examine impact areas by revenue quartiles, the trends are much the same. Energy shows the biggest gap, at 58 points, while waste - where the top quartile is at a mediocre 24, shows a difference of only 12 points.

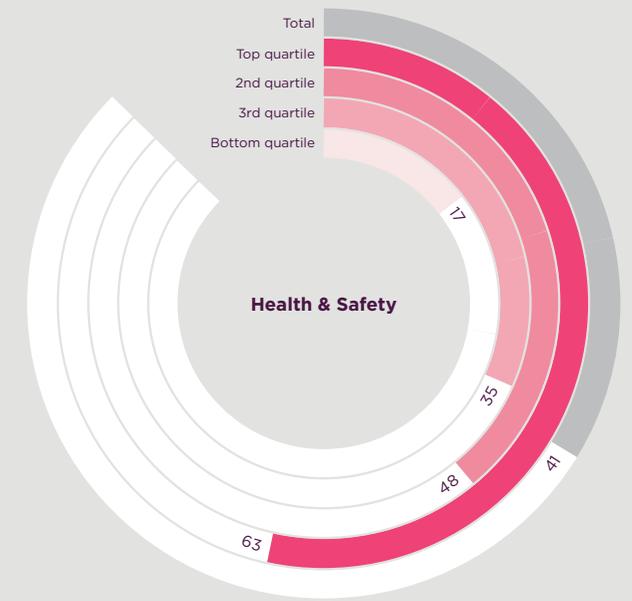
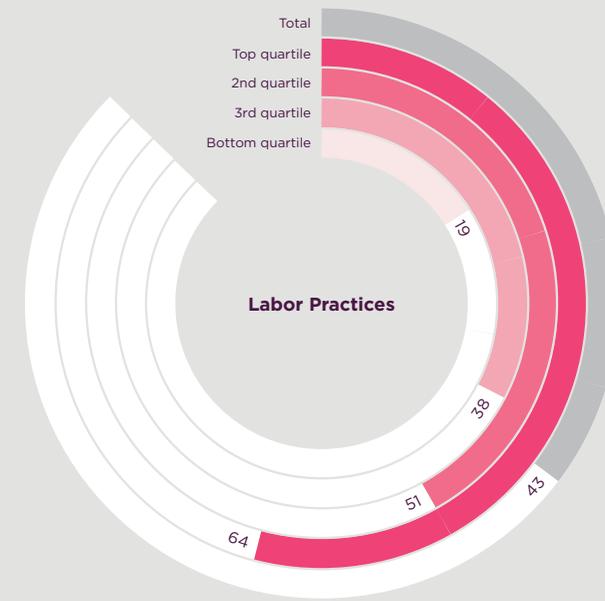
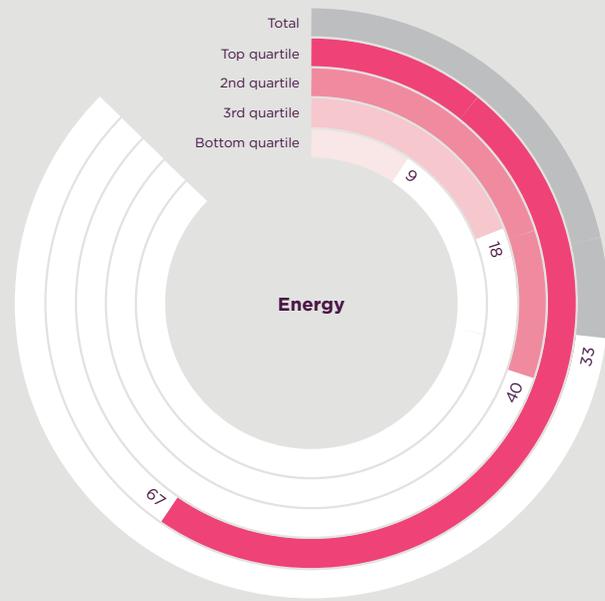
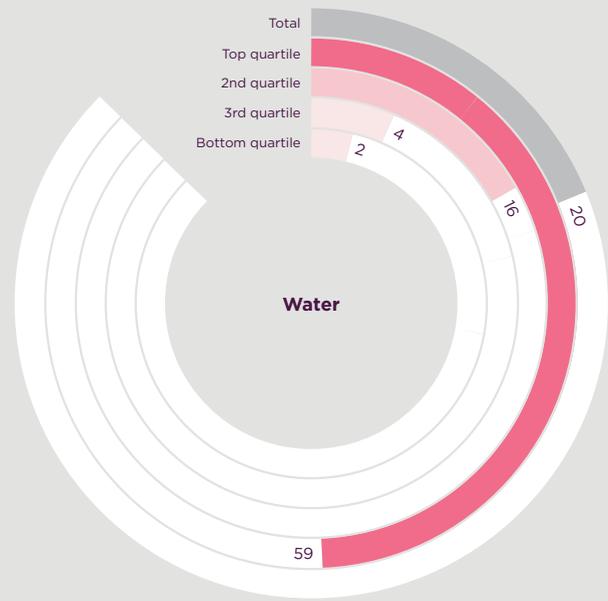
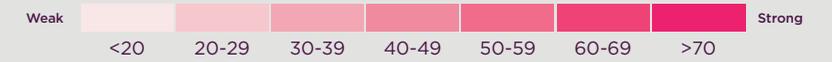
by itself, while improvements at stages such as end-of-use require broad collaboration and scaled-up initiatives.

There are substantial gaps in performance between top- and bottom-quartile companies in most stages. The gap is biggest in transportation, with a 50-point difference, and in raw materials and manufacturing, which both show a gap of 45 points. These are stages of low-hanging-fruit for sustainability, where leaders have shown what is possible.

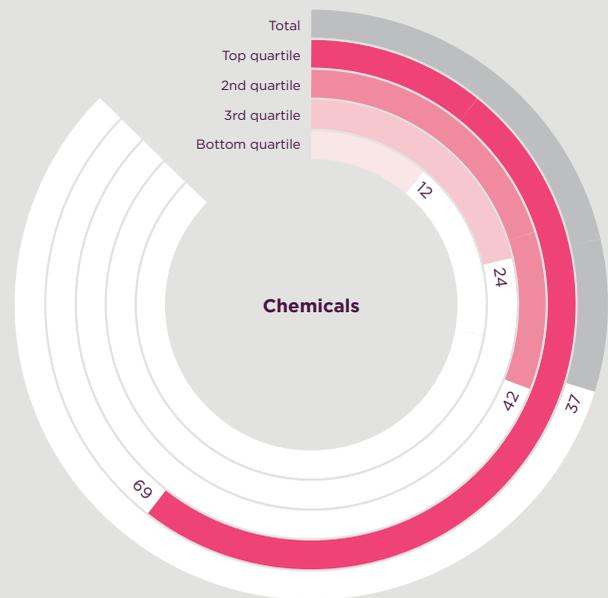
Other stages such as consumer use, where all companies did poorly (only a 10-point gap), require greater attention and a collective push forward. As the survey confirmed, firms are committing far less funds, head count, or other resources to stages at the beginning and the end of the value chain and are currently not planning to do so in the future.

Exhibit 11 Average Pulse Score by Impact Area and Performance Quartile

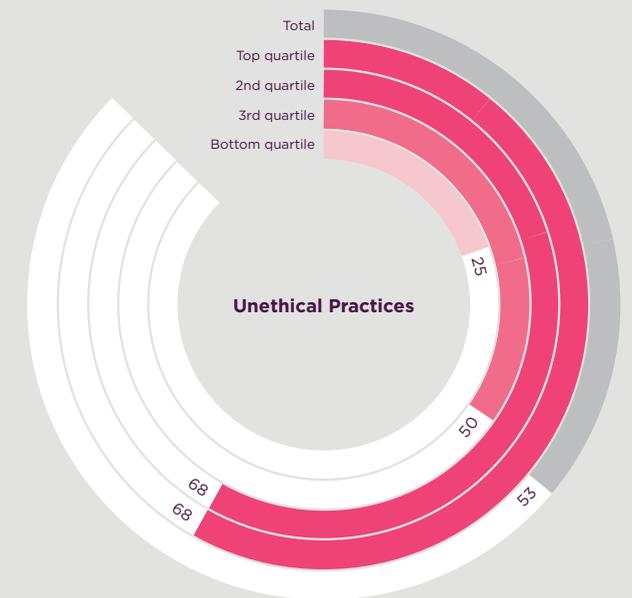
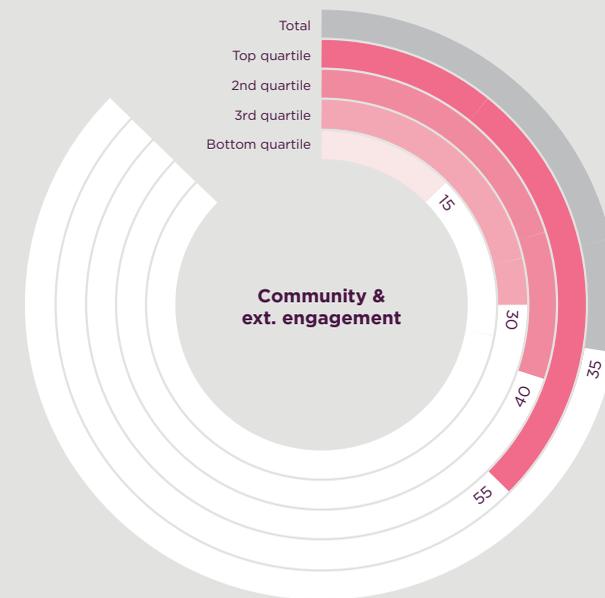
Impact Areas Under Regulatory and Public Spotlight Get Higher Pulse Scores



Environmental



Social & Ethical



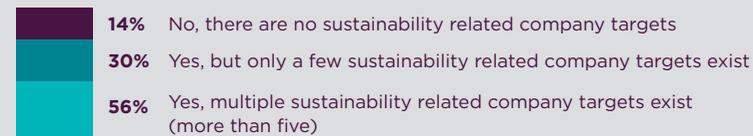
Note: Quartiles weighted by revenue; Normalized - unverified data
Source: BCG analysis; SAC Higg Index Brand Module, Jan 2017; Expert Interviews

THE REALITY AS EXPERIENCED BY FASHION SUSTAINABILITY PROFESSIONALS

STATUS QUO

Half of companies have extensive sustainability target setting - nearly all participants have at least a few targets

"Are there sustainability related company targets (such as reduction of CO2 emissions by x% by 2020 or at least x% of suppliers meeting specific labor standards by 2018)?"



% of participants

About the Survey

BCG and GFA polled over 90 senior managers responsible for sustainability issues across a range of fashion firms, from large international brand names to small and medium-sized companies spanning various price tiers and distribution models globally.

The managers were asked about the integration of sustainability topics in their organization and its sustainability strategy as a whole, and queried about specific focus topics along impact areas and value chain steps. Additionally, their views were sought on which barriers prevent progress and which stakeholders should take responsibility. The respondents were also invited to share their perspectives on the best ways to advance the industry's standing on sustainability.

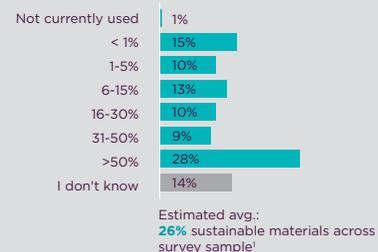
Integration of targets into business steering is, however, limited...

"What role do these sustainability related company targets play in the overall strategy?"

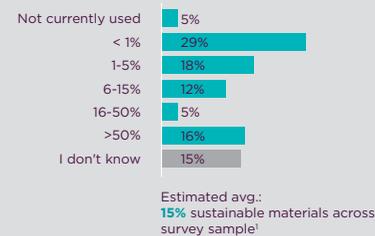


...and sustainability initiatives have little consumer-facing exposure

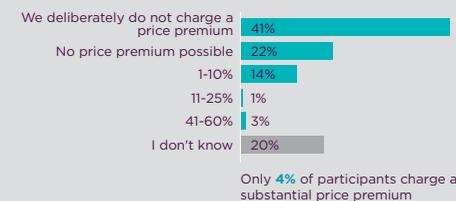
"Which share of your volume is made of sustainable materials (e.g., organic, recycled, re-generated, fair trade, BCI, Tencel)?"



"Which share of your revenue is currently achieved with products explicitly marketed as sustainable?"

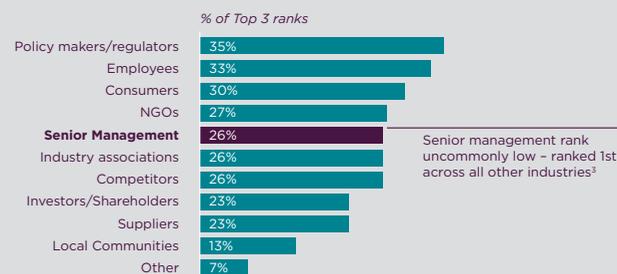


"Which price premium does your company achieve on average with products explicitly marketed as sustainable (such as Organic Cotton, Fair Trade label, clearly visible to the consumer)?"



Respondents say status quo mainly influenced by regulators, with senior management ranking after NGOs

"Which stakeholder groups are most influential in shaping your company's sustainability agenda?"²



PATH TO CHANGE

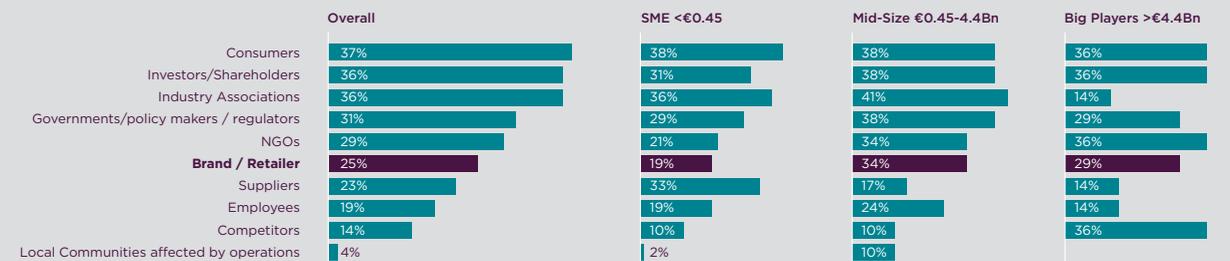
Consumers willingness to pay, missing regulation and collaboration seen as main barriers to progress

"In your view, which barriers exist today hindering your company from becoming more sustainable (environmentally, socially and ethically)?"⁴



Responsibility to drive industry progress put upon other stakeholders

"To whom would you attribute the major responsibility for driving the industry towards more sustainability?"⁵



Participants final remarks

"We strongly believe that **now is the time for the industry to act collectively** and roll out common tools like the SAC Higg Index or the ZDHD MRSI and Wastewater Guideline. However while most brands and retailers would support such a statement, the adoption of commonly developed tools by brands and retailers is often slow, leading to confusion and double efforts in the supply chain."

"Building a Sustainable Business is a market share game as only **Sustainable Businesses can survive and thrive in a Sustainable World and a Sustainable World** can only contain Sustainable Businesses."

"I believe in **joined forces** and that **increased pressure from international political level** is needed, together with a **commercial "understandable project"** like a yearly "Textile/Environmental Band Aid" project to put focus on the **problems we are facing right now** and not only in the future."

"Sustainability is **no longer optional** it is a **must**."

"I believe that the **companies' risk-averse attitude** to invest in new technologies and research will **separate forerunners from the ones that get left behind**."

The role of research and development in a wider sense than just product development will increase in the future. The companies that are able to turn their company culture into innovative one are the ones to shine in consumers minds in the future.

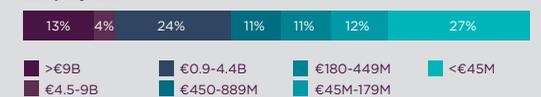
The challenges that our industry is facing cannot be beaten alone. **We need collaboration and our competitors need to become our partners**. The main competitive advantage of design brand and retailers is not in the materials we use, it's in the design."

Survey sample

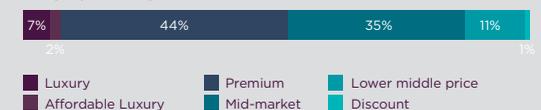
Region of Headquarter



Company Size



Company Price Segment



1. Estimate based on mid-value of survey categories - e.g. 1-5% interpreted as 2.5%
 2. Participants were asked to choose their top 5 influencing parties, percentages show share of top 3 ranks given
 3. Based on MIT / BCG survey amongst Managers to C-Suite across industries (BCG Market Research; MIT Sloan Management Review / BCG Report "Sustainability's Next Frontiers", Dec 2013) n=91

4. Participants were asked to choose their top 5 barriers, percentages show share of top 3 ranks given
 5. Participants were asked to choose their top 5 responsible parties, percentages show share of top 3 ranks given

EXAMINING THE PULSE FROM DESIGN TO END-OF-USE

To help the industry break through its environmental, social, and ethical challenges, this report assesses the industry's level of sustainability at each value chain step and identifies key issues. (See Exhibit 12.) It also calls attention to the eight impact areas chosen for this report. (See Exhibit 13.) This assessment draws on GFA's and BCG's proprietary analyses of the Pulse Score and the Pulse Survey.

Exhibit 12 The Fashion Value Chain

Design & Development ▶ Raw materials ▶ Processing ▶ Manufacturing ▶ Transportation ▶ Retail ▶ Use ▶ End of use

Exhibit 13 Eight Areas in Which the Fashion Industry Can Make a Difference

Environmental	
Water	Consumption of freshwater, output and processing of wastewater
Energy	Use of renewable energies and CO2 emission management
Chemicals	Amount and toxicity of employed chemicals, processing of utilized chemicals
Waste	Amounts and types of waste generated, treatment of waste
Social	
Labor practices	Compensation, working hours, worker treatment, worker involvement, worker rights (to vacation, to form unions etc), gender equality, child labor
Health & safety	Facility standards (fire doors, sufficient emergency exits etc; established emergency procedures/training), exposure to chemicals and dangerous equipment
Community & external engagement	Interactions with and services for the community, such as providing education facilities for children of factory workers, engagement with external stakeholders and consumers
Ethical	
Unethical practices	Corruption, animal welfare, use of models and imagery that sets a poor standard



DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

Exhibit 14 Water, Chemicals, and Waste Impact Highly Influenced in Design Phase

Impact area	Magnitude of impact	Biggest drivers
 Water	Very high	Choice of materials, e.g., high water consumption of cotton Choice of colors (dyeing), finishing
 Energy	Medium	Choice of fabrics, e.g., oil as input for polyester
 Chemicals	High	Choice of material treatments, e.g., softening of fabrics Choice of colors (dyeing)
 Waste	High	Choice of recycled fabrics and blends Design for longevity Choice of cuts and possibility to glue
 Labor practices	Low	Design implies choice of supplier due to necessary capabilities
 Health & safety	Low	Design implies choice of supplier due to necessary capabilities
 Community & ext. eng.	Very low	
 Ethical practices	High	Choice of materials (animal welfare) Influence on marketing and trends Choice of cuts and sizing setting role models

In the design and development phase, brands can reduce lifecycle impacts by considering the footprint of proposed garments upfront. (See Exhibit 14.) Designs, especially the choice of raw materials, determine much of a garment's destiny and impact. The fiber mix of a garment can impede or facilitate recycling, while the colors and prints will limit the options for dyes and process chemicals.

The design function in fashion brands has to overcome two challenges. One is the lack of awareness of their influence on the environmental and social footprint, which goes hand in hand with the absence of tools to assess their impact. The other is many brands' tendency to 'design to cost', letting immediate materials costs drive design choices—instead of total environmental and social costs over the entire value chain. With a full understanding of the implications of their decisions, they can adjust their designs to lighten the load for the entire production process.

The overall score in this stage of the value chain is just 22, well below the overall average of 32. Apart

from a few niche sustainability champions, the companies that best connect design to sustainability are big international sportswear and large entry-price players. Their scores are around 40.

The Pulse Survey further confirms that fashion design has significant catch-up potential: It is the stage with the second largest difference between fashion brands' current low level of commitment and their intent to focus on this area in the future.

Indeed, some leading brands have made headlines with more sustainable designs. Nike has "designed out" waste from the start with its FlyKnit collection of footwear, whose one-piece upper avoids multiple stitched or glued panels, cutting waste volume during production by 60%.⁷³ (See Encouraging Moves). But the industry would still benefit from universal design standards discouraging fiber combinations that pollute, harm, or consume excessive resources, and raising awareness in designers of their role and their collective impact.



ENCOURAGING MOVES

Adidas: The brand released athletic shoes under their 'No Dye' design principles, using materials in their natural 'greige' colour to avoid water or chemical use due to dyeing. www.adidas-group.com/en/sustainability/products/sustainability-innovation/#/adidas-nodye/

TED (Textile Environment Design): Practice-based sustainable design strategies that assist designers in creating textiles that have a reduced impact on the environment. Their approach is summarized in their report The TEN, including such topics as Design to minimize waste, Design for cyclability, and Design to reduce the need to consume. The TED team has led customized training activities at companies including VF Corporation to teach about sustainable design. www.tedresearch.net/teds-ten-aims/

Levi's: In 2013, the brand released its Wellthread product development process and clothing line focused on sustainability. Instead of following a cost of goods target, the aim was to "do the right thing at every decision point". This resulted in complexity reductions and decisions against producing certain products if this aim could not be achieved. The company states it was able to lower its price points by 30% year over year through this approach, achieving profitability, as indicated by a company representative in an interview in Ecouterre. www.levistrauss.com/sustainability/products/levis-wellthread-collection/

Exhibit 15 Water, Energy, Chemicals, and Ethical Practices Drive Footprint in Raw-Material

Impact area	Magnitude of impact	Biggest drivers
 Water	High	Irrigation methods, e.g., choice between conventional cotton versus more sustainably sourced cotton
 Energy	High	Using recycled plastics/fibers, e.g., replacing virgin polyester
 Chemicals	High	Amount and frequency of fertilizer and pesticide use
 Waste	Very low	
 Labor practices	Medium	Low level of wages Prevalence of child labor
 Health & safety	Medium	Safeguarding safety standards
 Community & ext. eng.	Very low	
 Ethical practices	High	Guaranteeing animal welfare Extensive land use, consideration of use for food production

The raw materials stage also has a disproportionately large impact on sustainability, partly because of the effect it has on recyclability. It involves the cultivation and sourcing of base materials, such as natural and synthetic fibers. (See exhibit 15.) Suppliers at this stage are referred to as Tier 3, whereas Tier 2 refers to processing and Tier 1 to manufacturers.

Data from the Higg Materials Sustainability Index (MSI), a cradle-to-gate material scoring tool by the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC), shows that the materials with the overall highest environmental impact are leather and natural fibers (silk, cotton, wool). (See Exhibit 16.) These materials show the highest negative impacts across all dimensions. And even within one type of material there are considerable differences. Water use for cotton depends a great deal on the method of cultivation, while incorporating recycled

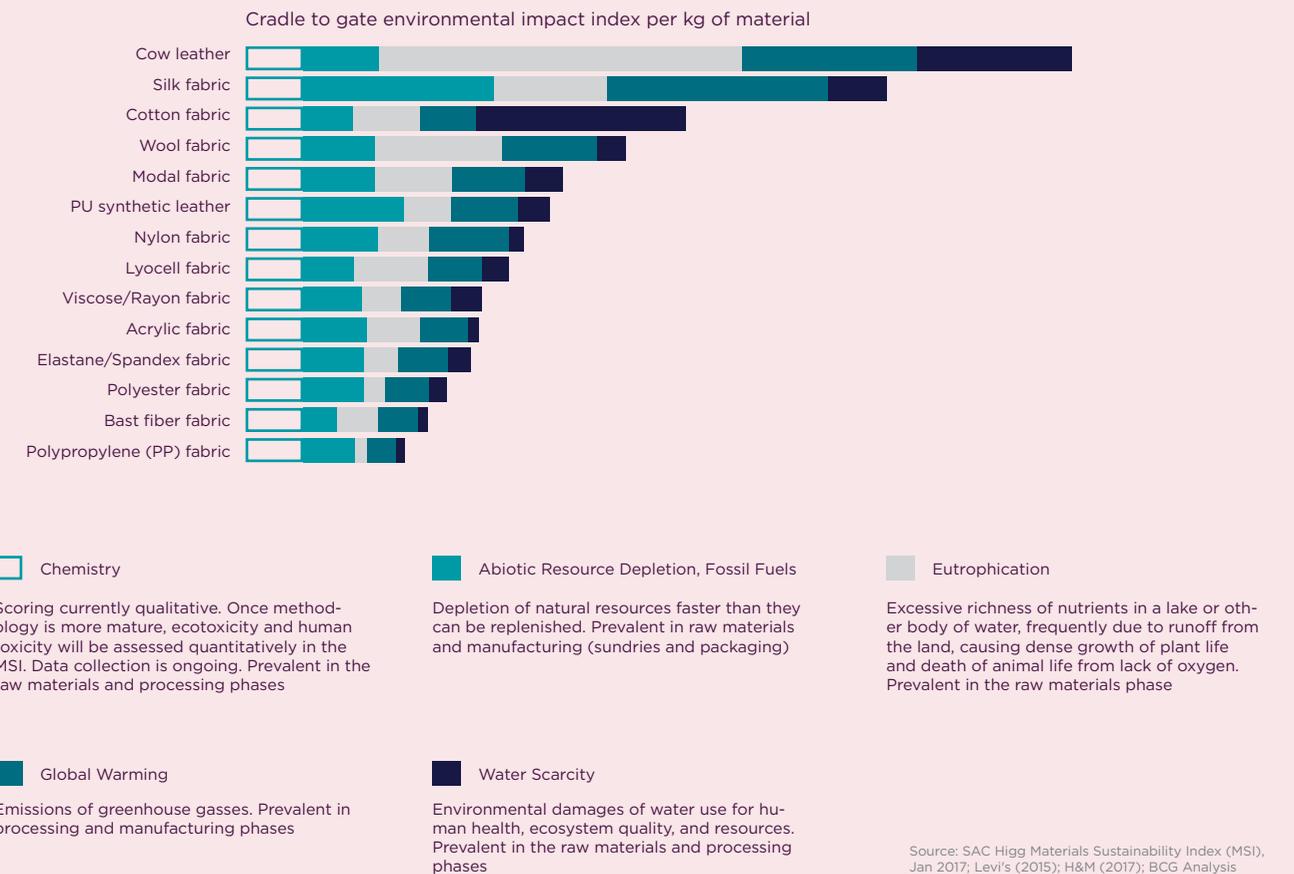
polyester reduces a garment's energy footprint. The raw materials stage as a whole scores next to last in the value chain, at 17. But there is wide variation: the niche sustainability champions and large players reach scores of 60, while smaller companies come in as low as 5.

The Pulse Survey confirms the Pulse Score findings. Large players are certainly more cognizant of the impact of their raw materials. Interestingly, the survey asked respondents to estimate what proportion of raw materials were sustainable (e.g., organic, recycled, regenerated, fair trade, BCI, Tencel®), and the average was a fifth. Yet only a tenth was labeled as sustainable and explicitly marketed as such.

There is a small but perceptible shift toward broader use of sustainably sourced materials. (See Encouraging Moves). One marker is the rising share of or-

THE RAW MATERIALS STAGE HAS A DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE IMPACT ON SUSTAINABILITY, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE EFFECT IT HAS ON RECYCLABILITY

Exhibit 16 Cradle to gate environmental impact by material





©I.CO/SOEX Group

ganic cotton, which can have only a quarter of the environmental impact of conventional cotton.⁷⁴ Another is the active research into “classic” natural fibers such as hemp, flax, linen, and even nettle, all biodegradable. Although finishing processes for such fibers still limit their widespread use, these fibers generally require less water and fertilizer, and have greater natural resistance to weeds, which means that fewer herbicides are needed.

There are also novel bio-based raw materials. Lyocell, established now for years, consists of cellulose fibers made from dissolving pulp, for instance from wood (Tencel®) or bamboo (Monocel®). Bio-based Nylon 6.6 (one name is RENNLON®) comes from glucose and other renewable feedstock, and is in the early stages of commercialization. Other promising areas include research and prototyping on entirely new kinds of fibers, such as a merino wool-like yarn made of gelatin (undergoing trials at ETH Zürich), and leathery materials made from materials such as pineapple leaves (from start-up Ananas Anam).

Also encouraging are indices and apps from some brands that show designers the environmental impact of different materials and combinations.

Recycling the fibers would mitigate much of the environmental impact of raw materials, but current technology can cause a 75% loss of value in just the first cycle.⁷⁵

Chemical recycling can produce fibers of a quality comparable to that of virgin materials, but only for polyesters and nylons at present, and with added chemical by-products.⁷⁶ Mechanical recycling works for natural materials, but the shredding usually leaves the individual fibers much shorter. As such it is a downcycling technology, reducing the quality of the material over time and hence creating a lower-value product, eventually ending up in a landfill. The mixing of fibers is another challenge: the addition of elastane, for example, precludes recycling with current technologies.⁷⁷

The economics of recycled materials are unappealing at present, as for example recycled polyester is 10% more expensive compared to virgin materials.⁷⁸ Even though, as outdoor brand Patagonia estimates, recycling saves 75% of the energy needed and 40% of the CO₂ compared to using virgin polyester,⁷⁹ companies will make little headway until those numbers change.

To truly close the loop of the fashion value chain, both the technology and economics of recycling need to improve dramatically, ideally with a single standard to help with scaling up to commercialization. Getting there will require technological disruption, industry-wide collaboration and, hence, willingness to invest to truly move the needle.

ENCOURAGING MOVES

BCI Cotton: The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) aims to reduce the environmental impact of cotton production and improve the conditions under which it is produced. It claims a current share of 8% in global cotton production, targeting 30% by 2020—a first step in the right direction.

www.bettercotton.org/about-bci/

Lindex: The mid-sized Swedish brand focuses on materials with reduced impact. In 2016, 63% of its cotton use was organic. Overall, it could triple its use of ‘more sustainable materials’ from 17% in 2013 to over 50% today, including materials such as recycled polyester or Tencel®.

www.about.lindex.com/en/blend/

Worn Again: This start-up builds on a collaboration with large fashion brands. The venture’s chemical-recycling technology addresses major barriers in textile-to-textile recycling, namely how to separate blended fibers and how to separate dyes and other contaminants from polyester and cellulose. Worn Again aims to provide an alternative to the use of virgin polyester.

www.wornagain.info/

Nike: Its materials sustainability index allows design teams to compare the environmental impacts of 57,000 different materials.

www.about.nike.com/pages/sustainable-innovation/

Exhibit 17 Both the Environmental and the Social Footprints Have a Large Impact in the Processing Phase

Impact area	Magnitude of impact	Biggest drivers
 Water	High	Water use in dyeing Water use in cleaning, rinsing of fibers
 Energy	Very high	Share of renewable energy use Energy efficiency of equipment
 Chemicals	Very high	Lack of waste water treatment in dyeing Chemicals for fiber treatments
 Waste	Medium	Waste of fibers/fabrics (e.g., roll ends, off-cuts, samples)
 Labor practices	Very high	Low level of wages, non-compliance to min. wage laws, gender inequality Worker wellbeing, bonded and child labor
 Health & safety	Very high	Building safety Chemical exposure of workers
 Community & ext. eng.	Low	
 Ethical practices	Low	Prevalence of corruption

The processing phase includes spinning, weaving, and other preparation of fabrics, all activities with substantial environmental and social footprints.⁸⁰ (See Exhibit 17.)

This stage has the second-highest Pulse score, at 38, with companies scoring from 80 to 0. That's one of the biggest performance gaps, suggesting that tremendous improvements are feasible if the small companies catch up.

H&M estimates that 47% of the climate impact and 6% of the water impact occurs in processing.^{81,82} Dyeing fabrics alone can require as much as 150 liters of water per kilogram,⁸³ and the water is often dis-

charged unfiltered into waterways. Wastewater pollution can be considered as a major area of challenges within processing but also in raw materials stages due to the use of nutrients and fertilizers. (See Wastewater Pollution in Fashion).

Moreover, the social impact within processing is described by many actors as high, primarily because of garment workers' exposure to hazardous chemicals.⁸⁴

The limited transparency and traceability are a fundamental weakness in this stage.⁸⁵ Few brands effectively monitor their Tier 2 suppliers, especially on labor practices and workers' safety, partly because of

Wastewater Pollution in Fashion

Measuring the chemical pollution of wastewater is a complex procedure due to a large number of hazardous substances and the variation in their impact. Fortunately, it is possible for companies to mitigate wastewater pollution without performing advanced analyses.

How does water pollution work?

The sources of water pollution in the fashion industry are twofold. First, excessive amounts of nutrients (e.g. nitrogen and phosphorous) in agriculture can lead to runoffs from the land ending up in waterways. The resulting negative effects include algal blooms leading to a lack of available oxygen in the water. Second, organic and inorganic toxic substances (e.g.

mercury and arsenic) discharged from factories to waterways can cause undesirable change in the natural environment and bioaccumulation in the food web. Such toxic chemicals are numerous and have diverse water pollution impacts.

How large is the relative impact?

In their 2015 EP&L, Kering estimates that water pollution contributes 12% of the total environmental footprint of the company – as compared with greenhouse gas emissions at 37%, and land uses at 24%. The vast majority of water pollution occurs during raw material production and raw material processing. The effects of manufacturing, assembly, and stores, warehouses and offices are negligible.

Out of all the raw materials used in the fashion industry, metals – in particular precious metals – have the highest water pollution impact.

Why should we care?

There are multiple adverse effects of water pollution on the environment. For human health toxins can build up in the body, potentially leading to cancer and other acute conditions. Excessive nutrients can reduce the oxygen in water and kill off the fish stock. Polluted drinking water for livestock may reduce the production, quality and safety of the meat.

Source: based on Kering EP&L for 2013, 2014, 2015

the proliferation of suppliers and the distance from brand operations. The issue is further complicated when processing suppliers, facing high demand, outsource and sub-contract to third-party suppliers unknown to the brand or retailer.

With environmental factors, transparency is especially an issue with chemical usage. Suppliers are looking to increase energy efficiency, a much-needed step as processing is very energy-intensive.

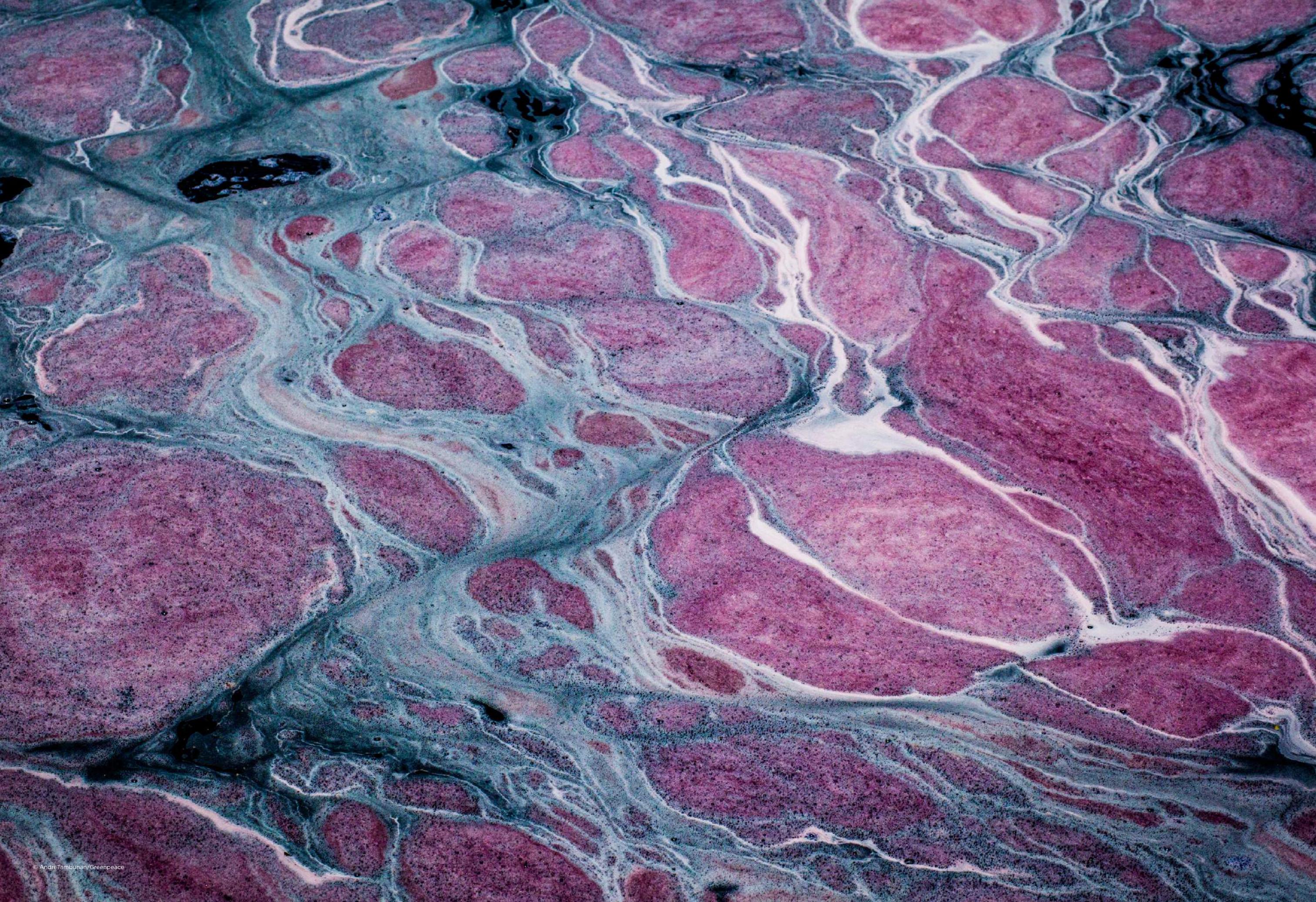
Production technologies are improving, galvanized by demand from brands and retailers keen to improve the eco-friendliness of their products. (See Encouraging Moves) But technology is no substitute for the protocols that help change practices everywhere along the value chain. Using technology to increase transparency and analysis is one thing; doing something with the resulting insights is another.

ENCOURAGING MOVES

Nike: For its 2016 Super Bowl collection of apparel, Nike used a novel dyeing process by Dutch company DyeCoo, in which pressurized CO₂, in a nearly closed loop process (95% of ingoing materials are recycled), is used as the dyeing medium instead of water, thus requiring zero water and process chemicals.
www.dyecoo.com/co2-dyeing/

Timberland: The firm introduced its Green Index in 2007, tracking climate impact, use of chemicals, and other resources during production.
www.greenindex.timberland.com/

ZDHC (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals): The program advocates eliminating hazardous chemicals from the fashion industry. Participating brands commit to adhering to a Restricted Substances List and report on results from wastewater testing. 79 companies currently participate, thereof 22 brands such as Burberry, Gap or Puma.
www.roadmaptozero.com/programme/



MANUFACTURING

Exhibit 18 The Impact of Health and Safety, and Labor Practices is High During Manufacturing

Impact area	Magnitude of impact	Biggest drivers
 Water	Low	Water use in garment finishing
 Energy	Medium	Share of renewable energy use Energy efficiency of equipment
 Chemicals	Low	Toxicity of materials used for prints
 Waste	Medium	Waste from cut-and-sew, samples
 Labor practices	Very high	Low level of wages, non-compliance to min. wage and overtime laws, gender inequality Worker co-determination (unions)
 Health & safety	Very high	Issues in building safety Insufficient length of rest times
 Community & ext. eng.	Medium	Setup of local infrastructure and services to workers
 Ethical practices	Medium	Prevalence of corruption



©Liu Feiyue/Greenpeace

The manufacturing stage involves cutting, sewing, buttonholing, gluing, welding, and seam taping the fabric, along with some dyeing and finishing such as stonewashing. Social factors are the main issue here with labor and health and safety standards having been in public spotlight recently. (See Exhibit 18.)

Manufacturing lags behind processing with a Pulse Score of 28. As elsewhere, the big sportswear players outperform the others with a score of 76, while the midsize and small segments reveal their catch-up potential with scores ranging from 18 to 43.

The Pulse Survey results are largely in agreement. They reveal brands' declared intent to invest in more environmentally and worker friendly manufacturing processes. More than three-quarters of the companies polled state that they plan to elevate the topic by assigning head count and funding to it—the highest

number for any of the value-chain steps. They realize there is much to do to “clean up” these operations.

Social impact is the main challenge. Brands and retailers are intensifying the spotlight on working conditions in their suppliers' factories by closer monitoring, often with their own evaluations and clear minimum requirements. (See Encouraging Moves). Consumers are increasingly seeking transparency in the value chain.

Yet in Myanmar textile factories, wages can still be as low as €55 per month, and little higher in Bangladesh.⁸⁶ That's half of what's needed to sustainably support the workers and their families.⁸⁷ A central challenge is the continual drive-down of pricing combined with the fierce competition among low-wage factories. Concerned about their international competitiveness, governments in many producing coun-

tries have hesitated to set minimum wages that meet workers' basic needs.⁸⁸

Factories, of course, work under local laws governing labor conditions (for example, controlling working hours), environmental aspects (for example, governing chemical use) and other well-intended rules. Voluntary agreements abound, such as the bluesign label to certify production processes, the UN

Global Compact, and Bangladesh's Accord on Fire and Building Safety. The International Labour Organization publishes standards, albeit without the ability to directly implement or enforce them. Yet there is no cross-country legal framework that addresses all—or even a large part of—what is needed to secure fair wages and safe working conditions.

ENCOURAGING MOVES

Levi's: The brand launched its Worker Well-Being Initiative in 2011, implementing programs to increase social sustainability at supplier factories. The brand had expanded its initiative to 12 countries by 2016 and aims to do so with 80% of its product volume by 2020. www.levistrauss.com/sustainability/people/

Povigy: The technology startup will soon launch a mobile app that lets shoppers evaluate the sustainability of participating brands directly in store. Povigy plans to base the evaluations on its own verification of the brands and on documentation describing upstream manufacturing processes. www.povigy.com

TRANSPORTATION

Exhibit 19 Transportation Phase with Overall Low Relative Environmental and Social Footprint

Impact area	Magnitude of impact	Biggest drivers
 Water	Very low	
 Energy	Medium	Excessive use of energy in transport modes (airplanes)
 Chemicals	Very low	
 Waste	Medium	Waste generated through packaging, pallet use
 Labor practices	Low	Non-compliance to contract terms (sub-contracting) Excessive working hours
 Health & safety	Low	Insufficient length of rest times
 Community & ext. eng.	Very low	
 Ethical practices	Very low	

Transportation, which includes packaging as well as distribution, has clear impacts related to sustainability. (See Exhibit 19.) Yet the environmental and social footprints in this stage are much smaller than in other stages. That's partly because the activities in this stage are similar to what happens in other industries, so that fashion brands can benefit from the scale and innovation already in place elsewhere. For all the energy expended in moving apparel globally, this stage contributes only 2% of the climate-change impact of the entire value chain.⁸⁹ The effects on water and chemicals are negligible.

Indeed, transportation's overall Pulse Score is 41,

highest of all the stages. Even the lowest-scoring performers in this stage do not fall below 28, while the top players exceed 90.

The Pulse Survey showed that brands spend little money, time and resources on transportation, as suggested in expert interviews because they already have programs, in collaboration with logistics partners, to optimize the flow of goods. Transportation is also one of the few instances where cost and environmental impact are closely tied together (See Encouraging Moves). Companies have built-in disincentives to discourage routine air-shipments.

ENCOURAGING MOVES

Nike: The brand offers an example for brands that have invested significantly in their warehouse operations to reduce their environmental impact. In 2016 the brand opened a new distribution center in Belgium, using 100% renewable energy from its own wind turbines and solar panels. It claims to recycle more than 95% of the waste generated onsite.

www.news.nike.com/news/nike-laakdal-belgium-campus/

Inditex: The retailer introduced its Green to Pack program in 2015 to reuse and optimize packing materials and methods, saving 660 sea-container shipments and more than 185,000 m² of cardboard that year, equivalent in area to a 25 football fields.

www.inditex.com/sustainability/environment/logistics/

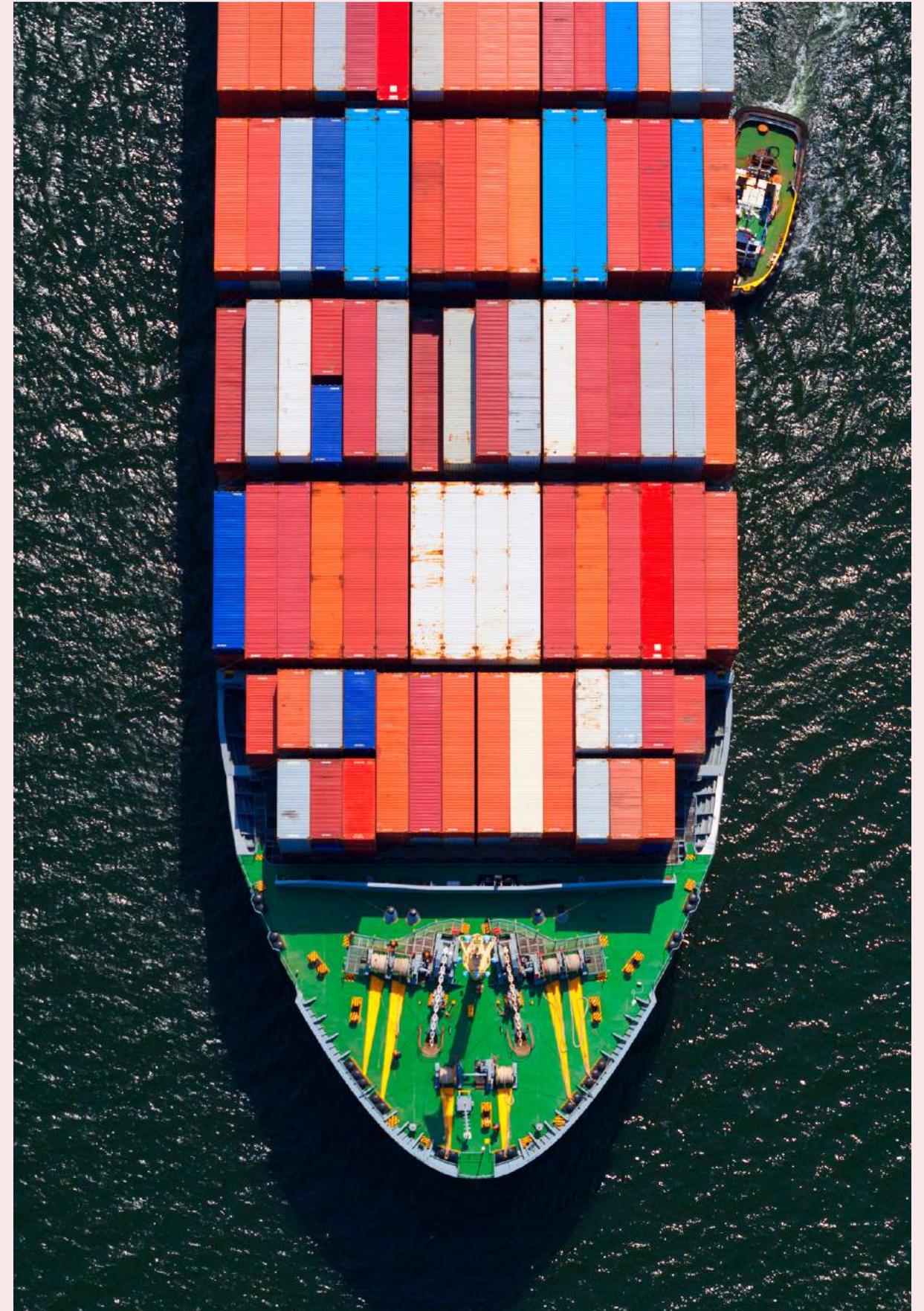


Exhibit 20 Retail Phase with Varied Environmental, Social and Ethical Impact Areas to Consider

Impact area	Magnitude of impact	Biggest drivers
 Water	Very low	
 Energy	Medium	Energy efficiency in stores (e.g., lighting)
 Chemicals	Very low	
 Waste	Medium	Waste generated through packaging, tags, hangers, bags
 Labor practices	Medium	Low level of wages, excessive working hours Limited social security, temporary employment
 Health & safety	Very low	
 Community & ext. eng.	Medium	Engagement with consumers on sustainability awareness and impacts
 Ethical practices	Medium	Choice of models and imagery Influence on consumption patterns

Retail is where the magic happens for shoppers—where ambience and aspiration turn into purchase. It gets little attention for sustainability, which is unfortunate because it has great potential for improving energy use, reducing waste, and engaging with consumers. (See Exhibit 20.)

The retail stage's Pulse Score is only 28, with low variation across the industry. The exceptions are the premium and luxury players, which fall short with scores around 13, and the sustainability champions, which have built their customer experience around the subject, at 75. Many of the latter have point-of-sale measures to drive a reduced footprint.

The Pulse Survey backs up those conclusions but adds that the big players deviate from this pattern with a higher level of commitment. With the retail

stage as the main point of customer contact, brands can influence consumer behavior regarding wear and care of the products. And with many large stores, these companies are realizing that energy efficiency (on lighting and air conditioning for instance) may bring significant cost savings.

At first glance, it's hard to grasp the overall impact of the retail stage. Inventory usually turns quickly, and staff are treated well, especially in premium stores. But all the bright lighting, heating, and ventilation can account for around 5% of the CO₂ generated over the value chain.⁹⁰ Regulation is unlikely to play a part; as with transportation, most retailers will act in their economic interests to reduce energy consumption. (See Encouraging Moves.)



ENCOURAGING MOVES

Kering: The brand promotes renewable energy use in its headquarters and the stores of its brands. For single brands' operations it states 'green energy' shares of over 80%. It also invests in onsite production of clean energy through solar panels, announcing to have saved nearly 400 tons of CO₂ in 2014. It also encourages LED lighting in the stores of its brands to gain energy savings of up to 90% over older technologies. In 2015, Gucci invested €2.4 million to replace in-store lighting. www.kering.com/en/sustainability/

Inditex: By the end of 2016, Inditex had 4,519 eco-efficient stores accounting for over 60% of its stores, with the aim of reaching 100% by 2020. These stores save 20% in electricity and up to 50% of water consumption in comparison with conventional stores. The brand follows the guidelines and recommendations of the LEED certificate and the European BREEAM seal in order to ensure that the initiative keeps moving in the right direction. www.inditex.com/sustainability/environment/eco-efficient_stores



Exhibit 21 Energy with the Highest Impact During the Use Phase

Impact area	Magnitude of impact	Biggest drivers
 Water	Medium	Water use of washing by consumers
 Energy	High	Energy consumption of washing, drying, ironing
 Chemicals	Medium	Toxicity of detergents Pollution of waste water (e.g., chemical processing residues, micro-plastics)
 Waste	Medium	Prolonging product use avoiding resource waste Using second hand sources for products saving resources
 Labor practices	Very low	
 Health & safety	Very low	
 Community & ext. eng.	Very low	
 Ethical practices	Low	Participation in trends encouraging waste

The consumer use phase is where the product is handled, washed, repaired, and possibly passed on. The magnitude of this phase's impact is not yet conclusively assessed in research and comprehensive data is lacking. A future edition of this report will elaborate on the topic in more detail. Yet, it is reasonably safe to assume that the main drivers are the energy and water consumption from washing, as well as energy-intensive drying. (See Exhibit 21.) The type and amount of detergents influence the impact as well.

Also important are attitudes about prolonged use. Not long ago, most apparel was carefully looked after, repaired, and handed down. With the coming of fast-fashion, in the past decade the number of garments purchased by the average consumer has more than doubled. Some consumers treat garments as nearly disposable, throwing them out after only a couple of wears.⁹¹

With a Pulse Score of 23, the industry seems to be neglecting this stage. Even the big fast-fashion and sportswear firms that do well elsewhere on the value chain are unable to top 20 at the consumer use stage. Only the sustainability champions surpass 50. The Pulse Survey underscores the Pulse Score findings, especially with regard to the lack of commitments to funding and resources into the future. This suggests that either most companies do not consider the use phase their responsibility, or that technologically and economically viable solutions do not yet exist.

Yet brands do have an opportunity to promote awareness here, especially on environmentally friendly washing and the options for reuse—which in turn can boost consumer engagement with their brands.

Several large brands have initiatives to educate consumers about responsible use of their products. More than that: some offer incentives to care and

IN THE PAST DECADE THE NUMBER OF GARMENTS PURCHASED PER CONSUMER HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED, AND SOME CONSUMERS THROW THEM OUT AFTER ONLY A COUPLE OF WEARS

resources to act on their concern. (See Encouraging Moves.) Regulators can help with inducements for prolonging a product's life, as Sweden did by halving the tax rate on product repairs.

Meanwhile an intriguing sub-industry has emerged around clothing rental, using the web to minimize one-time use of garments. Start-ups include MUD jeans and VIGGA organic children's wear. A caveat to these online rental business models, however, is the additional need for transport and for garments to be washed between rentals. Further, hardly anyone

has yet managed to succeed in this concept profitably at scale.

As for reuse, more than half of respondents to a UK survey had bought used clothes in the previous year, and a fourth indicated that they would buy more if the choices improved. Two-thirds said they would consider participating in retailer buy-backs.⁹² Research in other EU countries, though, shows the long journey ahead: only 10% of respondents considered buying second-hand in their three most recent purchases.⁹³

ENCOURAGING MOVES

Patagonia: Through the brand's Worn Wear program consumers can send in worn or lightly damaged Patagonia apparel to be repaired. The program involves 45 full-time repair technicians at a service center, completing about 40,000 repairs a year. The program also extends to a collaboration with iFixit, an online repair resource, to create care and DIY repair guides for consumers. www.patagonia.com/worn-wear.html/

Stella McCartney: Together with Clevercare the brand releases an ongoing series on steps consumers can take to prolong the useful life of its products and reduce their own environmental impact during use. It also equips its products with the Clevercare label, providing for instance washing advice to minimize the footprint of product care. www.stellamccartney.com/experience/the-clevercare-series/

Rent the Runway: The clothing rental firm started off in 2009, and in 2015 it introduced its Unlimited subscription, allowing customers to hold on to as many as three pieces of apparel at a time for as long as they want for €130 per month. Rent the Runway even partnered with high-end retailer Neiman Marcus in late 2016 to offer its rental services in store outlets. The concept is clearly a winner: in 2016, the company generated annual revenue of more than €90 million, up from €40 million in 2014 (according to Recode). www.renttherunway.com/unlimited/

Exhibit 22 Environmental Impact Driven by Waste During End-of-Use Phase

Impact area	Magnitude of impact	Biggest drivers
 Water	Medium	Premature disposal leading to unnecessary resource waste
 Energy	Medium	Premature disposal leading to unnecessary resource waste
 Chemicals	Very low	
 Waste	Very high	Disposing end-of-use products generating waste and connected negative externalities (e.g., leachate emissions from landfills)
 Labor practices	Very low	
 Health & safety	Very low	
 Community & ext. eng.	Very low	
 Ethical practices	Medium	Premature disposal leading to unnecessary resource waste

When it comes to the end of the life cycle of fashion products, different fates are possible. They can be put to a different use (e.g., second use with a new owner), up- or down-cycled, fully recycled (feeding back to the fashion value chain to ‘close the loop’) or just disposed of, winding up in landfills. Here lies the largest driver of this stage: preventing products from ending up as pure waste. (See Exhibit 22.)

The Pulse Score here is 9, the lowest of all the stages. Even segments that score well in other stages do poorly, some as low as 15. Only the sustainability champions do well at 46. As with consumer use, this low achievement level likely reflects little industry attention or a lack of technologically and economically viable solutions.

The Pulse Survey underscores these results and reveals that across the value chain, recycling options are perceived to be the least relevant improvement levers. (See Exhibit 23.) Further, in interviews, companies have expressed a wish to “fix the basics” of sustainability elsewhere in the value chain before working on end-of-use.

But does the fashion industry even need to get involved? Don’t consumers already use the clothing drop boxes available and respond to the leaflets from non-profits offering free pickups of castoffs? Some do—yet across the EU27 nations, only 18% of clothing is reused or recycled⁹⁴ (See Exhibit 24) and the U.S. number is even worse.⁹⁵ The global average is 20%.⁹⁶ In contrast to glass, plastic, and paper waste, apparel

THE PULSE SCORE FOR END-OF-USE IS ONLY 9, THE LOWEST OF THE STAGES, LIKELY DUE TO LACK OF INDUSTRY ATTENTION AND TECHNOLOGY

Exhibit 23 Pulse Survey Results: “Which levers show the potential to have the greatest impact on improving sustainability?”

Recycling Options Are Not Thought of As Levers for Improving Sustainability

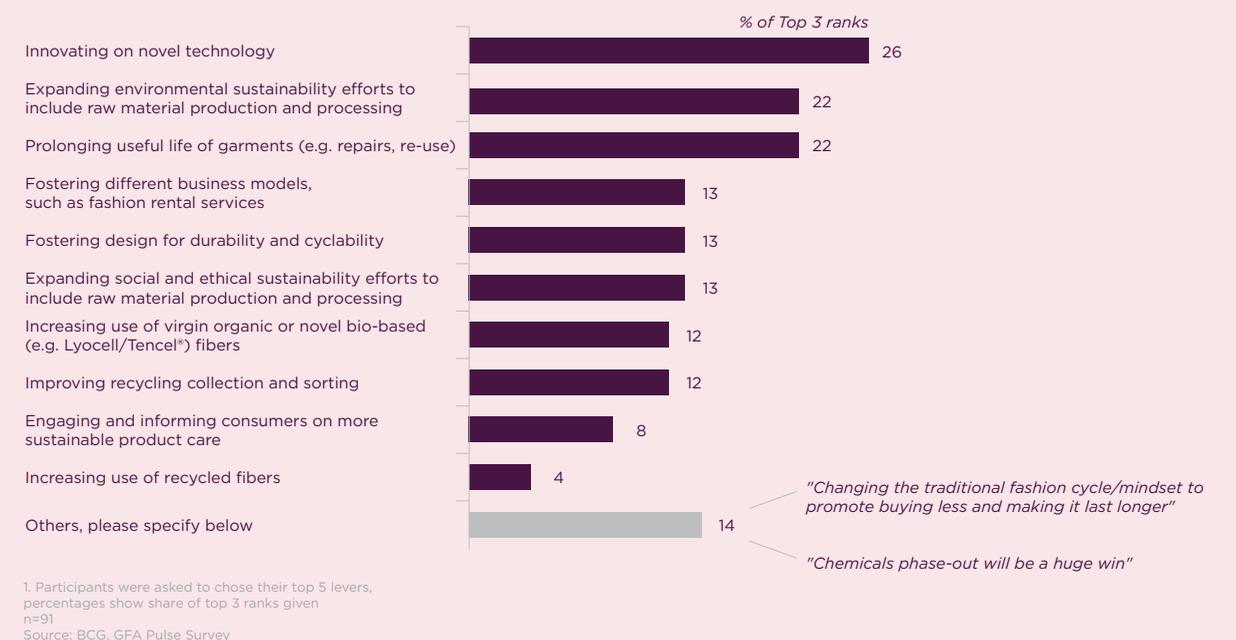
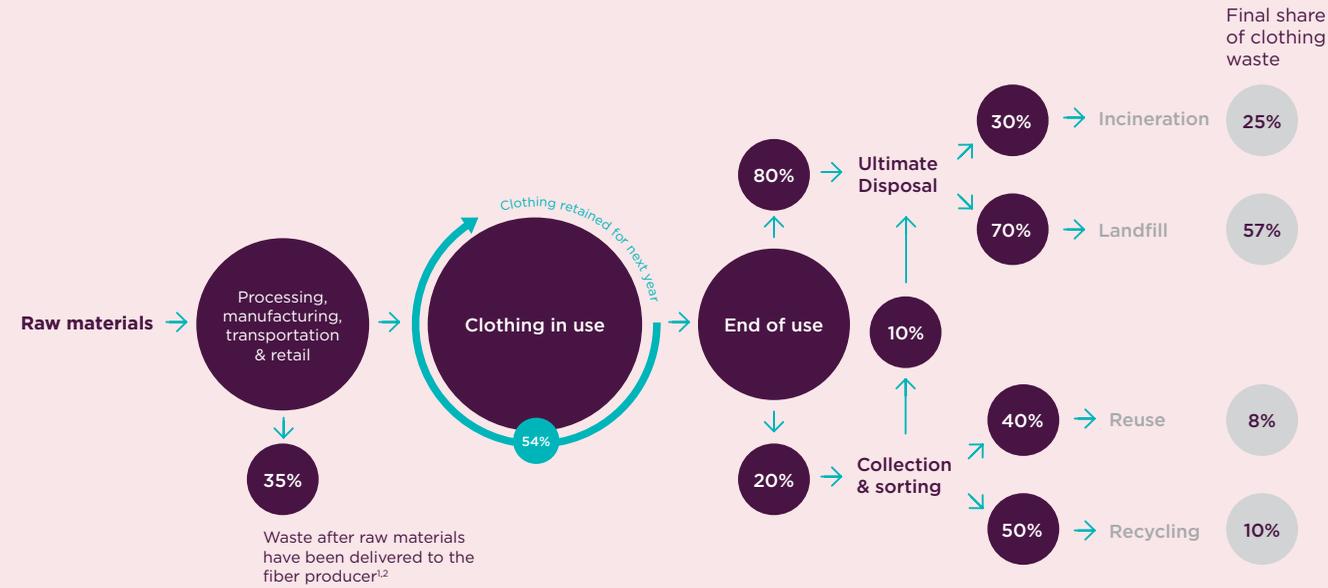


Exhibit 24 Most Clothing Waste Ends Up in Landfill or Being Incinerated



1. -9% waste in fiber production, -91% in yarn, fabric and garment production
 2. Excluding co-products and waste associated with chemical, oil and agricultural production
 Note: Figures based on studies of the UK and the EU27
 Source: BCG analysis; Wrap (2012); Beton et al. (2014)

gets little respect at disposal. Indeed, when it comes to packaging, recovery and recycling rates are at 98% in Germany and 79% in Belgium.⁹⁷

The used-textile market was worth close to €4 billion worldwide in 2015.⁹⁸ But consumer hesitance toward second-hand clothing in developed countries make it unlikely that the reuse market can develop as a robust, growing part of the fashion industry’s value chain without major changes in fashion brands’ and consumers’ views.

Transitioning to a ‘closed loop’ fashion value chain is needed, where discarded products are used

as raw materials for production—a ‘circular’ industry model. End-of-use already receives some notable attention from individual brands, such as Patagonia’s Common Threads program for Teijin polyester, which is chemically recycled for use in new garments. While admirable, this and other advances (see Encouraging Moves) lack scale, and must be amplified in coordinated efforts among brands, regulators, and consumers. (See Chapter 3.)

ENCOURAGING MOVES

H&M: The brand has partnered with I:CO, a solutions provider for clothing and footwear reuse and recycling. Its facility in Germany receives 25 to 30 truckloads a day from collection bins at H&M stores. The brand has similar facilities in the US and India. In 2016 it collected nearly 16,000 tons, a 29% increase from the year before. The brand’s CEO Karl-Johan Persson is satisfied with the program’s results, as he states: “According to our customers surveys, our garment collecting program quickly became the sustainability initiative with the highest awareness amongst our customers. It is tangible for consumers and makes them a part of it.” He also confirms that many

stores reported positive feedback, both in terms of handling processes and customer reactions.
www.about.hm.com/en/sustainability/get-involved/recycle-your-clothes.html

Esprit: Since 2016, together with the charity Packmee, the brand lets customers donate clothing via free shipping to the company, which gives part of the revenue generated to the Red Cross, along with a 10% discount voucher back to the customer.
www.esprit.com/sustainability





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GAINING MOMENTUM

Fashion brands have many opportunities to move to better business practices, following after standout brands and newcomers built around sustainability. But they face too few external pressures for change, aside from a few NGO campaigns such as Greenpeace's 'Detox'. Consumers show too little concern, nor is there much of a regulatory push. Indeed, nearly half of Pulse Survey respondents strongly criticized regulators for doing little to hold the industry to account. Respondents are looking to industry associations to drive industry collaboration, particularly with smaller brands. While collaboration has begun on local initiatives such as the Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Safety and country specific Better Work programs, strong global efforts have yet to take shape.

The good news is that fashion brands recognize the upside. While 30% of Pulse Survey respondents identified sustainability as "a social responsibility that fashion brands should fulfill," 31% tagged it as "an immense business/value creation opportunity for fashion companies." Big brands, with more than €4.4 billion in annual revenues, were even more enthusiastic: 50% checked the box for "immense opportunity." (See Exhibit 25.) Only 5% listed it as a "hygiene factor that every fashion firm needs to address so as to not lose out to the competition."

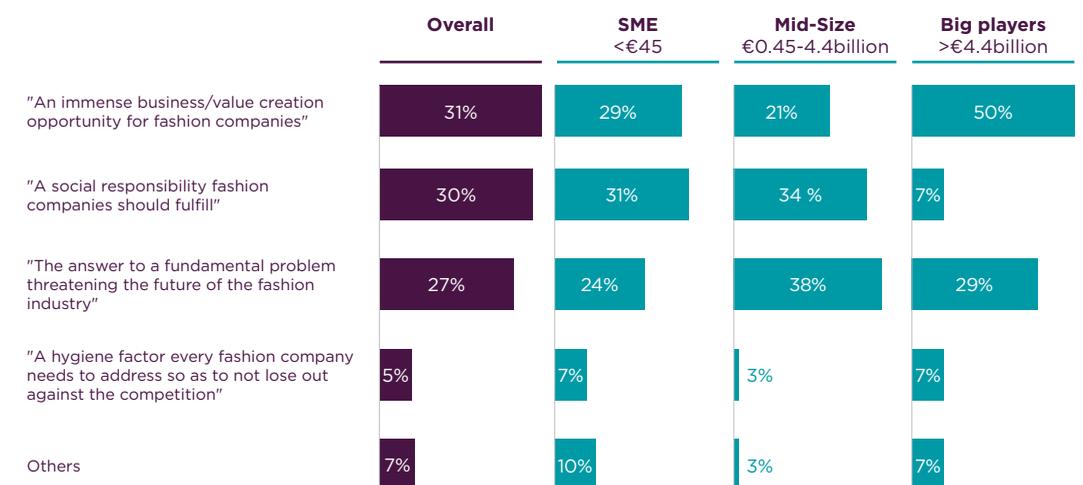
To capture the opportunity, however, the industry needs greater awareness of the principles and levers for improving the situation. This is particularly true for most of the small to medium sized players that show significant room for improvement according to the Pulse Score. This report aims to close that transparency gap with *Good Citizen Principles*. (See following page.) It presents the minimum requirements and current best practices for companies to follow, adjusted for the degree of maturity around sustainability.

But even if all companies from small to large were to adhere overnight to the Good Citizen Principles or match the efforts of the upper quartile achievers on the Pulse Score, it would not be enough to realize the full €160 billion value potential to the world economy. As of yet, too few concerted, cohesive, persistent initiatives bring together players from across the fashion industry ecosystem, allowing them to implement novel solutions that go beyond today's best practice. Brands, suppliers, and stakeholder organizations must not just step up, but also pull together collectively.

Exhibit 25

Pulse Survey Results:
"In your opinion, what is sustainability first and foremost for fashion companies?"

Large Companies in Particular See Sustainability as a Chance to Create Value



GOOD CITIZEN PRINCIPLES

	Step in value chain	Minimum Requirements	Industry Best Practice
Design and Development	Sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considerate production of samples; avoid short notice samples due to potentially negative implications on social labor conditions in facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement of physical samples with virtual samples in all basic items; avoid short notice samples due to potentially negative implications on social labor conditions in facilities
	Optimization of materials (fiber types and mix)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact assessment of materials made available for designers, at least for those with high volume—e.g., through LCA results, Higg MSI index, footprint tools Recommendations set on preferred materials and environmentally friendly substitutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact assessment of materials made readily available for designers for all items at all times—e.g., through LCA results, Higg MSI index, footprint tools, company e-P&L—and standardized consideration thereof in the design process Recommendations set on preferred materials and environmentally friendly substitutes Targets for environmental impact of material use
	Planning of durability (material and design)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durability criteria for large majority of materials, supported by lab testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full coverage of lab testing for materials, at least half of styles subject to field testing Consider simplicity/timelessness of design also across seasons to ensure efficient manufacturing and robust products
	Optimization of design recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimization of basic items for waste reduction, e.g., when cutting fabrics and sewing with minimized excess fabric 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimization of majority of items for waste reduction, e.g., when cutting fabrics (pattern efficiency) Design for enabling closed loop recycling in choice of fabrics, trim, design elements and processing
Raw Materials	Supplier transparency & traceability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First initiatives started to improve low transparency, e.g., through participation in multi-stakeholder collaborations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific measures in place to improve high (but still not full) transparency in the future: e.g., personal visits, participation in 3rd party verified collaborations, only work with agents showing better levels of transparency
	Environmental footprint tracking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First measures in place to track environmental impacts for known suppliers, initiate setup of certified supplier base Active in collaborations to tackle environmental issues more efficiently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full environmental risk tracking initiated where visibility is already available; action plan on how to extend to additional suppliers Clear targets for proportion of certified suppliers and materials (e.g., 100% organic cotton) Increase supplier engagement based on personal visits or collaborations; industry leaders help shape agenda of collaborations to distribute knowledge across the industry Lead collaborations and provide training to suppliers to improve environmental impact
	Sustainable material mix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of guidelines for sustainable sourcing of main materials, e.g. mandatory certifications, minimum compliance requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use more sustainable sourcing for all key materials, such as organic cotton, recycled polyester Set targets for key materials, e.g., 50% of cotton sourced from cotton initiatives such as organic cotton, Cotton made in Africa, Better Cotton Initiative
	Social labor conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear action plan developed to track social labor standards for known suppliers and to set up certified supplier base, work towards preventing child labor Active in collaborations to tackle social labor issues more efficiently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use fair trade suppliers where possible (e.g., to allow for funds into extra wages or into community projects), certify that no child labor is in place and monitor efforts Provide training to workforce to reduce health & safety risks

The principles outlined on the following pages aim to close the gap between laggards and best performers, as identified by the Pulse Score and the Pulse Survey.

The principles outline the minimum requirements for fashion brands as well as the current industry best practice achievable today

	Step in value chain	Minimum Requirements	Industry Best Practice
Processing	Supplier transparency & traceability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Min. 50% transparency on 2nd tier suppliers; e.g., name, location, owner and certificates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full transparency on 2nd tier suppliers; e.g., name, location, owner and certificates
	Environmental footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental impact tracking established for half of 2nd tier suppliers with plans laid out on how to extend tracking Leveraging collaborations to improve footprint Provision of targets and guidelines (e.g., on chemicals use and substitutes) for min. 1/3 of facilities, e.g., by joining collaborations/using agencies Full enforcement of Restricted Substance Lists; use of industry collaborations to find substitutes Measures initiated to single out most reliable suppliers, consolidate supplier base, build long term cooperation to help suppliers improve their environmental performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental impact tracking established for all 2nd tier suppliers; increase supplier engagement based on personal visits or collaborations Help distribute knowledge across industry through collaborations Providing targets and guidelines (on, e.g., chemicals use and substitutes) for all facilities; ensure implementation and ongoing development of guidelines through personal/auditor visits Extended enforcement of Restricted Substances (stricter standards than required by regulator); providing substitutes to suppliers and support price negotiations with next tier Long term relationships built up for reliable supplier base Investment or investment support (e.g., through loans at reduced interest) into machinery, technology, e.g. wastewater treatment
	Social labor conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear action plan developed to track social labor standards only use certified supplier base; part of collaborations to tackle social labor issues more efficiently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only work with certified suppliers, provide extended guidelines to suppliers, e.g., help negotiating prices for substitute chemical; set targets for social performance, e.g., on collective bargaining; trainings to improve health & safety and productivity
Manufacturing	Supplier transparency & traceability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High transparency on 1st tier suppliers; only exceptions not covered. Majority of suppliers visited by brand or third party auditors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full visibility on 1st tier suppliers. Suppliers visited by brand or third party auditors Publish full list of contracted manufacturing facilities and system in place to monitor sub-contracting
	Environmental footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >1/3 of 1st tier suppliers with tracked environmental impact; clear targets set, e.g., by jointly assessing manufacturing efficiency with facilities Reduction of packaging waste (less packaging, re-use), supported by clear target setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact tracking for all suppliers; track record of improved environmental performance; increase supplier engagement based on personal visits or collaborations Distribute knowledge across the industry through collaborations Cooperation or sharing of guidelines on machine standards Investment support for facilities to upgrade technology, improvements in production methods, packaging and energy efficiency with clear impact reduction targets
	Social labor conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures in place to track social labor standards, only use certified supplier base; part of collaborations to tackle social labor issues more efficiently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only use certified suppliers, provide extended guidelines to suppliers, e.g., optimize production for health and safety Planning of production to ensure sustainable working hours; trainings with impact on health and safety as well as productivity
Transportation	Environmental footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full tracking of impact, at least for closer transportation steps (to and from warehouse), dedicated tracking of air freight; Target setting to reduce impact per garment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full tracking of environmental impact per means of transportation, also in the beginning of the value chain Target setting and dedicated programs to optimize impact per garment, including location planning of facilities/production steps, transport intervals and space needed for packaging
	Utilization of transport space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplier cooperation initiated on efficiency for closer transportation steps (final transportation to warehouse, warehouse to retail outlet) Target setting in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full cooperation on space utilization including utilization of "back journey" (e.g., avoiding empty containers) Target setting in place and track record of reduced impact

	Step in value chain	Minimum Requirements	Industry Best Practice
Retail	Communication of sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General communication in most PoS advocating sustainability; e.g., environmental impacts of materials; engagement in collaborations to promote these standards across the industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More detailed communication included in most PoS; advocating sustainability messages, e.g. reminders to recycle, importance of repair to prolong useful life of garment, systematic training of store personnel to educate customers around care and repair of clothes Collaboration on establishing further data on labels, such as E-P&L/LCA data
	Environmental standards at the PoS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracking of energy usage in retail outlets, plans developed to minimize energy and water consumption as well as waste; use of certifications (e.g., LEED) for at least the newest retail outlets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full guidelines for energy and water usage in retail outlets (buildings and processes), measures in place to maximize waste reduction and use of renewable energy; full adaptation of all existing outlets to meet guidelines
Use	Care & Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care & Repair information on garment tags optimized for low environmental impact (e.g., recommend less and low temperature washing, highlight urgency of repair versus throwing an item away), successively implemented Providing replacement buttons and yarn with the item 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care & Repair information on garment tags optimized for low environmental impact (e.g., recommend less and low temperature washing, highlight urgency of repair vs. throwing an item away, providing specific repair manuals), in place for all products Providing replacement buttons and sewing kit with the item Offer repair services, e.g., specific repair offering
	Extend lifecycle through re-use options		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate and/or offer options for secondary use of garments
	Preparation of items for recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least on core items, materials which can be recycled are labeled explicitly on the item to allow easier recycling process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended optimization of materials (-50% of volume), e.g., no materials mixes obstructing recycling and explicit labeling to enable later separation of materials
End of Use	Communication of recycling opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High level education of customer on recycling potential (e.g., donation boxes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific education of customer on recycling options, e.g., existing infrastructure (internal and external to brand), where to send items for recycling and which items can be recycled
	Support and setup of dedicated recycling infrastructure for clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific communication of recycling offerings by other providers external to brand Taking part in collaborations to push setup of recycling infrastructure in public spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offering recycling channels to customers—take-back models in store, pick up services, feed back into second-hand, material processing for new items Offering recycling infrastructure in public spaces to clothes of other brands, engaging in cooperation with competitors to push cross-industry initiatives Piloting new business models (e.g., rental fashion) to reduce waste-culture and invest in new recycling technology



Thus far, GFA and BCG have pointed to a host of initiatives that are to be applauded and encouraged. There is plentiful evidence that many fashion brands are aware of their impact and ready to engage further at many stages of the value chain. But it has been demonstrated as well, that over 50 percent of the industry, especially small and medium-sized players have not started to take actions yet.

It is also clear that more needs to be done to counteract the impacts that come with the projected increase in consumption. Even if all companies lived up to the good citizen principles, planetary boundaries would still be stretched and only less than half of the €160 billion outlined value potential to the world economy could be realized, even under optimistic and ambitious assumptions, as will be outlined.

So what is the best way forward? What could we do that we do not do today or are not thinking about today? Are there new and different ways to design, produce, sell, and use clothing?

MANY FASHION BRANDS ARE AWARE OF THEIR IMPACT AND READY TO ENGAGE FURTHER. HOWEVER OVER 50 PERCENT OF THE INDUSTRY HAS NOT STARTED TO TAKE ACTION YET

TURNING OPPORTUNITIES INTO REALITIES

In the following, we will guide you through the full Landscape of Change as we see it, based on what we already know today. Each dimension of change will take the two outlined perspectives:

- 1. Pragmatic, immediate actions that can produce palpable change in economically viable ways:** These can be implemented with today's technologies and capabilities with ambitious targets and initiatives, going beyond pure good citizen principles
- 2. Novel solutions and disruptive actions based on collaborating and innovating:** These rely on bolder technologies and collective approaches, potentially going beyond what we know today, to achieve outsize impact

The proposed landscape is a first attempt to sketch out the spectrum of options available. It is meant to invite further input and rich discussions during the coming year. And of course, new technologies and solutions will emerge that we cannot imagine today. These will find their way onto future versions of the Landscape for Change.

INTRODUCING THE LANDSCAPE FOR CHANGE

The Landscape for Change will have the following change levers and goals. (See Exhibit 27.)

Environmental:

- **Closed loop recycling** – No value leakage, e.g., one garment recycled for every new garment produced
- **Sustainable material mix** – 100% sustainable fibers with low footprint, e.g., replacing conventional cotton
- **Reduced energy footprint** – Minimized energy consumption and 100% carbon neutrality
- **Chemical and water optimization** – No hazardous chemicals and no water pollution
- **Production-to-demand** – No overproduction

Social:

- **Rebalanced industry economics** – Fair and equal pay to worker and skill development for all workers
- **Health and safety excellence** – 100% safe working places fostering well-being and morale
- **Advocacy of human rights** – No human rights abuses and full rights advocacy

Overarching:

- **Transparency and traceability** – Full visibility on all tiers' supplier performance and conditions
- **Consumer engagement** – Complete customer information on a garment's life-cycle impact, environmentally and socially
- **Novel business models** – Full utilization of purchased fashion products

Moving toward these goals will go a long way toward achieving the €160 billion a year opportunity for the world economy described in chapter 1. Staying on the current path, by contrast, will put the industry at risk of significantly higher costs.

A COLLECTIVE EFFORT IS REQUIRED TO GO BEYOND WHAT IS POSSIBLE TODAY

GFA and BCG have quantified a number of initiatives available to individual companies to demonstrate that there is value to be captured today if the industry starts acting now. The quantifications of these levers will be further outlined in the course of this chapter.

Disclosing the result up front: By summarizing all quantifiable levers, it can be seen that there is a combined value opportunity of ~€60bn available to the world economy through the use of ambitious yet realistic le-

Exhibit 26 Quantification of Impact of Exemplary Levers More Is Needed to Close the Gap

Change area	Change lever	Estimated impact
Sustainable material mix	Reduce conventional cotton use Replacing 30% of 2030 cotton with polyester saves 22.6 bn m ³ water	€18 billion/p.a. ¹
Reduced energy footprint	Increase renewable energy use (focus: processing) Moving all processing steps for cotton & polyester to 40% renewable energy saves over 200 M t CO ₂ -eq	€13 billion/p.a.
Health & safety excellence	Realize industry best practice safety levels Reaching an injury level comparable to frontrunners by all industry players	€12 billion/p.a.
Reduced energy footprint	Increase energy efficiency in processing steps Increasing efficiency in all processing steps for cotton and polyester by -10% saves over 95 M t CO ₂ -eq	€6 billion/p.a.
Rebalanced industry economics	Establish minimum wage pay (focus: gender wage gap) Allowing all garment workers paid less than 120% of the local minimum wage to reach that level	€5 billion/p.a.
Closed loop recycling	Offer in-store end-of-use collection schemes Moving collection rates globally to 60% would reduce waste by nearly 54 M t p.a.	€4 billion/p.a. ²
Chemical & water optimization	Increase transparency on chemicals usage Reach 60% score in chemicals section of Higg index, reduce workers' exposure to chemicals	€3 billion/p.a.
		-€60billion/p.a.

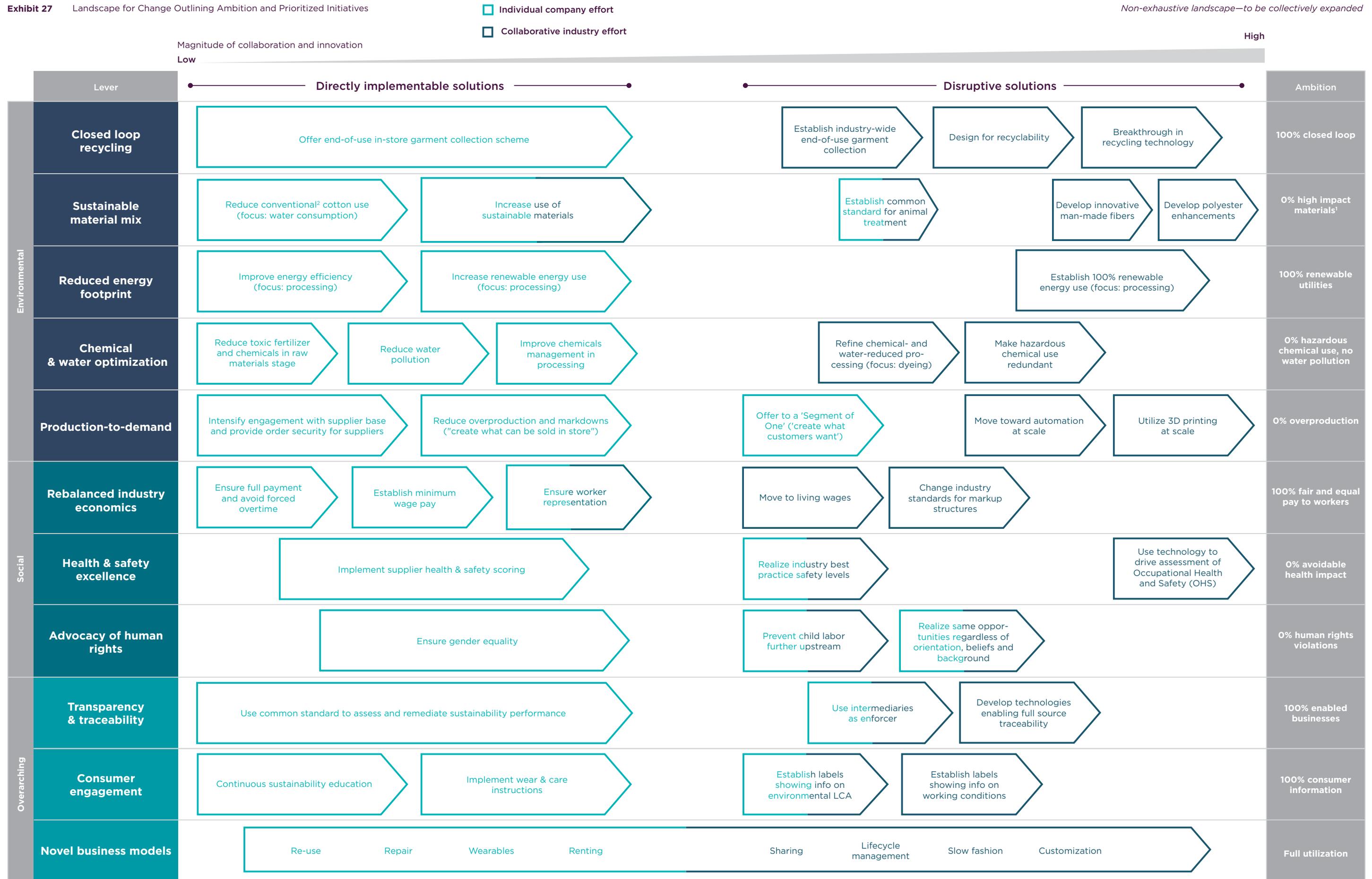
1. Only effect of reduced water consumption considered, no possible negative secondary effects of increased polyester production regarded here

2. No circularity considered, therefore amount does not include value to be realized through up-/down-/recycling
Source: BCG analysis

vers that can be implemented by individual businesses already today. (See Exhibit 26.)

But with a value of at least €160bn at stake, ~€60bn clearly falls short of the target. In order to access the remaining value opportunity, a collective push is needed across the industry. This collective movement will bring the industry toward well-balanced, outward-looking practices ensuring that fashion brands can prosper while making smart choices that benefit their growth as well as the economy at large. Possible disruptive solutions for industry-wide collaborative initiatives will be explored in detail across environmental, social, and overarching levers.

TO CAPTURE THE FULL €160
BILLION OPPORTUNITY,
THE INDUSTRY NEEDS A
COLLECTIVE PUSH



Closed loop Recycling:

Target 2030: No value leakage, such as one garment recycled for every new garment produced

If the industry manages to fully close the loop between the end-of-use phase and the raw materials phase, recycling apparel and footwear waste into new input materials, the environmental footprint of the entire industry will be drastically reduced. This type of *circular* model is the ultimate aim of all actions targeting recycling.

Immediate Actions

Offer end-of-use in-store garment collection scheme. Driving down current and future waste levels is essential. Hence, progress starts with increasing collection rates at the end of a garment's life. Through their interface with consumers, brands and retailers can lead in boosting collection rates.

We anticipated that today's 20% collection rate could be tripled by 2030—worldwide. With a 60% collection rate, and the same allocation to end-of-use processing as today, the industry could save more than **€4 billion** in value to the world economy. This value only represents products not ending up in landfills—not to mention the additional value to be realized by 'closing the loop' and feeding products back to the value chain as raw material. The industry would still be creating vast volumes of waste—more than 90 million tons a year—but the absolute amount would no longer grow with rising production. Clearly, this target calls for a dramatic change in consumers' mindsets, not to mention much more attractive collection options.

Fashion brands can step up collection programs for end-of-use—especially in their own-brand stores. They can set up reverse supply chains—or work with third-party logistics and processing providers—to sort the apparel, process it, and send as much recycled raw material as possible back to their suppliers' factories.

Disruptive Actions:

Establish industry-wide end-of-use garment collection. These go beyond brand-specific pickup, and could take the form of every brand deploying boxes in every store for every garment type. It can also mean moving to a more overarching setup of public collection points in areas with currently limited garment collection opportunities.

Design for recyclability. While maximizing collection is essential, we need to work toward true recycling—feeding previously used materials back into textile production, rather than downcycled into low-value uses. The industry can craft clear guidelines for designers to collaborate with others along the value chain.

Breakthrough in recycling technology. Technology offers the best way to eliminate barriers to large-scale recycling. Smart garments would allow sorting machines to detect fiber types and determine the practicality of and next steps for further processing. The industry has to advance to new process technologies that will make it possible to chemically recycle every possible fiber combination at scale and to mechanically recycle with no significant loss in fiber quality.

Sustainable Material Mix:

Target 2030: 100% sustainable fibers with low footprint, such as replacing conventional cotton

Since one of the largest determinants of the industry's environmental footprint is the material mix, especially leather and natural fibers, fashion brands should carefully consider the fiber mix choices. Certificates for sustainable materials and production methods are on the rise, such as Cradle-to-Cradle (see Sustainable Products Possible at Competitive Prices—Evidence with New C2C-Certified™ T-shirt).

Immediate Actions:

Reduce conventional cotton use. We calculate that reducing conventional cotton by 30% can yield more than **€18 billion** in annual water savings. Polyester, more than any other alternative, has the cost efficiencies and production scale to be a practical substitute. (See more details on the footprint advantages of polyester over cotton in Exhibit 28.) Polyester already makes up most of the global textile fiber mix, and after decades of development, we can make it with characteristics resembling those of cotton

The mathematics works as follows. Replacing 30% of cotton use by polyester in 2030 would save roughly 23 billion m³ of water annually—water valued at €0.81 per m³. The goal is realistic, especially since it would call for an increase of only 17% in today's polyester production, considering a one-to-one cotton-to-polyester substitution.

Polyester is no perfect answer, of course. It comes with its own challenges. In a 2017 study, it is estimated that 15% to 30% of plastics polluting the oceans can be attributed to primary micro-plastics,⁹⁹ with 35% of those attributed to laundering of synthetic textiles.¹⁰⁰ (See Micro-plastic Contaminating Oceans.) Moreover, polyester's production relies heavily on fossil fuels. It is a non-renewable resource and is not biodegradable.

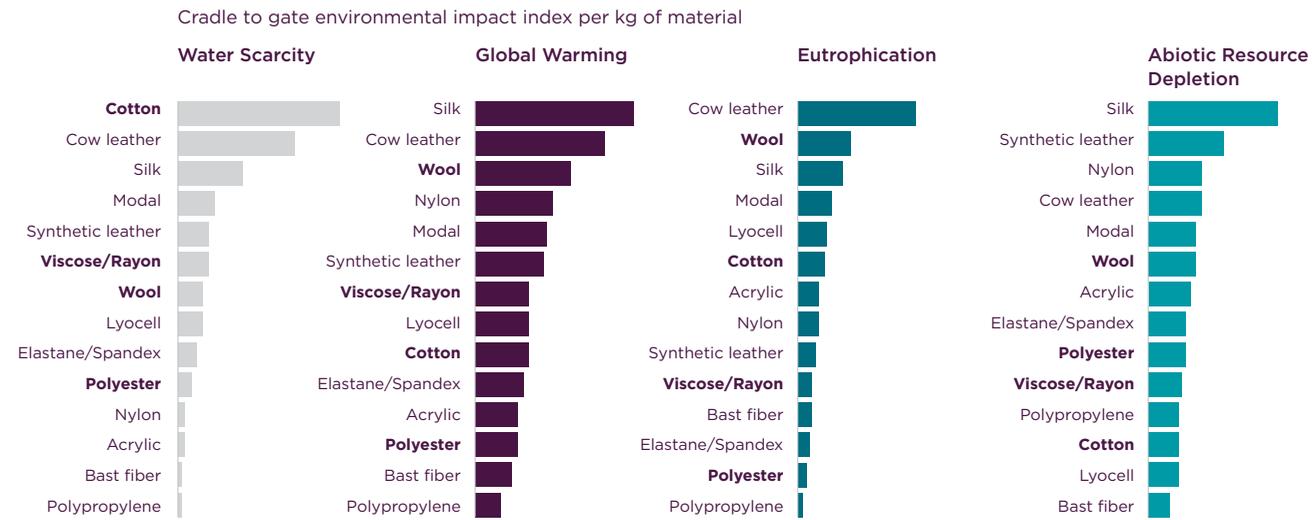
Yet polyester lends itself to fiber-to-fiber recycling better than cotton does. It can also be made from waste products such as plastic bottles. Further positive developments include innovations that minimize the impact

PROOF OF CONCEPT

C&A: Sustainable Products Possible at Competitive Prices—Evidence with New C2C-Certified™ T-shirt

The fashion retailer C&A partnered with two Indian suppliers to develop and produce two Cradle to Cradle (C2C) Certified™ T-shirts. The Cradle to Cradle Certified Products Program includes standards on raw material and chemicals usage, designing products with materials that allow reutilization, releasing only clean water, using only renewable energy sources, and providing safe and dignified working conditions. After nine months of development the partners developed garments that were C2C Certified at the "Gold" level, the first fashion garment produced in Asia at scale complying with the extensive environmental and social standards in the C2C Certified Products Program.

But the most interesting achievement can be seen in the price point set by the company: The basic T-Shirt will retail in Europe for €7, with the retailer indicating a positive contribution margin. Released in Europe in June, as well as Brazil and Mexico in the fall, C&A plans to expand this effort into more categories and higher volumes. C&A further shares its experiences and learnings from the pilot project to allow other fashion brands to follow suit (see the Good Fashion Guide on www.fashionforgood.com).



of plastic microfibers, for example through protective bags for clothing during washing (such as Patagonia partner Guppy Friend) and filters for washing machines (such as filters from Wexco).

Other alternatives to traditional cotton include organic, recycled, re-generated, fair trade, or BCI cotton. These are viable options, especially in the short term, where fashion brands and consumers may not be ready for a complete elimination of cotton. (See Reduce Toxic Fertilizer and Chemicals in Raw-Materials Stage under Chemical and Water Optimization.)

Increase use of sustainable materials. Several environmentally preferable alternatives exist or are under development besides polyester. Substituting cotton with bast reduces the environmental impact by more than half, with the largest gains in water conservation. (See Exhibit 28.) Viscose and lyocell also have lower water and energy footprints. The challenge here is to convince consumers that alternative fibers are as comfortable and good looking as cotton. There already is research in that direction, as with the CRAiLAR FTI process for bast, giving it a softer cotton like hand feel and appearance.¹⁰¹

■ Water Scarcity
 Environmental damages of water use for human health, ecosystem quality, and resources. Prevalent in the raw materials and processing phases
■ Global Warming
 Emissions of greenhouse gasses. Prevalent in processing and manufacturing phases
■ Eutrophication
 Excessive richness of nutrients in a lake or other body of water, frequently due to runoff from the land, causing dense growth of plant life and death of animal life from lack of oxygen. Prevalent in the raw materials phase
■ Abiotic Resource Depletion, Fossil Fuels
 Depletion of natural resources faster than they can be replenished. Prevalent in raw materials and manufacturing (sundries and packaging)

Source: SAC Higg Materials Sustainability Index (MSI), Jan 2017; Levi's (2015); H&M (2017); BCG Analysis

Exhibit 29 Examples of Material Alternatives

Standard material	Alternative material	Impact
Virgin Polyester	Recycled Polyester (mechanically, chemically), e.g., rPET (recycled PET)	Reduced use of fossil resources, non-renewable primary energy demand (and related impacts) reduced up to 50%
PET, conventional cotton, PP	Man-made cellulose fibre (Lyocell: Modal, Viscose, Tencel)	Reduced non-renewable energy use compared to conventional alternatives (-75% compared to PET), reduced global warming potential, reduced chemical use compared to conventional cotton
Conventional Cotton	Organic Cotton, CmiA cotton	Organic: No use of synthetic chemicals (pesticides, mineral fertilizer) in crop cultivation, soil protection measures are encouraged; CmiA: standards define minimum requirements for ecological, social, and economic aspects of cotton production and processing
Conventional Cotton	Recycled Cotton	Avoids the impact of both, cotton cultivation and dyeing steps, based on selection of raw materials obtained from textile wastes



Source: Thinkstep



Micro-plastics Contaminating Oceans

Micro-plastics are small pieces of plastic invisible to the human eye. Primary micro-plastics are directly released into the environment as small particles, whereas secondary micro-plastics largely stem from the degradation of larger plastic waste after entering the ocean.

The main sources of primary micro-plastics are tires, synthetic textiles, marine coatings, road markings, personal-care products, plastic pellets, and city dust. Thus, the sources range from household to commercial activities conducted on land and at sea.

The full consequences of increasing amounts of micro-plastics in the world oceans are not conclusively known. However, the suspected consequences include human health concerns due to accumulation of micro-plastics in the food chain as well as the absorption of toxicants in plastic traveling through the environment¹.

1. Boucher, J., & Friot, D. (2017). Primary Micro-plastics in the Oceans: A Global Evaluation of Sources. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN

Synthetic leather has only a third of the environmental impact of cow leather. (See Exhibit 28.) As Kering says in its 2015 EP&L statement, different leathers can have an over tenfold difference in environmental impact based on their type and origin, how the animal was raised, and how the tanning process took place. Switching to alternative materials can directly improve a product's footprint. (See Exhibit 29.)

Disruptive Actions:

Establish common standard for animal treatment. In its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development the United Nations sets as one of its goals to achieve a state "in which wildlife and other living species are protected"¹⁰². While animal welfare in general is a topic that most can approve of, agreeing on what it implies for industrial production processes is much more difficult.¹⁰³ Fashion brands' policies around the subject are less developed today than those concerning the environment.¹⁰⁴ The focus areas are angora (rabbit), down, fur, leather, and wool. Collaboratively developed standards would go far to guarantee the ethical treatment of animals, enabling them to live healthy lives without suffering from pain, fear or distress.¹⁰⁵ These would include rejecting methods such as force-feeding or live plucking of waterfowls, as well as promoting transparency in farming and processing practices. A common standard establishes a global benchmark and helps fashion brands communicate expectations along their supply chain, as well as the sharing of best practices.¹⁰⁶ Promising initiatives include the recently launched Responsible Wool Standard (RWS), the Responsible Down Standard (RDS) or the Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA) on cashmere production. Widened partnerships of such initiatives and industry-wide adoption would be the next step.

PROOF OF CONCEPT

Li & Fung: Investments in lowered impact breaking even after one year

A recent pilot conducted by Li & Fung at their LF Beauty factory in the UK, show promising results from the use of sensors to drive energy efficiency in production. More specifically, the wireless sensors capture energy and production data at a granular level to counteract the major operational cost of electricity. The facility had already captured 'low hanging fruits' by installing LED lighting and lights switch-off policies in order to increase the energy efficiency.

The project required investment in 30 sensors along a single production line and at key points in the facility. The investment broke even already within the first year due to the realized energy savings.

The company is currently exploring how to implement this type of technology in its garment factories.

Source: Company information

Develop innovative man-made fibers. Some innovative man-made fibers are emerging with reduced water and energy intake and without the negative externalities of other fibers. Adidas, for instance, presented in 2016 a shoe featuring a fully biodegradable, protein-based yarn named Biosteel® that relies on nature-based finishing.¹⁰⁷

Develop polyester enhancements. Another priority is to develop next-generation polyester. The industry must overcome the problem of polyester micro-particles and produce polyester fibers without heavy metals (e.g. antimony free). There is also work to do to persuade consumers that polyester can be as appealing as cotton. Branded materials such as Tencel® show how materials that originally did not directly speak to consumers—in this case Lyocell—can successfully be marketed toward them. Designers must also embrace and promote these fibers in their creations.

Reduced Energy Footprint:

Target 2030: Minimized energy consumption and 100% carbon neutrality

Energy is the largest individual impact area in terms of the value opportunity to the world economy. Further, many solutions for improved efficiency are already available.

Immediate Actions:

Increasing efficiency in the value chain's most energy-intensive step of processing. The energy-intensive processing stage, with its high global-warming footprint, is an obvious target. The energy-efficiency potential is greatest in the least-developed countries, where most fashion products are made. But the more developed producing countries can also improve. Measures include combined heat and power sources, high-efficiency motors and boilers, variable-frequency drives, and improved sensors. With assumed increases in efficiency of 10% to 30%, an annual amount of 90 million tons of CO₂ equivalent can be saved globally, representing nearly **€6 billion** to the world economy. Suppliers can realize significant savings in upgrading their facilities. (See Investment in Lowered Impact Breaking Even After One Year).

Using renewable energy in the production stage. We estimate that this lever can release **€12.5 billion** in annual savings, assuming the industry can quickly reach a global target of 40% renewable energy. At that rate, approximately 200 million tons of CO₂ could be saved—equivalent to 7% of global annual emissions in 2030 for the fashion industry. Spinning, weaving, and pre-treatment, as well as dyeing and finishing processes, are energy intensive.¹⁰⁸ While the International Renewable Energy Agency projects that by 2030 the use of renewable energy in the US will increase to 27%,¹⁰⁹ in Africa to 22%,¹¹⁰ and in the EU to 27%,¹¹¹ this will fall short of offsetting the additional anticipated emissions. Far-reaching actions by textile suppliers and continuous pressure from brands and consumers can push these numbers higher.

Disruptive Actions:

Establish 100% renewable-energy use. The benefits of installing solar panels or wind turbines at or near large production facilities transcend straightforward operating-cost benefits. Self-sustaining energy supplies from renewables can mitigate risks in countries such as Pakistan, where power cuts are common and diesel generators are expensive and costly to maintain. Large installations can further reduce operating costs if they supply numerous nearby facilities at the same time. Of course, that calls for unprecedented levels of collaboration among multiple suppliers.

Chemical and Water Optimization:

Target 2030: No hazardous chemicals and no water pollution

Chemical and water optimization has traditionally been difficult to address for fashion brands due to low transparency in the earliest stages of the supply chain. But with increased media and corporate attention, brands can engage with suppliers to set targets.

Immediate Actions:

Reduce toxic fertilizer and chemicals in raw-materials stage. Today's excessive use of chemicals leads to heavy pollution of waterways. These concerns can be mitigated by more sustainable cultivation methods.¹¹² The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) projects a 16% pesticide reduction in China and a 20% decrease in India, through its improved cultivation principles.¹¹³ *Cotton made in Africa* (CmiA), for instance, says that cotton grown with their methods uses only rainwater and has a 40% lower CO₂ footprint.¹¹⁴ Organic cotton yields can be 25% less than conventional yields,¹¹⁵ and require more manual labor,¹¹⁶ but research indicates that the benefits outweigh the costs of producing better cotton.¹¹⁷ So moving from conventional cotton to organic/BCI or CmiA is a first interim step; in the long run, lower-impact materials than cotton should prevail.

Reduce water pollution. Shifting away from conventional cotton will reduce excess nutrients in waterways. Processing mills can better detect leaks and reuse water-in-process,¹¹⁸ but a full solution requires wastewater treatment plants on site, with sufficient testing.¹¹⁹ The Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals Programme (ZDHC)—a collaboration of 22 signatory brands and 24 value-chain affiliates – is working on guidelines. Signatory brands include H&M, Kering, Primark, Adidas, and Inditex.

PROOF OF CONCEPT

Kering: Making metal-free tanning economical

It is 20 to 25 percent more expensive to tan skins without the use of metals. The higher expense stems from salting of the skins at the beginning of the process, which ruins some of the skins and thereby creates waste.

As a way to drive down costs, Kering resells those skins to other industries using skins of that quality. This has reduced the cost of the process to 10 to 12 percent more expensive than tanning us-

ing metals. The company is confident to further drive down costs with scale of production—ideally driven in a joint industry effort. Source: Company information

Source: Interview with Kering CEO François-Henri Pinault in 2016, as published in Bloomberg Businessweek

Improve chemicals management in processing. The use of chemicals is one of the areas with the lowest transparency throughout the value chain, particularly in processing. The lack of transparency hinders compliance and leads to the exposure of workers to hazardous chemicals. We estimate the fashion industry can save the world economy nearly **€3 billion** if fewer workers become ill due to imprudent chemical use. Given the current low achievement scores on chemicals management across the industry on the Higg Index, change can start with actions by individual brands to enforce their Restricted Substances List. Further measures might entail upfront investment but could quickly become financially viable. (See Making metal-free tanning economical).

Disruptive Actions:

Refine chemical- and water-reduced processing. Major improvements in production steps are required to fully move beyond using hazardous chemicals and also to reduce wastewater pollution, especially in dyeing.

For a start, there have been several promising developments for reducing the water and energy required during dyeing, such as H2COLOR, a novel dye produced by Ecofoot.¹²⁰ The company promises to reduce energy use by 80% and water intake by 70% because the negatively charged particles used in its dyes wash off easily. Use of Ecofoot's dye takes 45% less processing time than conventional dyeing does. Another possibility is for the fibers themselves to be more receptive to dyes. DyeCoo is pioneering in the field of fully waterless processing, with CO₂ replacing water and process chemicals.¹²¹ So far it is suitable only for polyester and the machines are costly. But further measures available to suppliers can successfully reduce resource consumption while having positive influence on costs. (See Supplier Realizing Optimized Impact from the Outset)

Make hazardous chemical treatment redundant. The ultimate objective should be to eliminate chemicals and other hazardous input factors. OrganoClick is working on making outdoor wear waterproof without perfluorinated chemicals. Their product OC-aquasil Tex is still a chemical additive but achieves its water-repellent effect without using PFC and is

biodegradable under certain conditions. It also needs less energy in its application, because it requires lower temperatures than conventional products¹²². A glimpse of full revolution comes from NEFFA, whose Myco-Tex research project uses pure mushroom roots that grow by replicating over and over again in a molded form.¹²³ It allows for flexible clothing without spinning, weaving, or chemical treatment, and is fully biodegradable. Startup Pili Bio relies on micro-organisms for its dyes and could soon go commercial.¹²⁴

**Production-to-Demand:
Target 2030: No overproduction**

Overstock is one of the most pressing problems of the industry, leading to high markdowns and lost value. Planning production to match demand is necessary and beneficial to businesses and the economy alike to avoid wasting natural resources.

Immediate Actions:

Intensify engagement with supplier base and provide order security for suppliers. By embracing and including suppliers in the calculation of the supply-demand equation, brands can improve demand planning and production scheduling. It allows for better workforce planning at the suppliers, limiting excessive overtime and outsourcing to third-party suppliers unknown to the brand. Constant dialogue and closer relationships with a preferred supplier base also boosts flexibility and transparency.

Minimize overproduction and markdowns. Next, the model of *“sell what you create”* should move toward *“create what can be sold”*. This model yields higher full price sell-through rates and less overstock. Driven by the traditional fashion calendar, the industry typically places high-volume orders well in advance, but supply too often exceeds actual demand. The consequence: large quantities of clothing are heavily discounted. Many shoppers now expect and anticipate those markdowns, which in turn effectively invites them to over-consume. Fortunately, many sophisticated tools are now available to fine-tune demand forecasts. Other consumer goods categories use predictive analytics based on big data and customer relationship management technologies to optimize assortment creation. Some small brands are built on the concept of ensuring that the firm's supply exactly matches demand in the form of pre-orders from customers—TWO THIRDS for instance, which bundles orders by consumers and only then places its production order in the respective size.¹²⁵

Amazon is showing how to drive this principle further with a recently filed patent for an 'on-demand' factory. An algorithm collects orders and coordinates them in the most efficient way possible, based on needed materials or manufacturing processes.¹²⁶ Such a factory would produce only according to individual orders exactly matching demand and minimize inventory—very different from fashion's current approach.

PROOF OF CONCEPT

Hirdaramani Group: Supplier Realizing Optimized Impact from the Outset

Suppliers play a key role in driving initiatives for improving environmental and social impact and, more broadly, conscious business practices in the early stages of the value chain. Hirdaramani, supplier to brands such as Marks & Spencer, Calvin Klein, and Tommy Hilfiger with 38 production facilities across Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Ethiopia, opened a factory focusing on sustainable manufacturing which compared with conventional apparel manufacturing facilities shows:

- 50% reduction in energy consumption, through an advanced evaporative cooling system, a prismatic skylight system, solar-powered street lamps, energy-saving fixtures, and solar-panel systems providing up to 8% of the factory's power needs and exporting excess power to the national power grid.

- 60% reduction in water consumption due to, for instance, wastewater recycling, rainwater harvesting, and water-saving fixtures.
- Zero waste ending up in landfills, among other means by reusing thread cones and recycling waste cuts.

As the company reported, the reduction of the environmental footprint is considered an overarching business opportunity comprising cost savings, improved processes, an engaged workforce, and an increasing number of orders from brands searching for environmentally and socially responsible suppliers.

Source: Company information



©CFW

Disruptive Actions:

Offer to a “Segment of One.” The ultimate goal is prediction algorithms for true segment-of-one markets by product type, style, size, and so on, to “*create what people want.*” By using artificial intelligence beyond current forecasting methods, fashion brands can “*know what a consumer wants before he or she knows it.*” Optimized offers, driven by algorithms matching individual style and fitting needs, will better satisfy consumers and lead to longer use of products, reducing consumption and waste. Some companies have already taken steps in this direction, moving toward ‘codifying’ design. Stitch Fix sends clients five curated pieces of clothing monthly, based on data gleaned from Pinterest, customer surveys, and personal notes to stylists. As the client answers questions or communicates with a stylist, the algorithm improves its predictive power further.¹²⁷

Move toward automation at scale. Catering to individual consumers’ needs case by case requires efficient and speedy production processes. Manufacturing of apparel, footwear, and home textiles lags behind other types of manufacturing, making the industry a clear target for large-scale automation with an average labor productivity catch-up potential of 157% across Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam compared to the average of their respective manufacturing sectors.¹²⁸

Increased automation is a natural next step, albeit a disruptive and capital-intensive one for most manufacturers. (See Automation: The Opportunity). As has happened in many other industries, robots can take on tasks that are repetitive, or physically demanding, or hazardous. They also offer workers the opportunity to re-skill. Workers can move into machine monitoring jobs, or into calibrating and maintaining automation equipment, and effectively participate in the enhanced productivity through wage increases in the short- to mid-term.

There is a social catch: automation could lead to value migrating toward more technologically advanced countries. (See Automation: A Social Threat?) It may become economically viable for companies to move manufacturing from developing countries and thus closer to the consumer with shorter distances travelled and therefore reduced CO₂ emissions. Manufacturers will no longer have to go to where labor is cheapest; they will become smaller, local, and highly configurable.

Automation: The Opportunity

There are plenty of natural incentives for fashion brands to extend automation. Robot costs are falling and technology continues to advance rapidly with such recent developments as specialized machines called sewbots. Selected innovations are being implemented, such as bonding/gluing techniques as alternatives to sewing, and computer-controlled tools for pattern making and cutting to get more from each area of fabric and to reduce leftover material.

Sportswear brands are the front-runners with automation thus far: Adidas opened its SpeedFactory automated plant in 2016¹; North Face has its FuseForm production technique²; Nike announced a partnership with high-tech manufacturing firm Flex³. But a bigger, more concerted, more disruptive push is needed. Manufacturing as a whole is undergoing a transformation; Industry 4.0 is the term used to describe the myriad changes coming, extending far beyond, say, robotics, to the Internet of Things, cognitive computing, and more. By 2020, 25% of manufacturing

will be conducted by robots, eliminating one-sixth of labor cost, according to the World Economic Forum.

The fashion sector can and must benefit too. The International Labor Organization estimates that sewbots could dramatically cut costs in China and Thailand; the ILO’s calculation is that by 2020, human labor may be up to 50% more expensive than sewbots in China.

1. The Economist. (2017). Adidas’s high-tech factory brings production back to Germany. Retrieved April 4, 2017, from <http://www.economist.com/news/business/21714394-making-trainers-robots-and-3d-printers-adidas-high-tech-factory-brings-production-back>

2. Evo. (2015). The North Face Launches Fuseform. Retrieved April 4, 2017, from <http://culture.evo.com/2015/02/north-face-fuseform/>

3. Nike. (2015). Nike’s Manufacturing Revolution Accelerated by New Partnership with Flex. Retrieved April 4, 2017, from <http://news.nike.com/news/nike-s-manufacturing-revolution-accelerated-by-new-partnership-with-flex>

Automation: A Social Threat?

Automation Has Been Used in Manufacturing for Decades

Automating repetitive and dangerous tasks, such as dyeing processes, can be seen as advantageous in terms of working conditions, as well as the health and safety of workers. Also, the automation of basic tasks will not mean that people won't find other work. For decades, developed nations, and more recently developing nations, have advanced automation while keeping unemployment rates stable or even falling.

Training and transition programs are key, for instance, to making people go into related jobs (such as maintaining robots onsite) or evolving industries that still require manual work (such as service jobs).

Automation = Higher Productivity = Higher Value

Through automation and the resulting increased productivity, a lot of value is created. The challenge is to ensure that a large part of this value remains in the country in which the production

takes place—then, the local population will also benefit. Little will have been gained in sustainability terms if the value goes only to large multinational brands and robot manufacturers.

Real Revolution: Artificial Intelligence (AI)

A true global challenge will be the automation not of basic tasks, but of tasks requiring cognition. With developments in AI, even many office jobs in developed nations might become automated.

The effects of this massive change in the workforce could be much more impactful than the automation in manufacturing that has already been under way for a long time.

For further details, please consider reading the BCG perspective "Competing in the Age of Artificial Intelligence" (<https://www.bcgperspectives.com/content/articles/strategy-technology-digital-competing-age-artificial-intelligence/>)

Utilize 3D printing at scale. 3D printing also offers leap-forward gains to farsighted fashion brands. It enables rapid prototyping, on-demand, segment-of-one products, and local production with no inventory, and no waste, among other benefits. Today 3D printing is more suited to limited scale than high volumes, and is still relatively expensive. It is better suited to hard products—jewelry and shoes—than to textiles. In terms of sustainability, what first comes to mind is preventing long product journeys from production to consumer and therefore avoiding greenhouse gas emissions. But the high temperatures now needed in the process strain the ecological footprint of production, and the environmental impact of materials has to be carefully assessed.

Many in the industry got their first glimpse of 3D printing's potential in 3D-printed shoes now available from New Balance and Under Armor, but at very high prices. Adidas is making an additional attempt at making 3D printing available at scale through the testing of a fully automated 3D printing and robotics shoe factory (the Speedfactory) in Germany and is planning to open a second one in the US this year. This will enable quicker reactions to consumer needs and faster delivery due to the closer proximity to customers.¹²⁹ Concerning 3D printing fabrics, TamiCare is one of the front-runners with its product *CosyFlex™*, which features a fully automated process without cuts and therefore no wasted fabric.¹³⁰ Several startups are also working on 3D-printer-style knitting machines for fashion, for instance, Unmade¹³¹ and Kniterate.¹³²

Rebalanced Industry Economics:

Target 2030: Fair and equal pay to workers and skill development for all workers

SOCIAL

Rebalancing industry economics would improve the lives of a large number of industry workers by ultimately ensuring that they receive a fair and equal wage. There is a long journey ahead before reaching that target, but brands are well-positioned to start the journey today.

Immediate Actions:

Ensure full payment and avoid forced overtime. Mismatched production planning often leads to excessive and forced overtime, together with delayed wage payments to workers. This is especially prevalent when brands change, cancel, rush, or place late orders. Lead times can be set unreasonably short, requiring excessive overtime. When brands pay their suppliers late or delay payments, workers may see their wages delayed too.¹³³ A closer relationship with suppliers can help in remediating such issues through assessing impacts of purchasing practices and establishing control measures preventing harm. The assessments can include tracking relevant indicators such as the percentage of orders placed late or changed after placement.¹³⁴ Possible control measures are using pricing models accounting for the cost of wages and benefits, clearly communicating deadlines to the purchasing team, and sharing the purchasing plan with suppliers.¹³⁵ (See Intensify Engagement with Supplier Base in the category Production-to-Demand.)

Establish minimum wage pay To improve the prevailing labor practices in garment production, GFA and BCG contend that wages must increase substantially. While decent working conditions have a wider scope than merely improving wages—such as limits on regular working hours and overtime—increasing wages is viewed as the strongest lever with which to ensure decent work. We see it as symbiosis, with reasonable working hours moving in tandem with a living wage.

As a first step, suppliers' compliance with international standards and national legislation has to be assessed. Support for effective wage fixing and enforcement mechanisms has to be clearly demonstrated. In a joint effort with suppliers, brands need to establish wage-management systems, together with complete and accurate payroll records, that reduce the risk of fraud in payments. Staff responsible for paying wages have to be trained.

A next step in moving toward living wages for workers and their families is to aim for 'extreme compliance' to minimum wages (paying 120% of the legal minimum) as reported by ILO—a figure that could benefit the world economy by nearly **€5 billion** per year,¹³⁶ representing the value of increased economic consumption and private investments by workers.

As things are today, the sector's minimum wages in most Asian countries are less than half of what can be considered a living wage¹³⁷—the consequence of governments fearing that their countries will not be able to compete with other low-wage economies. Often manufacturers do not even comply with the minimum wage. Fair wages would enable workers to support themselves as well as two adult dependents, one adult and two children, or four children, covering food, clothing, housing, travel costs, children's education, health costs, and 10% toward discretionary income (such as savings or a pension).¹³⁸

India has the largest fashion-sector workforce. Estimates show that 35% of all workers receive less than 80% of the minimum wage of about €100 per month. It would cost the fashion industry an additional €1.8 billion a year—equivalent to only 1% of the industry's profit pool today—to bring all of India's textile workers up to the 120% of minimum wages—money that would have trickle-down benefits for consumption patterns across the country.¹³⁹ Crucially, wage increases on this scale would also help offset discrimination toward women --the majority of the garment and footwear

IT WOULD COST
ONLY *ABOUT*
€1.35 TO DOUBLE
THE *WAGES*
OF THOSE
PRODUCING
T-SHIRTS THAT
RETAIL *FOR €25*
EACH



manufacturing workforce,¹⁴⁰ who are often especially vulnerable to low wage levels due to the persistent gender pay gap.¹⁴¹

Paying workers 120% of the stipulated minimum wage is merely the first step toward paying all workers fair wages. In order to truly provide better living standards, cross-industry collaboration is needed.

Ensure worker representation. An important step toward paying fair and equal wages to all workers in the fashion industry is to provide them with an opportunity to be heard. While individual brands will not be able to drive the necessary change at a global level alone, brands can contribute to empowering workers through ensuring that all suppliers have democratically elected worker representation.

Worker representation is critical as it provides workers with a platform for negotiation and furthers workplace dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution between workers and management—especially in countries where unionization is restricted by law.¹⁴²

Disruptive Actions:

Move to living wages. Brands in particular can step up to determine acceptable living wages in the nations where they have suppliers and then to enforce improved compensation. Admittedly, this is not a simple exercise; due to big differences from country to country in consumer price levels and many other factors, it can be hard to determine what a living wage truly is. To start off, fashion brands could leverage work already done on this topic by organizations such as the International Labor Organization, the Fair Wear Foundation, and the Clean Clothes Campaign.

Another difficult but crucial step: using agreed-upon data on what constitutes living wages to collaborate with suppliers in increasing compensation. The issue that comes immediately to mind, of course, is that costs of goods sold will skyrocket. But that’s where deeper levels of collaboration will be essential in order to improve productivity levels. That can

happen through worker training, better worker attitudes when working conditions are improved, knocking down barriers to the flow of production information, and increasing support for investments in more efficient machinery—for example, loans at preferential interest rates. While some of these initiatives can be carried out by individual brands, the entire industry needs to commit in order to move the needle. This is especially true for smaller brands that only account for a fraction of their suppliers’ production capacity.

Change industry standards for mark-up structures. Rebalancing of industry economics also means changing mark-up structures. Such changes could be barely visible to the consumer; it should cost only about €1.35 to double the wages of those producing T-shirts that retail for €25 each. However, under current mark-up structures, where all input price increases are treated equally, doubling the wages of workers would be multiplied and the T-shirt might actually cost €6.75 more on the retail rack. (See Exhibit 30.) So what is needed is a business system that allows an additional consumer premium for higher wages to be passed on to workers in its entirety. That model calls for truly innovative thinking and breaking business practices in place for decades.

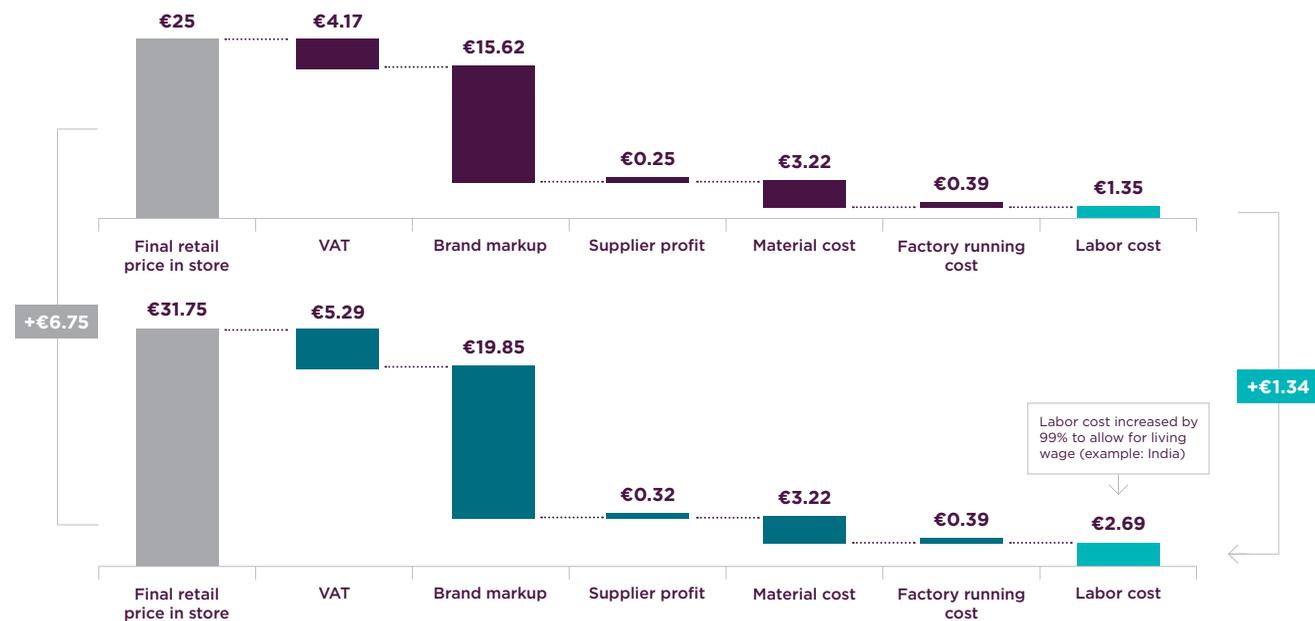
Health and Safety Excellence:
Target 2030: 100% safe working places fostering well-being and morale

Ensuring that the health and safety of all workers are protected is an area where strong collaboration between fashion brands and suppliers can make a large difference. There are already immediate actions that can be taken today.

Immediate Actions:

Implement supplier health-and-safety scoring. Fashion brands can add health-and-safety scoring to their sourcing-decision criteria. A balanced-scorecard approach—well established as a management tool—can be helpful here. It gives factors such as exposure to chemicals, availability of fire doors, and remediation for injuries in line with the ILO Employment Injury Benefits Convention, appropriate weighting alongside quality, cost,

Exhibit 30 Effect of Markup Model on Final Retail Price Current Industry Markup Structures Leading to Disproportionate Price Increases



PROOF OF CONCEPT

How “Better Work” Increases Performance and Improves Workers’ Lives

As a partnership involving the UN’s International Labour Organization, Better Work aims at uniting diverse groups—governments, factory owners, unions, workers, and global brands.

Improved firm performance: Factories collaborating with Better Work were up to 22% more productive, and the average factory in Vietnam experienced a 25% increase in profitability. This is attributable to reduction in worker turnover and injury rates, improvements in balancing production lines, and increases in orders.

Benefits to workers, their families and communities: Across country programs the initiative was able to decrease the gender pay gap by up to 17% and reduce sexual harassment concerns by up to 18%. In Jordan, a 33% increase in the proportion of workers using remittances to educate children could be shown, reflecting a wider shift in how remittances are used: from debt repayment to investments in education, health, and nutrition.

Source: Information provided by Better Work

and delivery. Health and safety would become an explicit decision criterion ‘on eye-height’ with the others.

Disruptive Actions:

Realize industry best-practice safety levels. Front-runners in sustainability, have significantly cut the average number of recorded injuries in the industry at their factories.¹⁴³ One way to support such steps is to cut the number of suppliers, which enables closer relationships¹⁴⁴ and require source traceability and other guarantees to clearly prohibit subcontracting. Suppliers must develop capabilities through worker and supervisor training, in collaboration with factory managers. Such measures would not only improve working conditions and therefore brands, reputations and risk management, but can actually improve direct performance. (See How “Better Work” Increases Competitiveness and Workers’ Lives.)

Use technology to drive assessment of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS). According to technology providers, mobile applications already exists to help fashion brands identify, reduce, and prevent workplace hazards faster and on a greater scale. These new mobile applications combine social technology, gamification, and data-driven insights to improve users’ understanding and engagement with workplace safety. Instead of pen-and-paper methods of training and recordkeeping, an incident report or workplace safety observation can now be done using a smartphone’s GPS, camera, voice-recording, and texting capabilities to capture real-time data. Adidas’ initiative sends text messages to over 260,000 workers in 58 factories, representing around a quarter of its supply chain.¹⁴⁵ For training purposes, a quick video of employees doing things correctly can be easily shared with other workers. Data collected can be fed into modeling programs, provide almost instant feedback to employees, fill out reports with a minimum of effort, and track leading indicators. The best of these new technologies go beyond just automating manual tasks to delivering value by driving new behaviors on the factory floor. Online social networks and focused member communities enable workers to share knowledge and learn from each other. Mobile phones today are relatively inexpensive and easy to use and even provide workers with anonymized data about working conditions to enhance visibility across global supply chains. Often an NGO is required to gather and process the data to ensure end-users’ anonymity and security.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IS AN AREA WHERE STRONG COLLABORATION BETWEEN FASHION BRANDS AND SUPPLIERS CAN MAKE A LARGE DIFFERENCE

Via the Internet of Things, an increasing number of devices and equipment are becoming connected to each other and to the internet, making it possible to transfer real-time data that can be used to drive insights and improve OHS programs. This could include notifications alerting workers when they enter areas with unique safety requirements as well as extracting data from equipment.

Advocacy of Human Rights:

Target 2030: No human rights abuses and full rights advocacy

Immediate Actions:

Ensure gender equality. Findings from a recent Better Work study demonstrate that workplace policies favorable to female workers give the business greater resilience, profitability, recruitment and retention.¹⁴⁶ While there are promising developments, many challenges remain here for the industry with wage discrimination (see Chapter 1), sexual harassment, and lower quality of life for female garment workers. Sexual harassment often arises from power differences, misaligned pay incentives, and the high-pressure nature of garment work—and it undermines productivity as well as hurts workers.¹⁴⁷ Female workers reported having less free time as they often bear the burden of the work at home in addition to their factory job. To increase gender equality fashion brands should, for instance, ensure that business partners have recruitment policies that guard against discrimination, harassment, and abuse. Also important are employment policies that prohibit discrimination, including against pregnant women, and encompass remediation plans.¹⁴⁸ Brands can also prompt partners to offer flexible work options, and to report on the share of women among all employees and in management positions. Guaranteeing equal opportunities and improving employment conditions in general can further increase productivity. (See Investing in Workers’ Well-being Can Pay Off.)

Prevent child labor further upstream. According to the UN, the number of children engaged in child labor declined globally by one third from 2000 to 2012 (from 246 million to 168 million). Yet more than half of those remaining child laborers in 2012 (85 million) were engaged in hazardous work.¹⁴⁹ A supply chain 100% free of child labor should be the goal of every fashion brand, but the risk of short-term and unsound solutions is high due to the complex, multilayered and fragmented supply chains of the industry.

Fashion brands should work with governments to combat child labor while also understanding and supporting comprehensive, bigger picture

PROOF OF CONCEPT

Li & Fung: Investing in Workers’ Well-being Can Pay Off

Partnering with non-profit Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), the company rolled out the joint “HER” project to over 85 of its factories in 2014, a workplace program promoting health, financial inclusion, and gender equality.

Responding to local conditions and suppliers’ needs, for instance in Cambodia, a curriculum was created focusing on nutrition and diet, given the high rate of anemia amongst female workers, who might then succumb to fainting. Li & Fung further hosted workshops to share best practices among participating factories and form support networks.

Acting on the belief that such initiatives would not only yield benefits to workers, but also factories and ultimately buyers, the company measured the impact on business. Bangladesh

factories, for instance, showed a decrease in sick leave days by females of over 2% per month. In Cambodia, a 10% drop in resignations amongst female employees and productivity increases between 3% and 18% could be seen over the course of the program.

LI & Fung points out that the given improvements are data correlations and no guarantee for the direct impact of the program. But the company affirms that the initiative are accompanied by economic gains for factories. Based on the gathered experiences, the company plans to roll out a mobile app by the second half of 2017 promoting employee and factory engagement.

Source: Company information



solutions that could include pre-competitive collaboration. According to the OECD there are significant gaps in legal frameworks and law enforcement capacity to prevent child labor in many garment-producing countries.¹⁵⁰ The OECD encourages fashion brands to work at numerous levels, including increased worker and management awareness through training, establishing management systems, and helping address systemic and root causes of child labor (such as lack of access to education).

Disruptive Actions:

Realize same opportunities regardless of orientation, beliefs and background. Achieving equal opportunities at the workplace means safeguarding that no one is treated differently or less favorably because of characteristics that are not related to their merit or the direct requirements of the job. This goal is one of the UN’s Ten Principles of the Global Compact.¹⁵¹ Besides the already addressed topic of gender equality, discrimination includes sexual orientation, religious beliefs, social background, and disabilities as well as age and political opinion. The aspiration of equal opportunities is to be realized both in fashion brands’ own operations and their entire supply chain. Drafting and implementing anti-discrimination and harassment policies, as well as diversity and inclusiveness policies, is the first step, followed by requiring all commercial business partners to have at least clear anti-discrimination, harassment and abuse policies in place. But companies also need to actively promote equal opportunity. Employees’ awareness has to be raised so that incidents are avoided altogether or can at least be reported without concerns.¹⁵² In a concerted move, the fashion industry has to work together to have not just inclusive headquarters staff, but to realize equal opportunities along the supply chain.

Transparency and Traceability:

Target 2030: Full visibility on all Tier’s supplier performance and conditions

OVERARCHING

One challenge inhibiting progress along a number of impact areas in the industry is the lack of transparency and traceability.

Immediate Actions:

Use common standard to assess and remediate sustainability performance. Many companies lack clarity about sustainability because there is so much “noise”: a plethora of well-meant initiatives that lack sufficient scale, a multitude of certificates, and scattered research. Brands interested in measuring their current performance and identifying the best path ahead lack a standardized methodology or framework. Existing tools are split between individual company efforts (such as Kering’s EP&L or Nike’s Manufacturing Index) and some ambitious multi-stakeholder attempts to fill that vacuum. This fragmentation calls for consolidation in order to channel money and effort at the most promising initiatives.

What is needed is a widely adopted global standard to performance assessment and sustainability reporting, so companies can measure their performance against industry benchmarks. This standard must have a crit-

ical mass of users to ensure fair peer-to-peer comparison. As introduced earlier in this report the Sustainable Apparel Coalition’s Higg index offers a suite of tools empowering brands, retailers and facilities to identify areas of improvement and pointing the way to optimization. The index already covers a large share of the industry, and its continual commitment to refinement and expansion can fill the need for a much needed common standard.

Disruptive Actions:

Use intermediaries as enforcers. SMEs usually have little influence on their suppliers’ practices, as they represent only a tiny fraction of a supplier’s overall orders or source through intermediaries. But these intermediaries can be used as enforcers of sustainable practices, functioning as gatekeepers in a joint effort with brands by stipulating, for instance, strict guidelines on chemical exposure and workers’ safety. Large numbers of SMEs will need to collaborate to make this happen.

Develop technologies enabling full source traceability. Companies can also aim to know the sources of their raw materials, and the specific factories for each batch of production. That can help with organic certification and with eliminating subcontracting. Emerging tracking technologies such as DNA tracking and blockchain—as pioneered by the startup *Provenance*¹⁵³—can help.

Consumer Engagement:

Target 2030: Complete Customer information on a garment’s life cycle impact – environmentally and socially

When GFA and BCG polled the industry’s sustainability officers to ask who bears the major responsibility for driving the industry toward more sustainability, fashion brands pinpointed consumers as number one. There is an opportunity, then, for brands to engage the consumer and encourage sustainable behavior.

Immediate Actions:

Continue sustainability education. By educating, informing and incentivizing consumers, companies can make up for consumers’ limited awareness and limited willingness to pay for sustainable products. By actively engaging on the topic of sustainability, consumers may see and appreciate the need for it and the value it can create for them personally.

A notable corporate sustainability campaign includes Patagonia’s 2011 ad that appeared in the *New York Times* on Black Friday. The ad features a black Patagonia jacket with the headline “don’t buy this jacket”. The ad text calls attention to the culture of consumption reflected by Black Friday and the strain that such consumption puts on natural resources. The company ends the ad by saying, “Don’t buy what you don’t need. Think twice before you buy anything.”¹⁵⁴

A third approach to consumer awareness communication is exemplified in Selfridges’ Material World initiative, carrying the tagline “What on earth are you wearing?” The campaign involved a film designed to raise consumer awareness to the consequences of material choice. It also ad-

dresses consumers in stores through tags, providing information on the properties and sustainability of the materials used. The brand reports that 83% of 1,000 interviewed customers felt it shifted their knowledge about the issues.

These types of campaigns are a helpful way of introducing the topic of sustainability to consumers and enabling them to participate in the broader sustainability effort. As an added benefit to retailers, collection boxes and campaigns may even be able to drive store traffic, as customers will need to visit the stores to donate the garments.

Implement wear and care instructions. The use phase is a large contributor to the overall environmental impact because washing, drying, and ironing are so water- and energy-intensive. Companies can help reduce the impact of the use phase through wear and care instructions optimized for low environmental impact, for instance through less frequent washing and washing at lower temperatures. Further, companies should highlight the urgency for repair versus discarding an item and include replacement buttons and yarn.

BY EDUCATING, INFORMING AND INCENTIVIZING CONSUMERS, COMPANIES CAN MAKE UP FOR CONSUMERS' LIMITED AWARENESS AND WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS

Eileen Fisher offers extensive step-by-step repair and care guides on its website, enabling consumers to follow instructions on topics ranging from “How to hand wash a sweater” to “How to sew a button.” Taking the initiative a step further, the company offers to repair customers’ garments free of charge; the customer simply has to take the item to the store and then wait eight to ten weeks.¹⁵⁵

Disruptive Actions

Establish information labels. To encourage consumers to make more sustainable purchasing decisions and influence consumption patterns, large product labels on garments can be powerful instruments. Providing information on the environmental impact of a given product to consumers will help them understand the implications of their purchases. It can also become a competitive advantage if, for instance, the item is compared to an average product that does not use organic input materials or novel dyeing processes. A company pioneering in that regard is US fashion brand Reformation: It published environmental impact information for all its products on its website in terms of CO₂, water and waste. It also compares the footprint of each garment with those of a comparable, conventionally produced one.

Building upon existing concepts such as environmental P&Ls and tools such as the Higg index, measuring the environmental impact of one’s products can be achieved in the near future by brands already reporting on the topic. For inexperienced brands undertaking this effort would also help them to better understand their own supply chains, as was concluded by 78% of participants in a French government pilot project on environmental labeling.¹⁵⁶ Common labeling standards would facilitate consumer understanding. Such a standard seems within reach on the environmental front; more and more companies are making environmental impact assessments, with some, such as Kering, going so far as to lay open most of their methodology.¹⁵⁷ The same cannot be said for social impact assessments. But standardized labels on working conditions in, say, garment factories, would help raise consumers’ attention to the impact of their choices.

Novel Business Models:

Ambition 2030: Full utilization of purchased fashion product

Many emerging business models in the fashion industry circle around the idea of prolonging the life of a garment, be it through reuse or increased durability. Such business models can complement existing models or form the basis of a company in its own right. One novel concept promotes consumer access over ownership. Such models can be based on renting clothes rather than purchasing them, at 10% to 15% of their purchase price, or even a *Netflix for clothing* model where consumers get access to unlimited items, three of which they can hold at a time, based on a monthly subscription fee.¹⁵⁸ As a consumer’s *wardrobe life-cycle manager*, the subscription business model can reduce production while satisfying consumers’ need for novelty. (See Novel Business Models at Filippa K.) Admittedly, individual transportation and possibly cleaning after every use could blunt some of the environmental advantages.

Sharing models, boosting the secondary use of products, or promoting repair, can reduce the industry’s environmental impact, but they still have to prove their economic viability on the large scale. A major obstacle is the lack of consumer demand: 90% of consumers in EU countries do not consider buying secondhand clothing at all.¹⁵⁹ But as examples from other industries show—think Uber and Airbnb—there could still be a vast opportunity. Imagine telling someone 10 years ago that soon, millions of people would regularly share rides with complete strangers and stay in apartments of people they have never seen before—and pay for such services.

PROOF OF CONCEPT

Novel Business Models at Filippa K

Filippa K is a brand that is considering business model innovation to emphasize its devotion to reduce, repair, reuse, and recycle. To ensure that all the company’s products receive a second or third life through reuse, the company has operated a profitable secondhand store in Stockholm since 2008. Further,

the company has started to rent out clothes in selected stores through its Lease concept. This concept builds on the idea that customers will be able to renew their wardrobes without contributing to increased consumption.

Source: Company information

SUSTAINABILITY IS A POSITIVE BUSINESS CASE

The preceding assessments show that the industry can already generate immense value for the world economy through better practices. The company examples showcased in chapter 3 are proof-of-concept that such improvements can also be economically viable to individual businesses. In its 2015 survey report with *MIT Sloan Management Review*, BCG found that 60% of managers in publicly traded companies believe that good sustainability practices influence business decisions.¹⁶⁰ This stands in contrast to the 75% of senior executives in investment firms who consider a company’s sustainability performance to be materially important for their investment decisions—and nearly half who would not invest in a company with a poor track record in that regard.¹⁶¹ Furthermore, 75% of investors now think that increased operational efficiency often accompanies sustainability investments.¹⁶²

GFA and BCG aim to assess how far these moves towards improved impact can be profitable, or at least not generate additional costs. Besides the company examples mentioned already, we can point to several measures with neutral to positive business cases, based on initial estimates built on available data and ambitious, but reasonable assumptions.

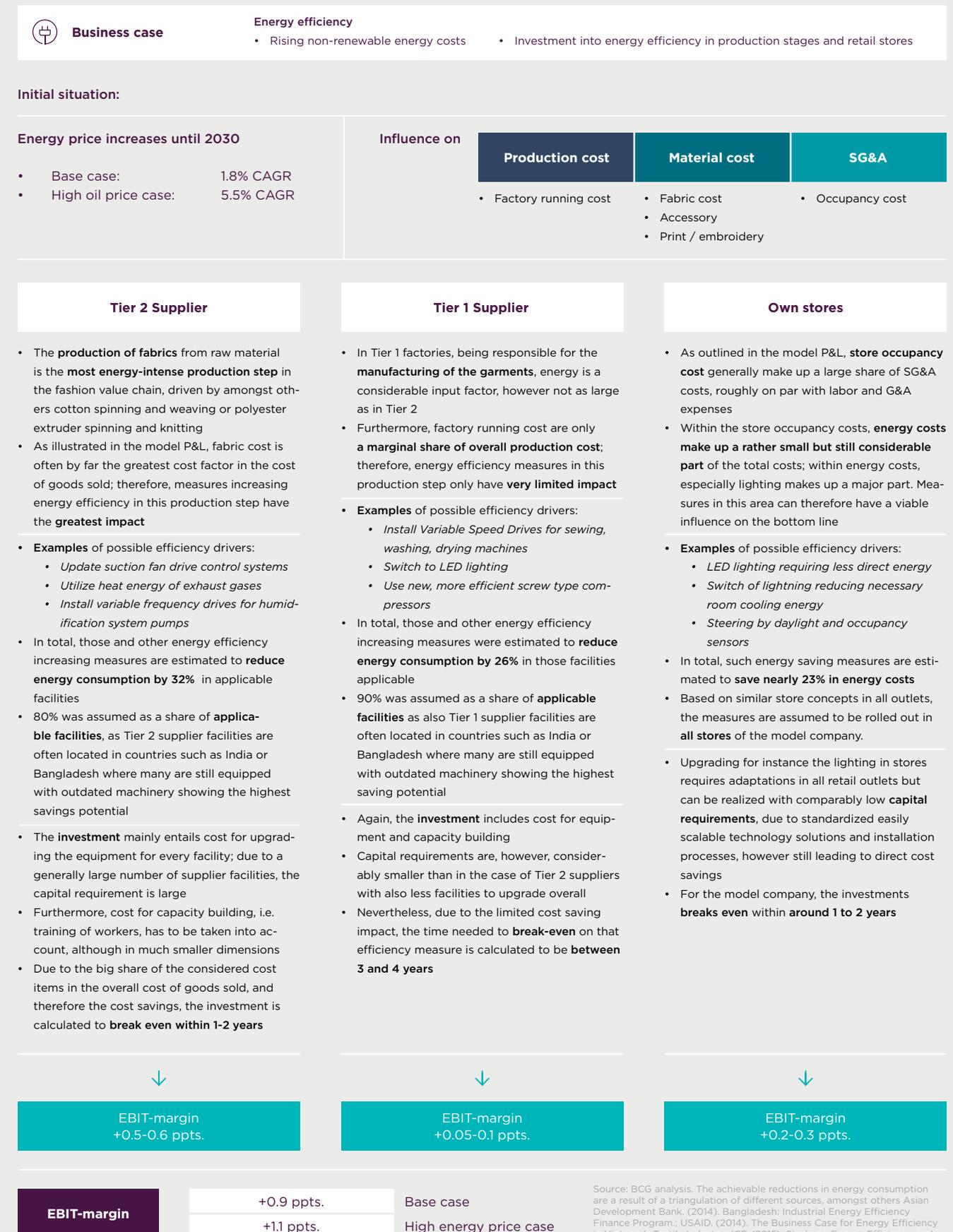
These calculations were performed for investments to boost efficiency in waste and water management, and to improve labor productivity, for an exemplary fashion brand. With waste reduction, the measures included supplier training to lower processing waste, wider use of laser cutting to lower manufacturing waste, and new apparel designs that cut down on waste from day one. Water-saving measures included supporting suppliers in adhering to the Better Cotton Initiative’s principles. Measures for productivity included training of factory managers, efforts to change workers’ attitudes and improve working conditions, streamlining line-level productivity, and removing information barriers to sharing best practices.

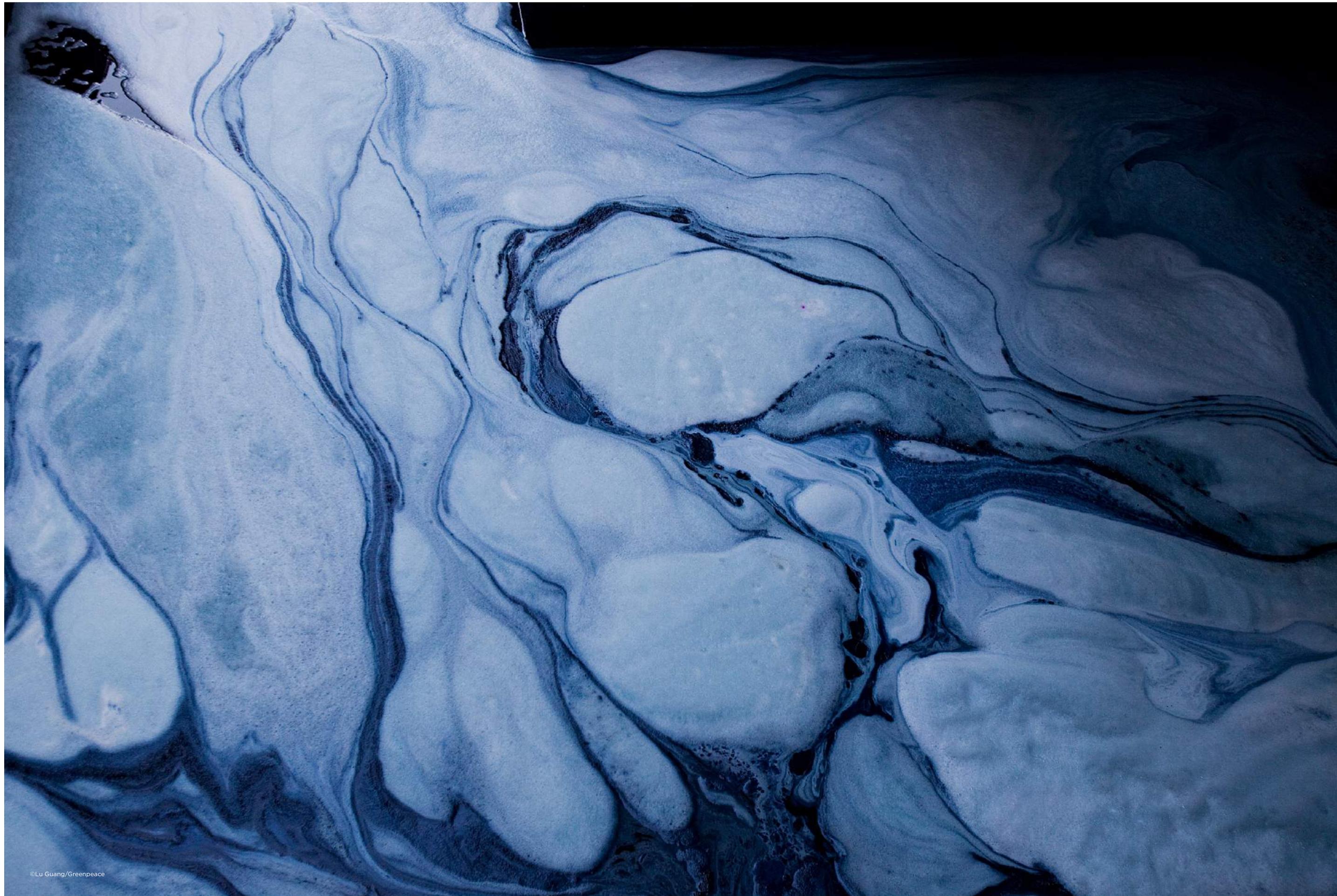
More extensive estimations were made on energy efficiency, which has special significance for fashion brands due to the high energy costs on yarn processing, polyester production, and store occupancy. These investments can reach break-even quickly and even increase EBIT-margins. (See Exhibit 31, Energy Efficiency Reducing Emissions While Enhancing the Bottom Line.). For an exemplary company, comparable to a typical large-scale fashion retailer, break-even would come within a few years and the EBIT-margin could be improved by one percentage point.

These assessments, along with the multitude of proofs of concepts outlined in Chapter 3, show that improving a fashion brand’s impact need not come at the detriment of profitability—and this is without calculating the positive effect on risk management and brand building. But more work is to be done on a broader, more detailed set of concrete examples. Such work, to be released in a future edition of the report, will include partnerships with sustainability frontrunners to analyze in depth the short- and long-term effects of these investments.

All of these investments can help counteract the cost pressures faced by fashion brands that were described in Chapter 1. But uncertainty prevails and even greater cost increases are possible, if for example policymakers move toward special taxes to enforce lower resource use. This is why the industry needs disruptive new technologies and business models as well as collaborative improvements. These would keep businesses the driving force in the industry, supported by policymakers instead of restrained by them.

Exhibit 31 Exemplary Business Case for Energy Measures Energy efficiency reducing emissions while enhancing the bottom line







The Landscape for Change is bold and ambitious, going well beyond what individual players have accomplished thus far and can accomplish going forward. The main challenge to achieve this ambition is not individual commitment and actions, but leadership, collaboration and innovation. How can the industry manage the collective effort to develop new solutions and scale promising technologies to commercial viability? Many of these ideas will become practical only with widespread adoption. It's not enough for a few leading brands or sustainability champions to show proof of concept. We need the broad commitment and coordinated participation of the industry as a whole. With help from industry associations, consumers, and regulators, fashion can achieve the vision of a better industry.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF REGULATORS?

Governmental regulators can play several roles in their interactions with the industry, along with international organizations such as the United Nations, the EU, and ASEAN, and their actions will depend on the industry's own course. The best result is for regulators to offer a globally harmonized approach.

Outside of laws on wages and chemical use, the fashion industry so far has seen little regulatory intervention. This is due partly to a lack of regulation generally in the main producing countries. Some initiatives have emerged from voluntary action, such as Bangladesh's Accord on Fire and Building Safety, which is legally binding for participating parties. The UN Global Compact, in which firms pledge to observe proclaimed standards, is another example.

This voluntary self-regulation of the industry may change—and change quite suddenly—if the industry finds itself blamed for sustainability shortfalls. To avoid unilateral regulation, it is incumbent upon the industry to regulate itself.

THE REGULATOR AS AN AMPLIFIER

By taking the lead, the industry can favorably steer the needed changes. Not only would it preempt unilateral restrictions, but it could prompt *supportive regulation* that reinforces sustainability targets and incentivizes change. Rather than setting out mandates, regulators can motivate and amplify the moves of farsighted companies. They can do this, for example, with incentives for renewable energy or tax discounts for repairs. (See Exhibit 32 for an overview of the broad-solutions landscape envisioned for regulators).

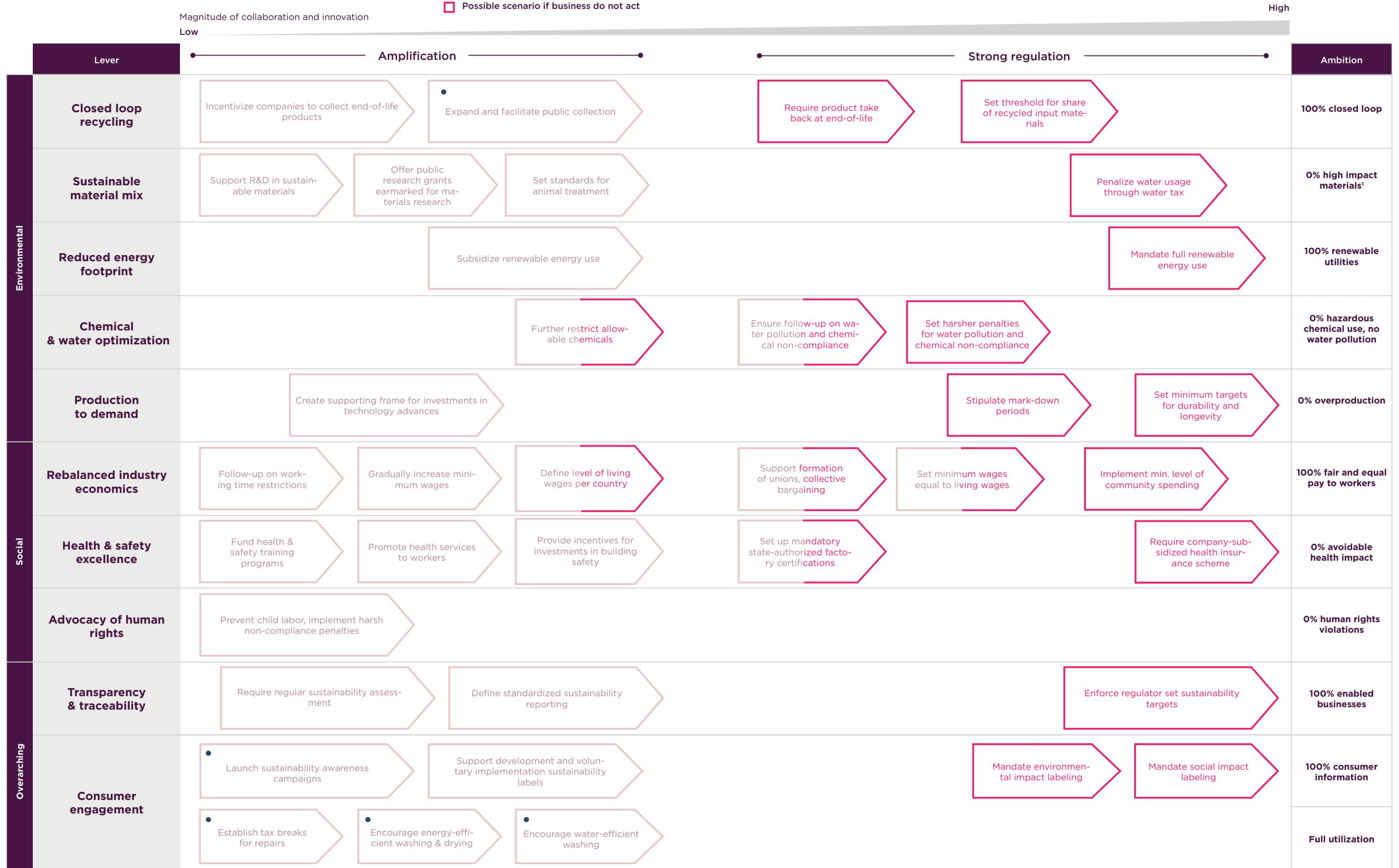
Going further, governments can push the technological frontier with public research grants or subsidies on company- or industry-wide R&D, for instance on sustainable materials or chemical recycling. They can also subsidize investments to match production with demand, as in big data, 3D printing, and large-scale automation.

With fashion lagging behind other industries on recycling, policymakers should make it easier to handle clothing waste. They can help make consumers aware of the end-of-life stage and existing collection options as well as simplify the collection process. Regulators can also awaken con-

Preferred scenario (ideally on a harmonized global level)
 Possible scenario if business do not act

● Influence on Consumers, not businesses

Non-exhaustive landscape—to be collectively expanded



sumers to environmental impacts by requiring labels on water and energy use for washing machines and dryers, and by establishing standards for sustainability labels on garments.

As for the social footprint, regulators can support better labor practices with tax incentives or direct financial support for worker safety training programs and improvements in factory conditions. They can help invest in company health services for workers in production countries, help define the living wage, and support collective bargaining.

In all of this, regulators should be aware of the differences in sustainability maturity and available resources across the industry. Brands about to embark on the journey face a business reality different from that faced by front-runners with dedicated efforts well under way. Legislation has to reflect these distinctions to support efforts without imposing unmanageable cost on resource-constrained firms.

IF REGULATORS STEP IN

If the fashion industry fails to take the proactive, concerted stance needed to boost sustainability, regulators may take on more than just supporting and amplifying roles. They could take the lead – and as the pharmaceutical industry has found, damage the industry’s profitability.¹⁶³ Potential steps range from mandates on renewable energy to compulsory labeling for environmental life cycle assessments and social impact -- as was piloted with the Grenelle 2 Act in France; or more broadly in the European Commission’s ‘Environmental Footprint’ pilots in 26 consumer product categories. Regulators could set far-reaching and escalating targets for the industry, with penalties becoming more severe over time.

Other laws might set maximum levels of water and chemical use, as is already the case in drought-stricken regions. Or governments might compensate, through taxes, for the mispricing of water by factoring in the negative side effects of its unconstrained use, comparable to the way carbon taxes are used today.¹⁶⁴ Governments could even mandate “extended producer responsibility”—forcing brands to take in products they sold when consumers return them at end-of-life, as they have already done in many countries with electronics.

Regulators may impose limits on the use of virgin raw materials. Fashion brands that are not yet using low-impact materials, and have no established relations with suppliers of such materials would struggle under such regulation.

On the social side, regulators could start with stricter enforcement of minimum wage levels and escalate to raises in those levels. Labor-relations rulings could drive systems for determining and negotiating living wages. Policymakers could also implement a standardized global health-and-safety auditing process. At a minimum, it might set protocols for unannounced audits and restrictions on the choice of auditors. The European Commission is currently working on the ‘EU Garment Initiative’, aiming for responsible management in the supply chain of the garment sector.

Regulators might also force fashion brands to stipulate community investments, such as the minimum percentages of sales allocated to projects that benefit workers at their factories. Or it could insist that foreign direct investments have a minimum level of community investment in, say, the health infrastructure for garment workers.

These are not hypothetical possibilities. There is a growing political will at least within the European Union to regulate the fashion industry. Initiatives in Germany, The Netherlands and elsewhere have gained momentum among policymakers in response to what they see as the industry’s lack of self-governance of supply chains. Such national initiatives could potentially undermine the all-important efforts at global consolidation and harmonization. To head these off, it is imperative for the industry to develop and showcase large-scale improvements.

THE BEST RESULT IS FOR REGULATORS TO OFFER A GLOBALLY HARMONIZED APPROACH

THE CONSUMER WITH THE POWER TO TIP THE SCALE

Consumers are far more sensitive to environmental, social, and ethical concerns than those of previous decades. A third of Millennials strongly agree that they are more likely to buy from companies that are mindful of their social responsibilities, while just a quarter of those older than 51 say so.¹⁶⁵ But only a tiny proportion of fashion shoppers are willing to pay a premium for sustainable products. In the Pulse Survey only 6% of the fashion brands polled said they charged a substantial premium for products explicitly marketed as sustainable. One in four firms named consumers’ unwillingness to pay such a premium for preventing them from revising their practices. At the same time, most consumers have, at best, a hazy idea of what goes into their buys. While some may be attuned to fair-trade sourcing of the materials that go into a desired blouse or jacket, they may know little or nothing about the impact of the dyeing processes used in making the product. They may also be blind to their own participation when quickly disposing of the apparel after only a few wears.

Additionally, consumers who want to make informed decisions about their fashion purchases are hard-pressed to sort through the information available to them. Here lies opportunity for the industry. Farsighted fashion brands can join forces with consumers in a long-term push for better practices and transparency in the value chain.

Next to making conscious choices about their consumption patterns, consumers can most easily make a difference in their apparel use. By upgrading washing and drying machines to eco-efficient models, as old machines break, they can save a great deal of water and energy. As for disposal, they can help by donating used garments through in-store collection boxes or public collection schemes.

With education, information, and incentives, consumers can gradually change their habits far beyond washing and drying.

COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION NEEDED ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE

Up to now, individual brands and retailers and selected multi-stakeholder initiatives have shown impressive commitment and have already achieved great progress. Best practices are available across all segments of the industry, and substantial innovations are emerging. Applying and implementing these will do much to improve the industry's impact. But these will not be enough to capture the full potential outlined in Chapter 1. A collective effort with critical mass would enable the industry to make progress on the major pre-competitive goals, such as a network of collection points to promote recycling.

Such an effort would need a unified agenda with clear goals. It would be led by the large industry brands which as we have shown in Chapter 2, are clearly ahead of the game when it comes to sustainability. (See A Common Global Agenda on Sustainability in Fashion). The key is to set up an ecosystem that encourages all parts of the industry to collaborate on the major issues. Multi-stakeholder initiatives, acting beyond commercial interests, can offer guidance and promote cohesion. But today's scattered, fragmented array of initiatives, memberships, certifications and so on can be confusing to brands, suppliers, innovators and donors. Consolidation is inevitable to focus time, energy and money.

With the industry united around an agenda for change, it can drive the needed systemic change and work jointly on disruptive innovation. (See Changing the Apparel Industry through Innovation and New Business Models.) As promising ideas emerge, companies can support pilot programs and then quickly scale them up to commercial viability. Such collective investments would drive down costs and enable the magnitudes necessary to 'move the needle'—as can be seen in other industries where such practices are common.

FOR A WORLD BEYOND NEXT SEASON

This report has laid out the scale of the challenges and broken down the necessary responses, near-term and further out as well as individual and collective. It has advanced the business case for change and estimated the upside of the appropriate responses. It has also sketched out one scenario where the industry acts proactively and forcefully, and a fallback

Global Fashion Agenda:

A Common Global Agenda on Sustainability in Fashion

Global Fashion Agenda was born from the imperative to transcend misconceptions and bridge fragmented sustainability efforts, by setting a unified agenda on key environmental, social and ethical issues for the global fashion industry.

Working in partnership with a group of sustainability-pioneering fashion leaders, Global Fashion Agenda aims to create a common understanding of the most critical issues facing the industry across segments, sizes, and geographies, and focus efforts on the highest impact opportunities. This group of partners today

counts H&M, Kering, Li & Fung, Target and Sustainable Apparel Coalition.

Global Fashion Agenda is anchored around Copenhagen Fashion Summit, the world's principal event on sustainability in fashion for industry decision-makers. Leveraging the strength of this platform, Global Fashion Agenda advocates for focused industry efforts following this common agenda, and creates joint commitments for change that has the potential to transform the way we produce and consume fashion today.

Fashion for Good: Changing The Apparel Industry Through Innovation and New Business Models

Fashion for Good is a holistic and inclusive open-source initiative, launched in spring 2017. It is bringing together brands, retailers, suppliers, non-profit organizations, innovators and funders in order to jointly work on innovations and new business models which have the potential to transform the industry. The core of Fashion for Good is an open innovation platform aimed at finding, investing in, and accelerating startups that fast-track the transition to a sustainable apparel industry. Per design the platform is open for all likeminded industry players and focuses on pre-competitive areas such as raw materials, processing technologies and end-of-use. Additionally the initiative aims to

set up a EUR 100m acceleration fund to ease access to capital for fashion supply chain players through de-risking investments. Fashion for Good was created with an initial grant from founding partner C&A Foundation, and other partners have joined to help build the foundation of Fashion for Good: C&A, the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, IDH the Sustainable Trade Initiative, Impact Hub Amsterdam, Kering, McDonough Innovation, Plug and Play, and the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC).

Source: Information provided by Fashion for Good

case where regulators drive more of the change. We vigorously recommend the first scenario, in which fashion businesses take the driver's seat in making smart choices for the benefit of businesses and the world economy.

In preparing and producing this report, GFA and BCG have signaled the urgency and hidden potential of the sustainability issue and shone a light on practical ways forward. It is our hope that the report becomes a powerful catalyst for real change. As such, the Good Citizen Principles and the Landscape for Change provide concrete recommendations grouped by different maturity phases. More broadly, GFA and BCG wish for this report to spark myriad conversations among many different parties that will collectively galvanize change at scale. We hope to continue this conversation in future reports, with input from all interested stakeholders.

Since its beginning—certainly since the development of mass-fashion markets—the fashion industry has always had its eye on the clothing lines to be launched next season. In the context of a world timed by seasons altered already by the heavy hand of humankind, the industry must now look still further forward.

ENDNOTES

- 1 BCG comparison of retail market values across consumer industries, based on Euromonitor International. (2017).
- 2 Market size estimate of the apparel and footwear industry (excluding home textiles, accessories and jewelry) based on BCG triangulation of: Euromonitor International. (2017, January 18). [Apparel and Footwear 2017]; Statista. (2014, September). [Value of the global apparel and footwear market from 2002 to 2015]; Morgan Stanley. (2015). Global Athletic Wear - Global Insight: Very Bullish Five-Year Outlook; Cowen and Company. (2015). Dislocation in Apparel Will Continue - "Athletic" Brands Will Win; MarketLine. (2016). Global Apparel Retail; Technavio. (2016). Global Women's Apparel Market
- 3 FashionUnited. (2016). Global fashion industry statistics - International apparel. Retrieved April 4, 2017, from <https://fashionunited.com/global-fashion-industry-statistics>
- 4 Based on exemplary calculations as presented in Chapter 3
- 5 Copenhagen Fashion Summit 2017. (2017). Retrieved April 4, 2017, from <https://www.copenhagenfashionsummit.com/summit-2017/>
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- 7 United Nations. (2015). Probabilistic Population Projections based on the World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision. Population Division, DESA. <http://esa.un.org/unpd/ppp/>
- 8 OECD (2017). GDP long-term forecast (indicator). (Accessed on 05 April 2017)
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APPENDICES

A

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Forecasting the P&L of an Exemplary Fashion Brand

B

PAGE 131

Environmental footprint projection



FORECASTING THE P&L OF AN EXEMPLARY FASHION BRAND

The profitability at risk for businesses is based on a projection of the profit-and-loss statement of an exemplary fashion brand. The P&L is projected for a base case that assumes conservative growth and for a high case that assumes high costs for energy, wages, and water.

Total revenues of the exemplary brand are projected to grow at the same rate as the retail value of the total apparel and footwear market, estimated at a real rate of 2% per annum between 2015 and 2030¹. (See Exhibit A1.)

Exhibit A1

From a Business Perspective, the Retail Market Will See Further Growth

1. Apparel and footwear market shown using historic constant 2016 prices. forecast constant 2016 prices and historic fixed 2016 exchange rates. forecast fixed 2016 exchange rates
Source: Euromonitor; Economist Intelligence Unit; Mintel; World Bank; BCG Analysis



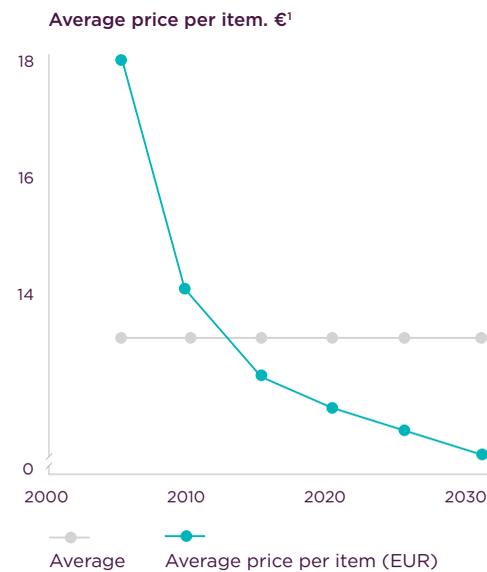
However, while the overall retail value for apparel and footwear is projected to grow, the retail volume growth is projected to outpace it. As a consequence, the margins of fashion brands will come under pressure as average per item prices continue to fall. (See Exhibit A2.) On a more positive note, the decline in average per item prices appears to be slowing down.

Exhibit A3 provides a detailed overview of the results of the base case projection, including margin assumptions and the magnitude of the individual line items, as well as the CAGRs for the entire period.

Exhibit A2 Fashion Brands will be Confronted with Continuously Falling Average per Item Prices

	Items per capita	Spend per capita (€ ¹)	Avg. price per item (€ ¹)
2030	20.9	235.1	11.2
2025	19.0	222.0	11.7
2020	17.4	210.6	12.1
2015	16.0	201.1	12.6
2010	14.1	197.4	14.0
2005	11.5	205.2	17.8

... However, the decline in average price per item appears to be slowing down



¹ Apparel and footwear market show using historic constant 2016 prices. forecast constant 2016 prices and historic fixed 2016 exchange rates. forecast fixed 2016 exchange rates
Source: Euromonitor; Economist Intelligence Unit; Mintel; United Nations; World Bank; BCG Analysis

Exhibit A3 Fashion Companies Face Rising Costs of Raw Materials and Labor - The Base Case

		Exemplary P&L (€ million)		
		2015	2030	Projected CAGR ¹
Total Revenues		10,000	13,522	2.0%
Cost of Goods Sold 50%	28% Production cost			
	65% Labor cost [Supplier]	916	1,620	3.9%
	16% Indirect labor cost (incl. management)	228	399	3.9%
	18% Factory running cost	256	341	2.0%
	58% Material cost	1,400	2,360	3.5%
	71% Fabric cost	2,059	2,542	1.4%
	15% Accessory	435	552	1.6%
	11% Print / embroidery	319	438	2.1%
	3% Packaging / hang tag	87	118	2.0%
	6% Factory markup	2,900	3,649	1.5%
8% Logistics & tariff cost	300	419	2.3%	
Gross Profit 50%		5,000	6,535	1.8%
Operating Expenses 38%	37% Selling, General and Administrative Expenses			
	35% Store occupancy cost	1,280	1,736	2.0%
	32% Labor cost [Brand]	1,178	1,823	3.0%
	34% G&A	1,241	1,678	2.0%
1% Other Operating Expenses	3,700	5,238	2.3%	
EBIT 12%		1,200	1,162	Δ = -3.4 pts

¹ We do not assume the same growth rate for every year in the study, so CAGR represents indication of magnitude over 15 years
Source: BCG analysis
Note: Differences in sums can occur due to rounding

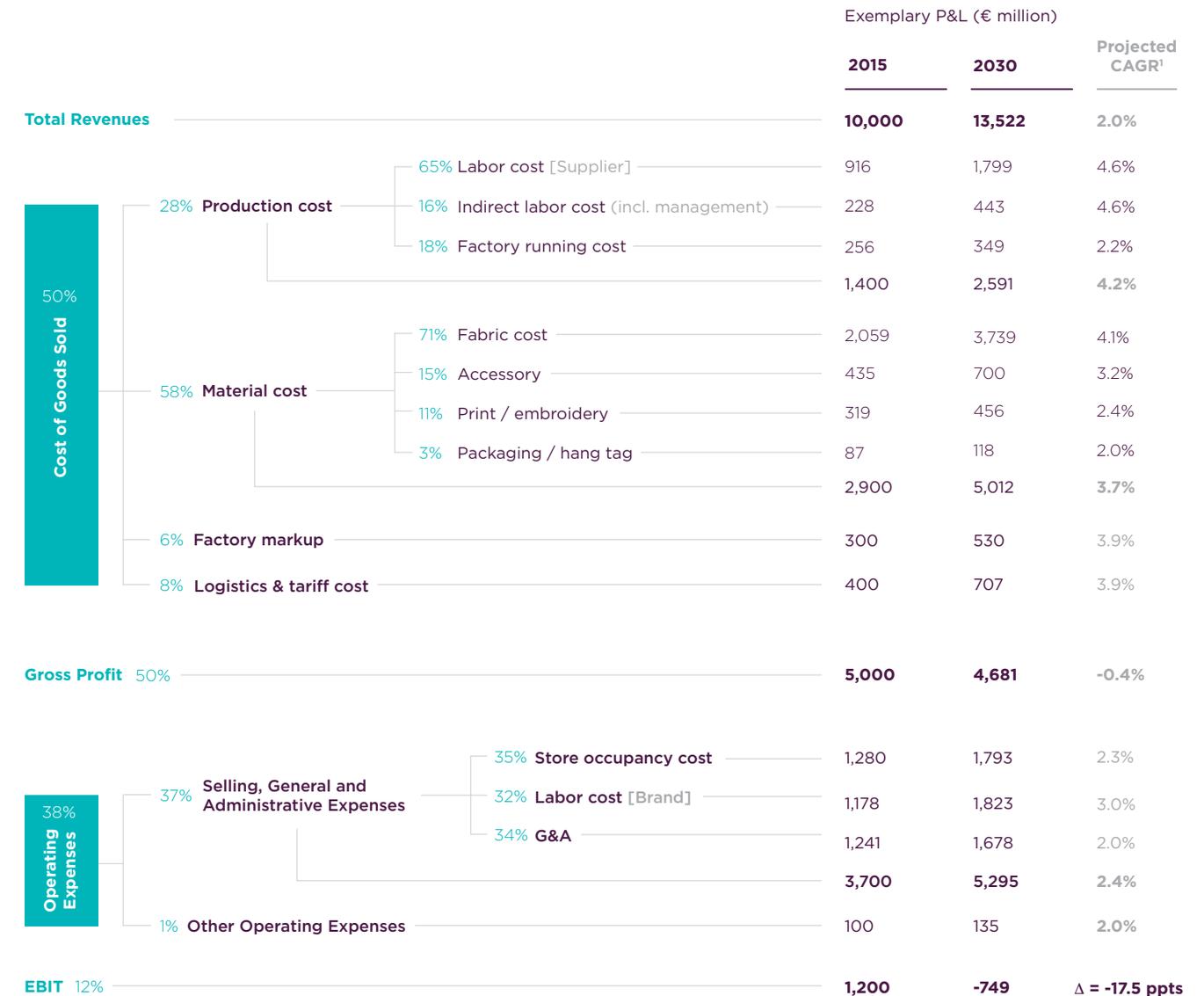
The assumptions are based on forecasts from a number of reputable sources as well as BCG triangulations. Exhibit A4 outlines the exact sources used to project the growth by cost buckets and line items as well as the major ingoing assumptions. Line items that are not specifically mentioned in the exhibit are assumed to grow in proportion with total revenues.

While the base case projection is built on realistic and conservative estimates, GFA and BCG also calculated the impact on the P&L in the case of high energy, high labor, and high water growth scenarios. Exhibit A5 provides a detailed overview over the high case results, including margin assumptions and the magnitude of the individual line items as well as the CAGRs for the entire period.

Exhibit A4 A Number of Sources Contribute to the Estimation and Forecast of the Exemplary P&L - The Base Case

P&L topic	Source	Description	Comment on application
Company Data	CapitalIQ	Financials for selected sample companies	Major P&L line items and margins averaged across sample
Cost of Goods Sold	ILO (2017)	Cost breakdown for jeans produced in China, Bangladesh and Cambodia as well as polo shirt and technical t-shirt	Average across all cases with equal weights
	BCG	BCG estimates for the overall COGS breakdown across countries for an apparel company	
Production Cost	Oxford Economics (2017)	Forecast: Real earnings (relative to CPI) for China, India, Turkey, Indonesia and Malaysia	Earnings are not specific to the textile industry. Assumption that the growth rate for earnings in the textile industry mirrors the growth across industries in the given country. Earnings are weighted by the number of garment workers in the given country
	Clean Clothes Campaign (2014)	Number of garment workers for China, India, Turkey, Indonesia and Malaysia	
Material Cost	World Bank (2017)	Forecast (real values): Cotton A Index	Used without changes
		Forecast (real values): Aluminum, iron, copper, zinc	Averaged with Oxford economics forecast. Input factor for metals proxy for accessories
	Oxford Economics (2017)	Forecast (nominal values): Aluminum, iron, copper, zinc	Averaged with World bank forecast. Input factor for metals proxy for accessories. Deflated by MUV index used by World Bank
		Forecast: Oil prices (real values)	Key input factor for polyester proxy. Oil prices are assumed to drive 50% of polyester price.
		Forecast: World energy prices (nominal values)	Deflated by MUV index used by World Bank. The energy mix is estimated to be 50% coal, 25% oil and 25% gas
Selling, General and Administrative Expenses	Oxford Economics (2017)	Forecast: Real earnings (relative to CPI) for UK, France, Germany, US, Japan, S. Korea, China, Brazil, Argentina	Earnings are not specific to the textile industry. Assumption that the growth rate for earnings in retail sales mirrors the growth across industries in the given country. Earnings are weighted by the population in the given country
	UN (2015)	Population by country for UK, France, Germany, US, Japan, S. Korea, China, Brazil, Argentina	

Exhibit A5 Fashion Companies Face Rising Costs of Raw Materials and Labor - The High Case



1. We do not assume the same growth rate for every year in the study, so CAGR represents indication of magnitude over 15 years
Source: BCG analysis
Note: Differences in sums can occur due to rounding

Exhibit A6 outlines the sources used to project the high cases for each of the chosen high case cost areas. The high energy price and high wage cases are based on year-by-year high case growth rates, modeling the case of high oil prices and the case of continued historical growth in labor cost in the primary textile industry. The high water price case is built on the assumption that in the future, the negative externalities of water to the world economy may be factored into the cotton price, increasing its cost to the exemplary company. This price increase may be the result of regulators introducing a water tax similar to carbon taxes common today in many markets.

Exhibit A6 A Number of Sources Contribute to the Estimation and Forecast of the Exemplary P&L - The High Case

P&L topic	Source	Description	Comment on application
Energy	U.S. Department of Energy: U.S. Energy Information Administration (2017)	Forecast (real values): Industrial prices for distillate fuel oil, residual fuel oil, natural gas, metallurgical coal and other industrial coal	Following Oxford Economics in the base case, the energy mix is estimated to be 50% coal, 25% oil and 25% gas. Oil is defined as the average between distillate fuel oil and residual fuel oil. Coal is defined as the average between metallurgical coal and other industrial oil.
	Werner International Management Consultants (2014)	Percentage change in hourly wages in USD between 2000 and 2014	The high wage case is based on a continuation of historical growth of wages in primary textile industry
Wages	World Bank (2017)	MUV inflation index: Unit value index of manufacture exports in US dollar terms for fifteen countries	The average MUV inflation index over the period 2015-2030 is used to adjust forecasted growth for inflation
	Clean Clothes Campaign (2014)	Number of garment workers for China, India, Turkey, Indonesia and Malaysia	Forecasted growth rates are weighted by the number of garment workers in the given country
Water	EDIPTX (2007)	Average weight of a t-shirt	The average weight of a t-shirt is assumed to be 250 grams
	BCG (2017)	Water usage in production of 1 kg of cotton	BCB triangulation based on WRAP (2012), Levi Strauss & Co (2015), Velden et. al. (2014), Cotton Incorporated (2012) and Skog + Landskap (2014)
	PUMA (2011)	Cost to society of water	Pricing the negative externality water is based on the cost to society as measured by PUMA in the company's E-P&L
	Clean Clothes Campaign (2014)	Average cost of materials in a t-shirt	Triangulation of the average cost of materials in a t-shirt
	O'Rourke		
	ILO (2017)		

To make the effect of the high cases on the various line items transparent, Exhibit A7 outlines the effect of each case on each line item that is influenced by that cost. The comments outline the share of the cost factors in each line item. Further, the last two columns to the right show the total growth of the line item in the base and high cases, highlighting the magnitude of the high cost cases. For instance, the total fabric cost between 2015 and 2030 increases 65% in the high case, up from 23% in the base case. The impact of the high case on the exemplary line item is twofold. First, there is a direct impact on the 9% of fabric cost directly attributed to energy (for example, through the use of spinning machines). Second, there is an indirect impact on the 55% of fabric cost attributed to polyester, as the polyester price closely follows the price of oil.

Exhibit A7 The High Case Impacts A Number of Line Items on the Exemplary P&L

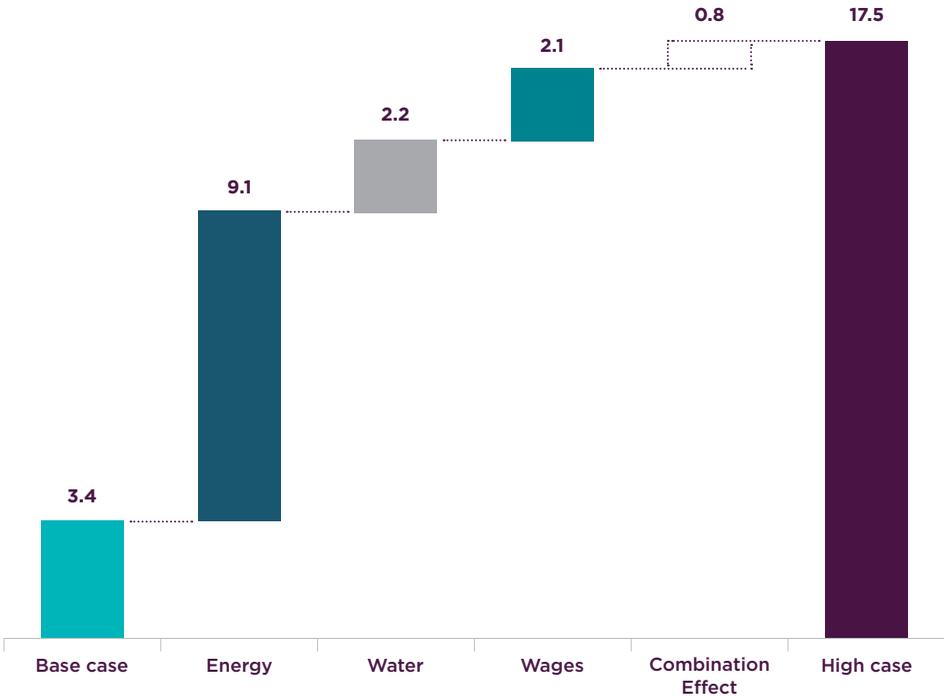
High Case	Line item impacted	Cost Contribution of Impact Factor	Absolute growth 2015-2030	
			Growth: Base case	Growth: High case
Energy	Factory running cost	Energy contributes 6.1% of the factory running costs, so the effect of the high energy cost has a small impact on this line item	36%	39%
	Fabric cost	The high energy case impacts the fabric cost is twofold. First, there is an impact on the 9% of cost contributed to energy. Second, there is a large effect through oil on the 55% of costs attributed to the polyester proxy	23%	65%
	Accessories	The high energy case impacts the accessory cost is twofold. First, there is an impact on the 9% of cost contributed to energy. Second, there is a large effect through oil on the 43% of costs attributed to the polyester proxy	27%	60%
	Print / embroidery	Energy contributes 9% of the print/embroidery costs, so the effect of the high energy cost has a small impact on this line item	37%	42%
	Occupancy cost	Energy contributes 9% of the occupancy costs, so the effect of the high energy cost has a small impact on this line item	36%	40%
Wages	Direct labor cost	The high wage case has a large impact on the direct labor cost, which contributes 65% of the production cost	78%	98%
	Indirect labor cost (incl. management)	The high wage case has a large impact on the indirect labor cost, which contributes 16% of the production cost	78%	98%
	Fabric cost	Labor contributes 5% of the fabric costs, so the effect of high wages has a small impact on this line item	23%	24%
	Accessories	Labor contributes 5% of the accessories costs, so the effect of high wages has a small impact on this line item	27%	28%
Water	Fabric cost	Pricing in the negative externalities of water through its cost to society, directly impacts the P&L through the high water usage in cotton production. Cotton production contributes 31% of fabric cost and, thus, increasing water cost in cotton production has an impact on the cost of raw materials.	23%	36%

In summary, in the high case, the EBIT-margin has 17.5 percentage points at risk until 2030. The increase from the base case of 14.1 percentage points at risk is contributed by a 9.1 percentage point increase from energy, a 2.1 percentage point increase from wages and a 2.2 percentage point increase from water. The remaining 0.8 percentage points stem from an amplification effect when combining all three high cases. (See Exhibit A8.)

While it is unlikely that the full high case will become reality in the near future, it is not difficult to imagine that a number of input factors will become more expensive as the supply of natural resources becomes increasingly scarce and the cost of labor grows as workers are paid fairer wages.

Exhibit A8 The High Energy Cost Scenario is the Main Driver of Additional EBIT-margin at Risk in the High Case

The high case places an additional 14.1 pts. at risk with the majority of the impact attributed to high energy costs...



...and energy impacting the largest number of line items

Energy	Factory running cost
	Fabric cost
	Accessories
	Print / embroidery
	Occupancy cost
Wages	Direct labor cost
	Indirect labor cost (incl. management)
	Fabric cost
Water	Accessories
	Fabric cost

Source: BCG analysis



ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT PROJECTION

The projected environmental footprint in 2015 for each impact area builds on the following analysis.

1. Triangulation of the fiber mix in 2015 and the projected fiber mix in 2030 if we continue business as usual
2. Estimation of the environmental footprint from cradle to grave by fiber type
3. Estimation of the total consumption in millions of tons and scaling the footprint

In this section, the three steps are examined in more detail.

1: Triangulation of the Fiber Mix in 2015 and the Projected Fiber Mix in 2030 If We Continue Business as Usual

The overall fiber mix for the fashion industry is based on a triangulation of, among others, Textile Exchange (2016), Lenzing (2016), Dibdiakova and Timmermann (2014), and CIRFS (2017)^{2,3,4,5}. The fibers were allocated to the following four categories: synthetics/polyester (including other synthetic manmade fibers), cotton, viscose (including other cellulosic manmade fibers), and wool.

Through this triangulation, the fiber mix in 2015 is estimated to be 64% synthetics/polyester, 28.5% cotton, 6% viscose/cellulosic fibers, and 1.5% wool. In general across sources and research, the existing forecasts of the shares of wool and viscose are stable across sources, while the approximated split between cotton and polyester tend to vary more with a range of 25% to 38% for cotton and 55% to 69% for polyester.

Suggested growth rates for 2015–2020 are 3% to 4% for synthetics/polyester, 1% to 2% for cotton, and 5% to 6% for viscose/cellulosic fibers^{6,7}. It is assumed that, as a natural fiber, wool will grow at the same rate as cotton. Further, growth rates are assumed to remain stable between 2020 and 2030.

By applying the expected growth rates to the triangulated fiber mix in 2015, the fiber mix in 2030 is projected to be composed of 68% synthetics/polyester, 22.5% cotton, 8.5% viscose/cellulosic fibers, and 1% wool.

2: Estimation of the Environmental Footprint from Cradle to Grave by Fiber Type

To reflect the differing environmental footprints across fiber types, the footprint is calculated for each impact area for each of the four major fiber types (synthetics/polyester, cotton, viscose/cellulosic fibers, and wool). The analysis considers the entire value chain from cradle to grave, reflecting the full impact of a given fiber.

The final footprint for each fiber type throughout the value chain is based on a BCG triangulation of, among others, WRAP (2012), van der Velden et al. (2013), and Kirchain et al. (2015)^{8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15}.

Uncertainties are inherent in any type of LCA analysis for the fashion industry. As also emphasized by *Thinkstep*, there are usually large variations in LCA data. For instance, the results for almost all environmental

impact categories can vary as much as 60% for cotton at the gin gate, where the cotton is dried, cleaned, and compressed into bales. Further, for both synthetic and cotton fibers in the fabric production phase (from fiber to fabric), the results show a deviation of more than 50¹⁶. Additionally, the magnitude of impact of the use phase may be overstated in research, leading to lack of focus on other areas of the value chain. Contrary to this effect, impacts of indirect activities in other phases of the value chain may be overlooked or understated, which again can overemphasize the use phase¹⁷.

3: Estimation of Total Consumption in Millions of Tons and Scaling the Footprint

As a final step, the consumption of apparel and footwear in 2015 and 2030 in millions of tons is estimated. The approximation builds on a BCG triangulation of bottom-up and top-down analyses. The bottom-up methodology is based on projected consumption of apparel and footwear per capita split by advanced and developing economies^{18,19,20}. The projections are subsequently scaled by population projections²¹. The top-down methodology is based on a BCG triangulation of growth forecasts of retail volume in number of items²² and estimates of the number of items per kg of apparel and footwear.

The result of triangulation across sources and methodologies is consumption of 62 million tons in 2015 and 102 million tons in 2030, corresponding to total growth of 63% and a CAGR of 3%.

In a final step of the analysis the environmental impact by fiber type is weighted with the projected fiber mix shares to then scale the weighted footprints by total consumption in millions of tons.

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The environmental impact of mink fur production

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Summary

Background

For decades, fur production has been a hotly debated issue in many Western countries. In the Netherlands and Belgium, this debate has focused on mink fur, the only type of fur produced in these countries. In Italy, mink fur is produced in relatively small quantities; here the debate involves fur use in fashion, mostly. Anti-fur associations point to animal welfare issues, including poor-quality living conditions and have ethical objections to mink being kept for their fur. The fur industry, for its part, considers fur production a 'green' agricultural activity, and cites the measures being taken to reduce CO₂ emissions and water and energy consumption. Fur is thus being positioned as an environmentally benign, 'natural' product.

Against this background a number of NGOs including the Dutch Bont voor Dieren, the Belgian GAIA (Global Action in the Interest of Animals) and the Italian Lega Antivivisezione (LAV) asked CE Delft to research the environmental impact of the fur production chain.

Life cycle assessment

CE Delft has performed a life cycle assessment (LCA) of fur production, thus to quantify the environmental impact of the various links in the production chain, "from chicken feed to piece of fur", so to speak. The analysis consists of two parts:

- Determining the impact of fur production with respect to 18 different environmental themes, providing insight into which phases of the fur production chain have the greatest impact.
- Comparison of the impact of fur with those of other common textiles: cotton, acrylic, polyester and wool, permitting environmental comparison between mink fur and other textiles.

The fur production chain

The fur chain is studied from the production of mink feed through to the production of 1 kilogram of fur for use in the fashion industry. More specifically, the following phases of the mink fur production chain have been investigated:

- *Mink feed production*: the feed consists of chicken and fish offal, supplemented with wheat flour and additives.
- *Mink keeping*: mink are bred for 7 to 8 months, after which they are pelted.
- *Pelting*: the pelt is removed from the carcass, cleaned and dried.
- *Auction*.
- *Fur treatment*: processes to transform the stiff pelt to fur (similar to leather processing), ready for further handling in the fashion industry.
- *Transportation*: between all the various phases there is transportation.

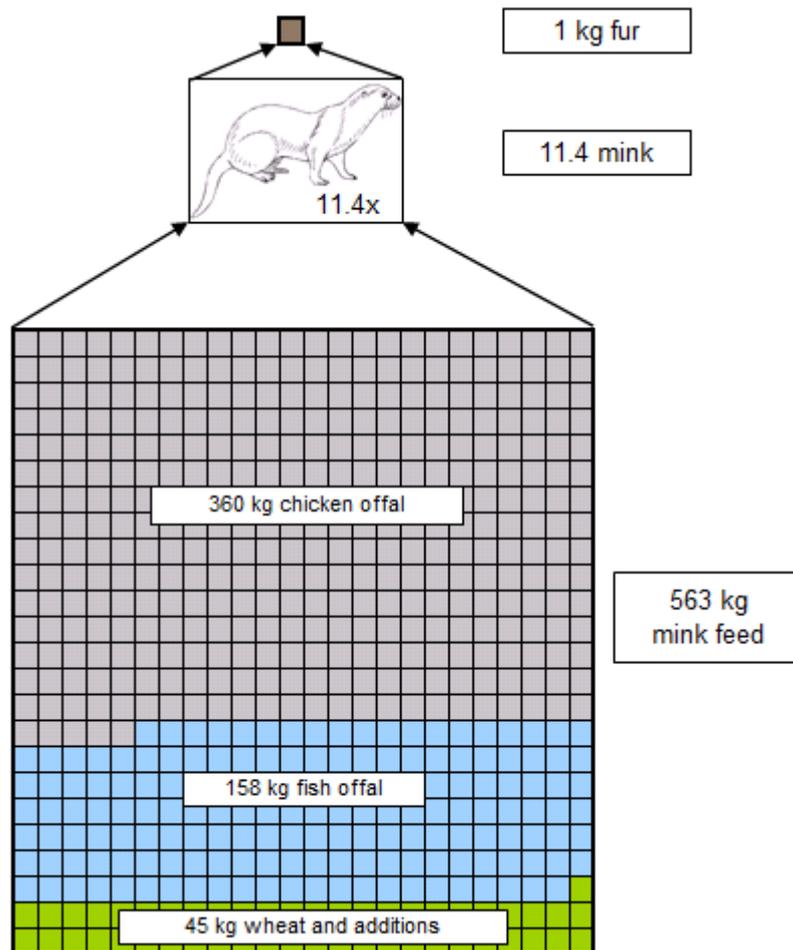
Each of these links in the production chain has been inventoried in as much detail as possible. However, data on certain aspects could not be found and in some cases scenarios have been drawn up, with the lowest scenario being used for analysis. The environmental impacts calculated in this study can thus be seen as minimum impacts; in all likelihood, the actual impacts will be greater. The analysis takes the Dutch mink farming practice as a starting point: of all the mink fur on the world market, 10% originates from Dutch mink farms, making the Netherlands the world's third-largest mink pelt-producing country. Given a limited variation between countries in the crucial parameters, such as



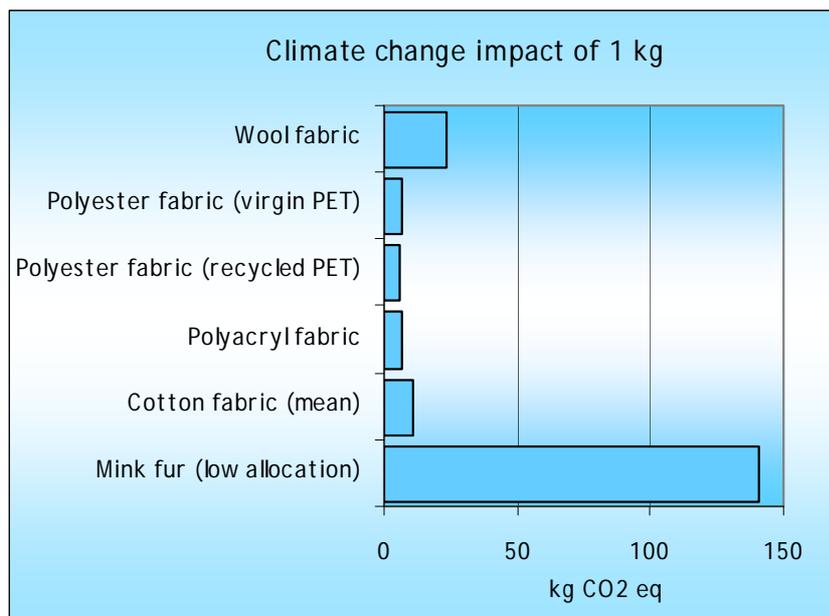
feed, results can be considered relevant for other European mink fur production.

Results

To produce 1 kg of fur requires 11.4 mink pelts, i.e. more than 11 animals. In the course of its lifetime, one mink eats almost 50 kg of feed (including the share of the mother animal), resulting in 563 kg of feed per kg of fur.



The feed consists mainly of offal, which is of low economic value and is therefore only assigned a small share of the environmental load of chicken or fish; as the meat fit for human consumption has the highest value, it is allocated the bulk of the environmental impact. Cultivation of the wheat also has an impact. Although the total environmental impact of 1 kg of mink feed is not particularly high, the 563 kilos required to produce 1 kg of fur knocks on considerably in the total environmental footprint of fur and for 14 of the 18 impacts studied feed is the predominant factor.



Compared with textiles, fur has a higher impact on 17 of the 18 environmental themes, including climate change, eutrophication and toxic emissions. In many cases fur scores markedly worse than textiles, with impacts a factor 2 to 28 higher, even when lower-bound values are taken for various links in the production chain. The exception is water depletion: on this impact cotton scores highest.

Other factors making a sizeable contribution to the overall environmental impact of mink fur are emissions of N_2O (nitrous oxide) and NH_3 (ammonia) from the mink manure. These emissions contribute mainly to acidification and particulate matter formation.

The climate change impact of 1 kg of mink fur is five times higher than that of the highest-scoring textile (wool). This is due both to the feed and to the N_2O emissions from the mink manure.



Samenvatting

Achtergrond

Bontproductie is al decennia lang een onderwerp van discussie in vele Westerse landen. In Nederland en België gaat het voornamelijk om de productie van nertsbont, het enige type dat in deze landen geproduceerd wordt. In Italië wordt op relatief kleine schaal nertsbont geproduceerd; het debat richt zich hier ook specifiek op het gebruik van bont in de mode-industrie. Anti-bontorganisaties wijzen op dierenvriendelijke leefomstandigheden en hebben ethische bezwaren tegen de nertsenhoudery. De bontindustrie werpt op dat de nertsenhoudery een groene, agrarische bezigheid is, en geeft aan dat maatregelen getroffen worden ter vermindering van uitstoot van CO₂. Bont wordt gepositioneerd als een milieuvriendelijk natuurproduct.

Een aantal maatschappelijke organisaties, waaronder het Nederlandse Bont voor Dieren, het Belgische Global Action in the interest of Animals (GAIA) en het Italiaanse Lega Antivivisezione (LAV), heeft CE Delft gevraagd om een analyse te doen naar de milieu-impact van de nertsbontproductie.

Levenscyclusanalyse

CE Delft heeft een levenscyclusanalyse (LCA) uitgevoerd, waarmee de milieu-impact van verschillende fasen in de hele keten van nertsbontproductie wordt berekend, ofwel "van voer tot lap bont".

De analyse bevat twee onderdelen:

- Het bepalen van de impact van de bontproductie op 18 verschillende milieueffecten. Hiermee wordt inzicht verkregen over welke fasen in de bontketen de meeste impact veroorzaken.
- Het vergelijken van de impact van bont met die van de veelgebruikte textieltypen katoen, acryl, polyester en wol. Hierdoor is een milieukundige vergelijking mogelijk tussen nertsbont en andere vezels.

Bontproductie: de keten

De keten is bestudeerd van productie van nertsenvoer tot aan productie van 1 kilo bont voor de mode-industrie. De nertsbontproductie wordt gekarakteriseerd door de volgende ketenfasen:

- *Voedselproductie voor de nerts*: Nertsenvoer bevat kippen- en visslactafval, aangevuld met meel (graanproduct) en voedingssupplementen.
- *Het fokken van de nerts*: Na zo'n 7 tot 8 maanden is de nerts volgroeid.
- *Pelzen*: De pels wordt van de gedode nerts verwijderd, schoongemaakt en gedroogd.
- *Veiling*.
- *Bontbewerking*: Dit zijn processen die, vergelijkbaar met leerlooien, de pels klaarmaken voor verwerking tot modeartikel.
- *Transport*: Tussen alle ketenstappen vindt transport plaats.

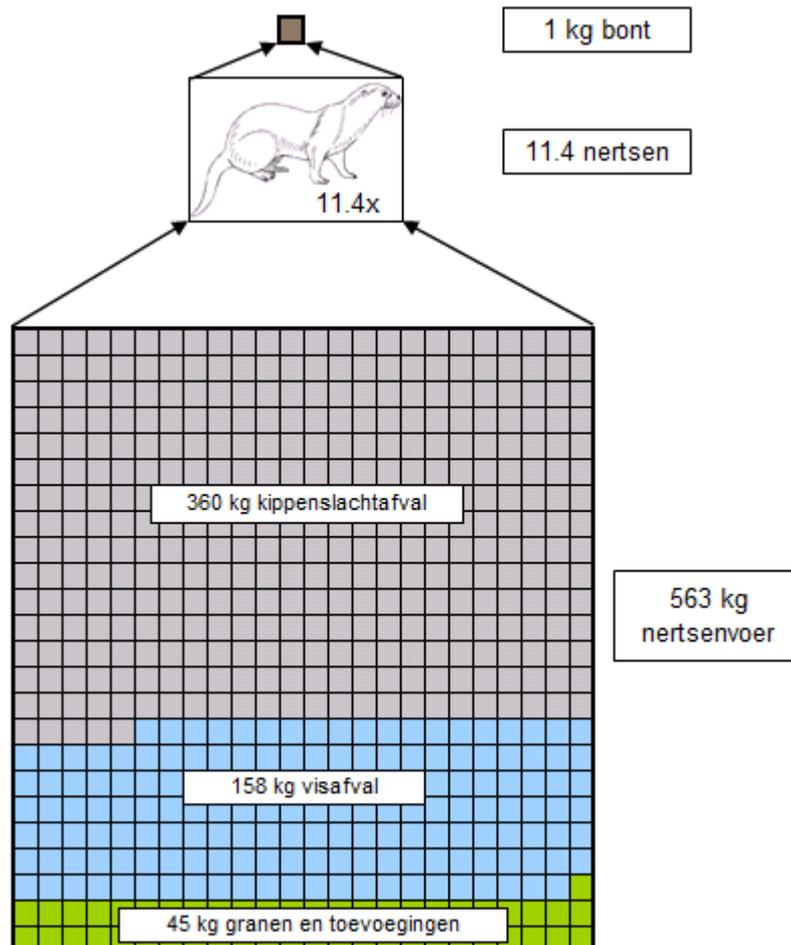
De fasen zijn zo goed mogelijk geïnventariseerd. Niet voor alle onderdelen van keten zijn data gevonden en in sommige gevallen zijn scenario's opgesteld, waarbij de scenario's met laagste waarden zijn geselecteerd voor analyse. Zo kunnen de berekende milieu-impacts gezien worden als minimale score: het is zeer waarschijnlijk dat werkelijke impact hoger ligt dan getoond in de studie. De milieukundige analyse neemt Nederlandse nertsenhoudery als uitgangspunt: 10% van het nertsbont op de wereldmarkt is afkomstig van Nederlandse nertsenfokkerijen. Daarmee staat Nederland op de 3^e plek van de wereldranglijst. Omdat er tussen landen maar beperkte variatie is in de



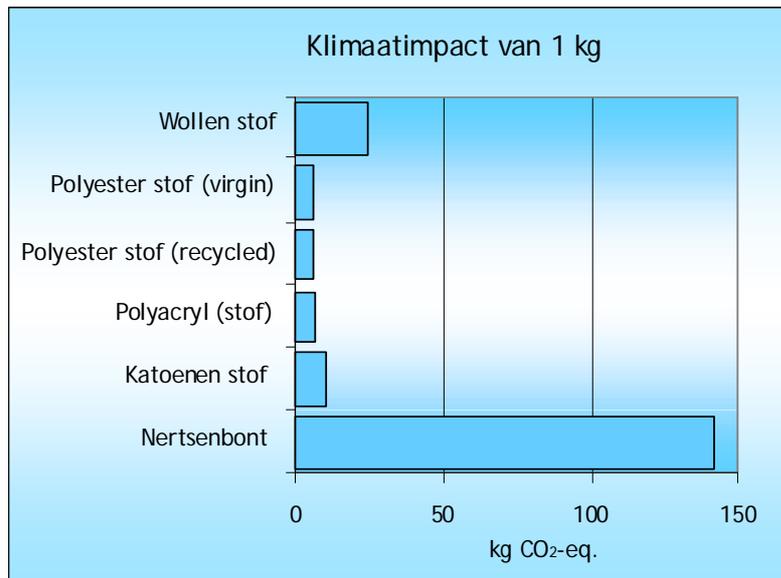
belangrijke parameters, zoals voer, zijn de resultaten echter ook relevant voor nertsensbont uit andere Europese landen.

Resultaten

Voor 1 kilo bont zijn gemiddeld 11,4 nertsenspelzen nodig, dus de vachten van meer dan 11 dieren. Eén nerts eet bijna 50 kilo voer gedurende zijn leven (inclusief het aandeel voer voor het moederdier), wat neerkomt op 563 kilo voer voor 1 kilo bont.



Het voer bestaat grotendeels uit slachtafval, dat een lage economische waarde heeft. Daardoor wordt maar een klein deel van de milieu-impact toegerekend aan het slachtafval; het voer mensen eetbare deel neemt het grootste deel van de milieu-impact voor zijn rekening. De teelt van granen brengt ook milieu-impact met zich mee. De totale milieu-impact van 1 kg nertsenvoer is niet hoog, maar de 563 kilo voer per kilo bont draagt flink bij aan de totale milieu-impact van bont en is voor 14 van de 18 milieueffecten een bepalende factor.



In vergelijking met textiel heeft bont de hoogste impact voor 17 van de 18 berekende milieueffecten, waaronder klimaatverandering, vermesting, toxische emissies. De impacts van bont zijn een factor 2 tot 28 hoger, zelfs al worden voor diverse stappen in de bontketen de lage (ondergrens)waardes gebruikt. Alleen voor waterverbruik heeft bont niet de hoogste score, maar katoen.

Ook de N₂O-emissie (stikstofoxide) en NH₃-emissie (ammoniak) afkomstig van de nertsensmest vormen een belangrijke factor bij de berekening van de milieu-impact. Deze stoffen dragen vooral bij aan de effecten verzuring en de vorming van fijn stof.

Het klimaateffect van 1 kilo bont is 5x zo hoog als de hoogste score voor ander textiel (wol). Dit komt door het voer en door de N₂O-emissie van mest.



Résumé

Contexte de l'étude

Depuis plusieurs dizaines d'années, la production de fourrure fait l'objet d'un débat intense dans de nombreux pays occidentaux. Aux Pays-Bas et en Belgique, les discussions se concentrent sur la peau de vison car il s'agit du seul type de fourrure produite dans ces deux pays. En Italie, la production de fourrure de vison est relativement faible, et le débat concerne surtout son utilisation dans le milieu de la mode. Les associations de défense animale attirent l'attention sur des questions relatives au bien-être animal, notamment sur les conditions de vie des animaux, et s'opposent pour des raisons éthiques à l'utilisation de visons pour la fourrure. L'industrie de la fourrure, de son côté, considère la production de celle-ci comme une activité agricole écologique, et invoque les mesures prises afin de réduire les émissions de CO₂ ainsi que la consommation d'eau et d'énergie. La fourrure est ainsi présentée comme un produit «naturel» et sain sur le plan environnemental.

En réaction à ce positionnement, les associations Bont voor Dieren (Pays-Bas), GAIA (Belgique) et la Lega Antivivisezione (LAV) (Italie), ont demandé à CE Delft de mener une étude sur l'impact environnemental de la chaîne de production de la fourrure.

Analyse du cycle de vie

CE Delft a effectué une analyse du cycle de vie (ACV) de la production de la fourrure, visant donc à quantifier l'impact environnemental de la chaîne de production et ses implications diverses ('de l'alimentation des poulets à l'étoffe de fourrure'). L'analyse se divise en deux parties:

- Étude de l'impact de la production de la fourrure à l'égard de 18 critères environnementaux, en déterminant les phases de la chaîne de production ayant le plus grand impact.
- Relevé des éléments permettant une comparaison entre l'impact environnemental de la fourrure de visons et celui d'autres textiles (le coton, l'acrylique, le polyester et la laine).

La chaîne de production de la fourrure

L'étude de la chaîne de la production s'étend de la nourriture des visons jusqu'à la production effective d'1 kilogramme de fourrure destinée à l'industrie de la mode. Plus spécifiquement, les phases de la production de fourrure de visons ayant fait l'objet d'une enquête sont les suivantes:

- Production de nourriture pour visons: la nourriture se compose d'abats de poulets et de poissons, avec ajout de farine de blé et d'additifs.
- Élevage des visons: les visons sont élevés sur une période de 7 à 8 mois, avant d'être écorchés.
- Écorchage: la peau est enlevée de la carcasse, nettoyée et séchée.
- Mise en vente
- Traitement de la fourrure: procédés de transformation de la peau brute (semblables aux procédés employés pour le traitement du cuir) en un produit prêt à l'emploi dans l'industrie de la mode.
- Transport: Facteur intervenant entre chaque étape de la production.

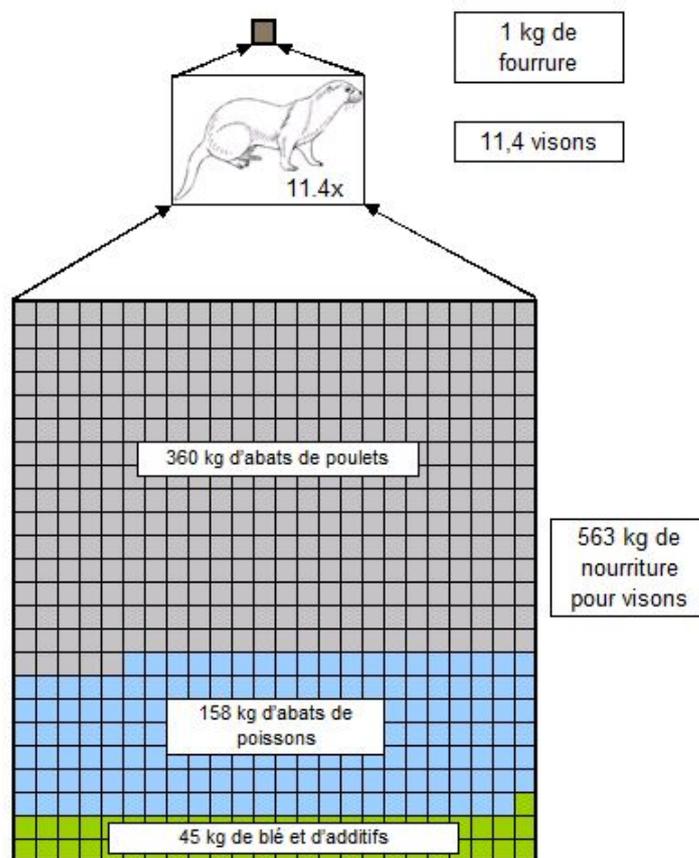
Chacun des paramètres entrant en jeu dans la chaîne de production a été examiné de façon la plus précise possible. Toutefois, certaines informations n'ont parfois pas pu être trouvées. Dans ces situations, plusieurs cas de figure ont été formulés, mais toujours avec la prise en compte des évaluations les plus basses dans l'analyse. Les impacts environnementaux calculés dans cette étude peuvent donc être considérés comme les chiffres minimums, et selon



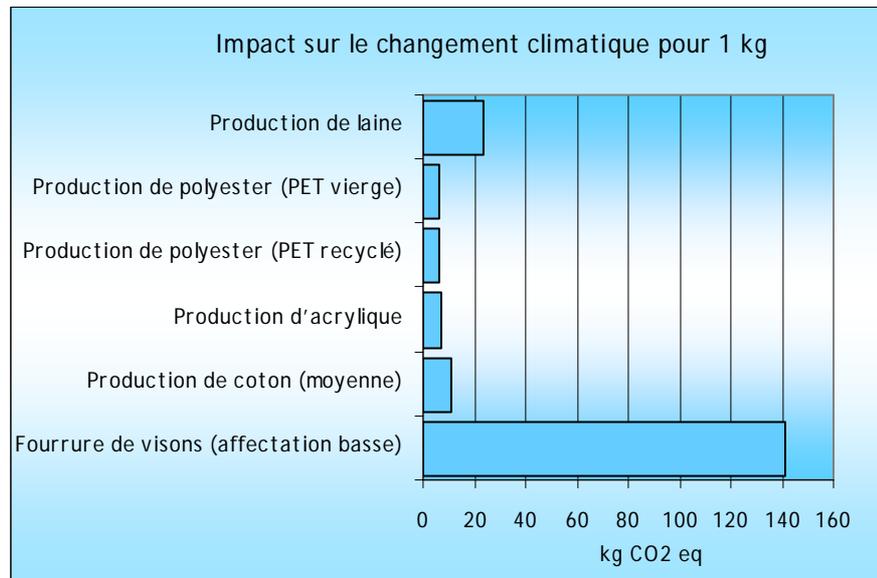
toute probabilité, les impacts réels sont plus importants. Cette analyse prend comme repère les pratiques de l'élevage de visons aux Pays-Bas: 10% de la fourrure de visons sur le marché mondial provient d'élevages néerlandais, faisant de ce pays le troisième plus grand producteur. La disparité dans les paramètres importants (comme la nourriture des animaux) étant limitée entre les pays, les résultats obtenus peuvent être considérés comme pertinents pour les autres pays européens producteurs de fourrure de visons.

Résultats

La production de 1 kg de fourrure requiert 11,4 peaux de visons, soit plus de 11 animaux. Au cours de sa vie, un vison consomme près de 50 kg de nourriture (part de la mère de l'animal comprise), ce qui représente donc 563 kg de nourriture par kilogramme de fourrure.



La nourriture se compose principalement d'abats, économiquement avantageux et donc responsables d'une part minime de la charge environnementale du poulet ou du poisson. La viande propre à la consommation humaine ayant un coût plus important, elle est considérée comme responsable de la majeure partie de l'impact environnemental. La culture du blé entre également en jeu. Bien que l'impact environnemental occasionné par la production d'1 kg de nourriture pour visons ne soit pas particulièrement élevé en soi, l'empreinte écologique globale de la fourrure est en fait considérablement alourdie par la quantité de nourriture requise pour 1 kg de fourrure: 563 kg. La nourriture est ainsi le facteur prédominant pour 14 des 18 critères étudiés.



Par rapport aux matières textiles, la fourrure a un impact plus important dans 17 des 18 critères environnementaux, ce qui comprend notamment le changement climatique, l'eutrophisation et les émissions toxiques. Dans de nombreux cas, l'effet de la production de la fourrure est nettement plus néfaste que le textile, avec un impact de 2 à 28 fois supérieur, même en prenant en compte des valeurs minimales pour plusieurs paramètres de la chaîne de production. La seule exception est la consommation en eau : la production de coton est la plus gourmande en la matière.

Les autres facteurs contribuant remarquablement à l'impact environnemental global sont les émissions de N_2O (Oxyde nitreux) et de NH_3 (ammoniac), provenant du lisier des visons. Ces émissions sont principalement responsables d'acidification et de formation de particules fines.

L'impact sur le changement climatique occasionné par la production d'1 kg de fourrure est cinq fois supérieur au textile le plus néfaste en la matière (la laine). En cause, les émissions de N_2O et le lisier des visons.



Riepilogo

Informazioni generali

Per diversi decenni la produzione di pellicce è stata argomento di accese discussioni in molti Paesi del mondo occidentale. Nei Paesi Bassi e in Belgio questo dibattito si è concentrato sulle pellicce di visone, l'unico tipo di pellicce prodotto in questi Paesi. In Italia le pellicce di visone vengono prodotte in quantità relativamente ridotte e in questo Paese il dibattito riguarda principalmente l'uso delle pellicce nel settore della moda. Le associazioni anti-pellicce mettono in evidenza i problemi relativi al benessere animale, incluse le condizioni scadenti in cui vengono tenuti gli animali, e sollevano obiezioni di tipo etico all'allevamento di visoni con il solo scopo di utilizzarli per la loro pelliccia. Da parte sua, l'industria delle pellicce considera la produzione di pellicce come un'attività a basso impatto ambientale e cita le diverse misure impiegate per ridurre le emissioni di CO₂ e il consumo di acqua ed energia. Per questo motivo le pellicce vengono considerate come un prodotto a basso impatto ambientale e "naturale".

Per contestare questo tipo di informazioni alcune organizzazioni non governative come l'olandese Bont voor Dieren, la belga GAIA (Azione globale per i diritti degli animali) e l'italiana LAV (Lega Anti Vivisezione) hanno chiesto a CE Delft di studiare l'impatto ambientale dell'industria di produzione delle pellicce.

Analisi del ciclo di vita

CE Delft ha condotto un'analisi del ciclo di vita (LCA, life cycle assessment) della produzione di pellicce, al fine di quantificare l'impatto ambientale dei diversi anelli della catena produttiva, "dal mangime a base di pollame fino alla pelliccia finita". L'analisi era composta di due parti:

- Determinazione dell'impatto della produzione di pellicce in base a 18 diversi temi ambientali, fornendo informazioni su quali fasi della catena di produzione delle pellicce abbiano un impatto maggiore.
- Confronto dell'impatto della produzione di pellicce con l'impatto della produzione di altri prodotti tessili comuni, come cotone, acrilico, poliestere e lana, permettendo di conseguenza un confronto dal punto di vista ambientale tra le pellicce di visone e altri materiali tessili.

La catena di produzione delle pellicce

La catena di produzione delle pellicce viene studiata dalla produzione dell'alimento per i visoni fino alla produzione di 1 chilogrammo di pelliccia per l'uso nell'industria della moda. Più specificatamente, sono state esaminate le seguenti fasi riguardanti la catena di produzione delle pellicce di visone:

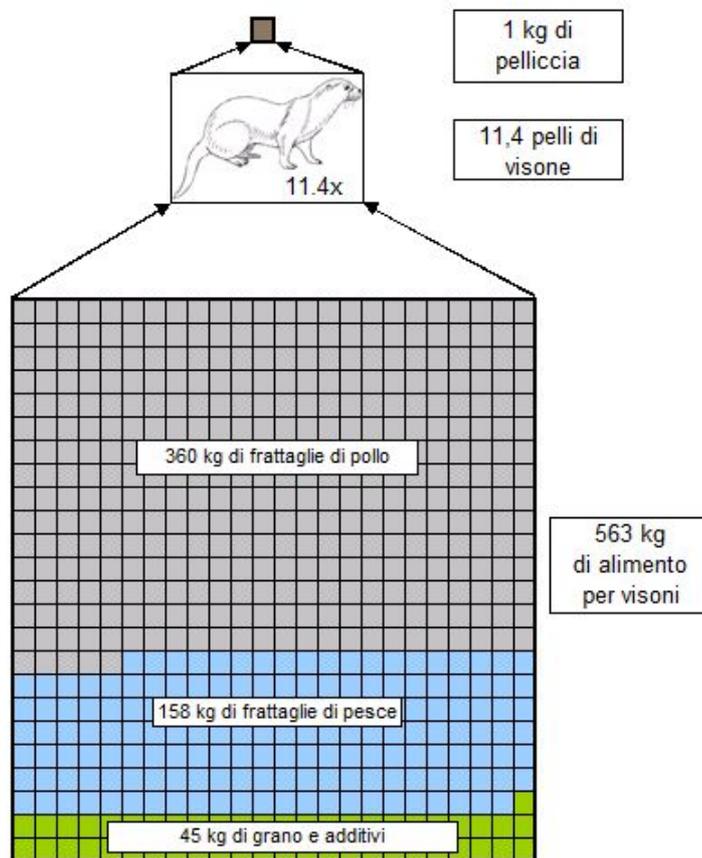
- *Produzione di alimento per visoni*: l'alimento consiste in frattaglie di pollo e pesce, integrate con farina di grano e additivi.
- *Allevamento dei visoni*: i visoni sono allevati per 7-8 mesi e quindi vengono abbattuti e scuoiati.
- *Scuoimento*: la pelle viene rimossa dalla carcassa, viene pulita ed essiccata.
- *Vendita all'asta*.
- *Trattamento delle pellicce*: procedure per la trasformazione di pellami duri in pellicce (in modo simile alla lavorazione del cuoio), pronte per ulteriori lavorazioni nell'industria della moda.
- *Trasporto*: tra le diverse fasi del ciclo si inserisce il trasporto da un luogo all'altro.



Ognuno di questi anelli della catena di produzione è stato esaminato nel modo più dettagliato possibile. Tuttavia, non è stato possibile trovare dati su alcuni aspetti in particolare e in alcune situazioni i dati sono stati estrapolati, utilizzando per l'analisi la situazione meno grave possibile. Gli impatti ambientali calcolati in questo studio possono essere di conseguenza considerati come impatti di livello minimo e molto probabilmente gli impatti reali sono molto più significativi. Come punto di partenza l'analisi ha impiegato la pratica di allevamento di visoni nei Paesi Bassi: di tutte le pellicce di visone presenti sul mercato mondiale, il 10% ha origine dagli allevamenti di visoni olandesi, rendendo così i Paesi Bassi il terzo Paese produttore di pelli di visone al mondo. Considerando una bassa variazione tra i diversi Paesi riguardo i principali parametri, come ad esempio l'alimento per visoni, i risultati possono essere considerati rilevanti anche per gli altri Paesi europei produttori di pellicce di visone.

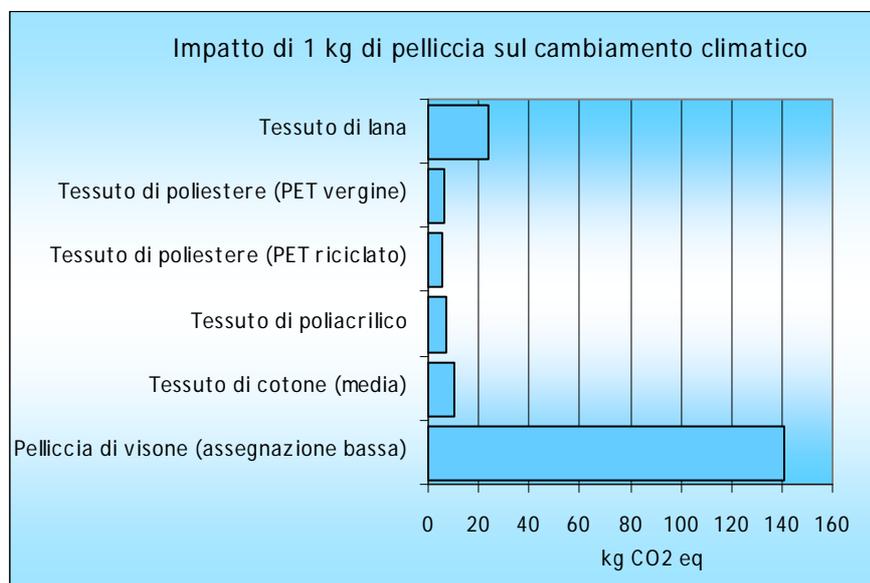
Risultati

Per produrre 1 kg di pelliccia sono necessari 11,4 pelli di visone, ossia più di 11 animali. Nel corso della sua vita, un visone consuma quasi 50 kg di alimento (inclusa la parte assunta dalla madre), arrivando ad un totale di 563 kg di alimento per ogni kg di pelliccia.



L'alimento consiste principalmente in frattaglie, di basso valore economico, e a cui per questo motivo viene assegnata solo una piccola parte dell'impatto ambientale del pollo o del pesce. La carne utilizzata per il consumo umano possiede il valore più elevato e per questo le viene assegnato il valore totale

dell'impatto ambientale. Anche la coltivazione del grano ha un impatto ambientale. Sebbene l'impatto ambientale totale di 1 kg di alimento per visoni non sia particolarmente elevato, i 563 chili necessari per produrre 1 kg di pellicce aumenta considerevolmente l'impronta ambientale totale delle pellicce e per 14 impatti dei 18 impatti studiati l'alimento rappresenta il fattore principale.



Rispetto ai tessuti, le pellicce hanno un maggiore impatto ambientale per 17 temi ambientali su 18, inclusi il cambiamento climatico, l'eutrofizzazione e le emissioni di sostanze tossiche. In molti casi le pellicce sono risultate marcatamente peggiori dei tessuti, con impatti da 2 a 28 volte più elevati, anche quando venivano considerati valori bassi per i diversi anelli della catena di produzione. L'unica eccezione è stato l'utilizzo di acqua: per questo impatto il cotone ha avuto il punteggio più alto.

Altri fattori che contribuiscono in modo ragguardevole all'impatto ambientale complessivo delle pellicce di visone comprendono le emissioni di N_2O (monossido di azoto) e NH_3 (ammoniaca) provenienti dalle deiezioni dei visoni. Queste emissioni contribuiscono principalmente all'acidificazione e alla formazione di materiale in sospensione.

L'impatto sul cambiamento climatico di 1 kg di pelliccia di visone è cinque volte superiore a quello del tessuto con punteggio maggiore (lana). Questo è dovuto sia alla alimentazione per i visoni che alle emissioni di N_2O delle deiezioni dei visoni.





1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Keeping animals for their fur is the subject of a broad public debate which has been going on for many years now. Naturally, the fur industry and anti-fur associations have opposing views, and each try to sway the debate with arguments and counter-arguments.

For anti-fur organisations the main issue is of an ethical nature: they object to mink keeping and killing animals for their fur, and focus on animal welfare and animal rights. The European Fur Breeders' Association (EFBA), for its part, regards fur farming as a 'green' agricultural activity and the fur industry recommends fur as being an environmentally sound natural product. According to its website, EFBA 'supports any decision that can reduce global emissions impacting on climate change' and points to the measures being taken to its reduce CO₂ emissions.

Several NGOs have expressed their doubts regarding the extent to which fur can be qualified as environmental friendly, among them the Dutch anti-fur campaigning group Bont voor Dieren, the Belgian GAIA (Global Action in the Interest of Animals) and the Italian Lega Antivivisezione (LAV). They commissioned CE Delft to conduct an analysis of the environmental impact of the fur trade.

CE Delft is an independent research and consultancy organisation specialised, among other things, in performing life cycle assessment (LCA). LCAs are performed for a wide range of clients, including companies, governments, NGOs and branch organisations. We agreed to perform an LCA on the fur production chain, inventorying the various steps and analysing their environmental impact as far as was possible, given data availability.

An LCA is an environmental analysis, not an analysis of sustainability. Sustainability comprises three dimensions: economic, ethical and environmental. As this is an LCA, however, ethical aspects are not under investigation and CE Delft wishes to remain objective in the pro- or anti-fur debate.

1.2 Focus

The focus of the present study is on fur from farmed animals, as these are the mainstay of the fur trade, accounting for some 85% of the industry's turnover (IFTF, 2010). The analysis takes the Dutch mink farming practice as a starting point: of all the mink fur on the world market, 10% originates from Dutch mink farms, making the Netherlands the world's third-largest mink pelt-producing country (EFBA, 2010b). European production in total contributes about 65% to the world production of mink pelts.



1.3 Aim

The aim of the project is to provide a picture of the overall environmental impact of the fur production, giving consideration to the entire chain of production. The analysis consists of two elements:

- determination of the environmental impact of fur;
- comparison of the environmental impact of fur with other types of textile.

The impact of 1 kg of fur has been determined for 18 categories of environmental impact, providing details on which aspects or phases of the fur production chain cause which environmental impacts. Owing to data gaps and the use of lower-bound scenarios, the results should be viewed as lower limits.

The environmental impacts of mink fur are compared with those of several common textiles: cotton, acryl and polyester (imitation fur) and wool. This provides insight into the relative performance of the fur production chain and helps answer the question whether fur can be qualified as 'environmentally friendly'.

1.4 Methodology

1.4.1 Life Cycle Assessment

To assess the environmental impacts of fur production, a life cycle assessment (LCA) was conducted. The goal was to model the fur production chain as accurately as possible and then assess the environmental impacts associated with each of the links.

LCA comprises a number of phases:

- establishing the goal and scope of the study;
- data inventory;
- modelling the fur production chain;
- impact assessment: quantification of environmental effects;
- interpretation.

All these phases are reported on in the present document, which is structured accordingly. This section discusses the main choices regarding methodology, goal and scope. Further background information on LCA is provided in Annex A.1.

For modelling the life cycle we made use of the LCA program SimaPro. This software is specifically designed for modelling life cycles and performing impact assessments. The program contains databases with substances, materials, processes and products, which can be used to create a model of the fur production chain. The substances, etc. reflect the inventoried inputs and outputs as well as possible. The Ecoinvent database was the principal database used, this being the most extensive and reliable available. To augment this data, some of the processes have been modelled on the basis of available literature data.



For assessing the impacts of the modelled fur production chain, the ReCiPe Midpoint method has been used. This method was developed in 2008 and is widely used for assessing emission-related impacts as well as land use. The method determines 18 environmental effects, among which:

- Emission-related:
 - climate change;
 - ozone layer depletion;
 - particulate formation;
 - human toxicity;
 - ecotoxicity;
 - acidification;
 - eutrophication of soil and water.
- Water consumption¹.
- Land use.

The full list and description of studied environmental impacts and more information on the ReCiPe Midpoint method is provided in Annex A.2.

Potential local environmental issues associated with fur production, such as odour and the risk of animal escapes (and their impact on local ecosystems) are not part of the quantitative approach. They do play a role in mink farming, however, and these issues will be addressed briefly in a qualitative manner.

1.4.2 Goal and scope definition

The goal of the study is to assess the life cycle environmental impacts of fur production. As a secondary goal, the impacts will be compared to the impacts of several common textile materials. This second goal will be discussed at the end of this section.

An attributional assessment has been made of the life cycle impacts of fur. This means that the results reflect the current, average impacts associated with 1 kg of mink fur as dictated by the goal. The results thus do not reflect the potential indirect consequences of significantly increasing or decreasing the scale of fur production.

Allocation has been effectuated using the so-called cut-off approach (with farmland application of mink manure defined as being outside the fur farming system, for example) or by economic value (in the case of chicken and fish offal). Figure 1 shows the fur production chain up to the manufacture of a 1 kg patch of fur. Between each of the links in the chain are transportation steps. These are not shown in Figure 1, but have been included in the analysis.

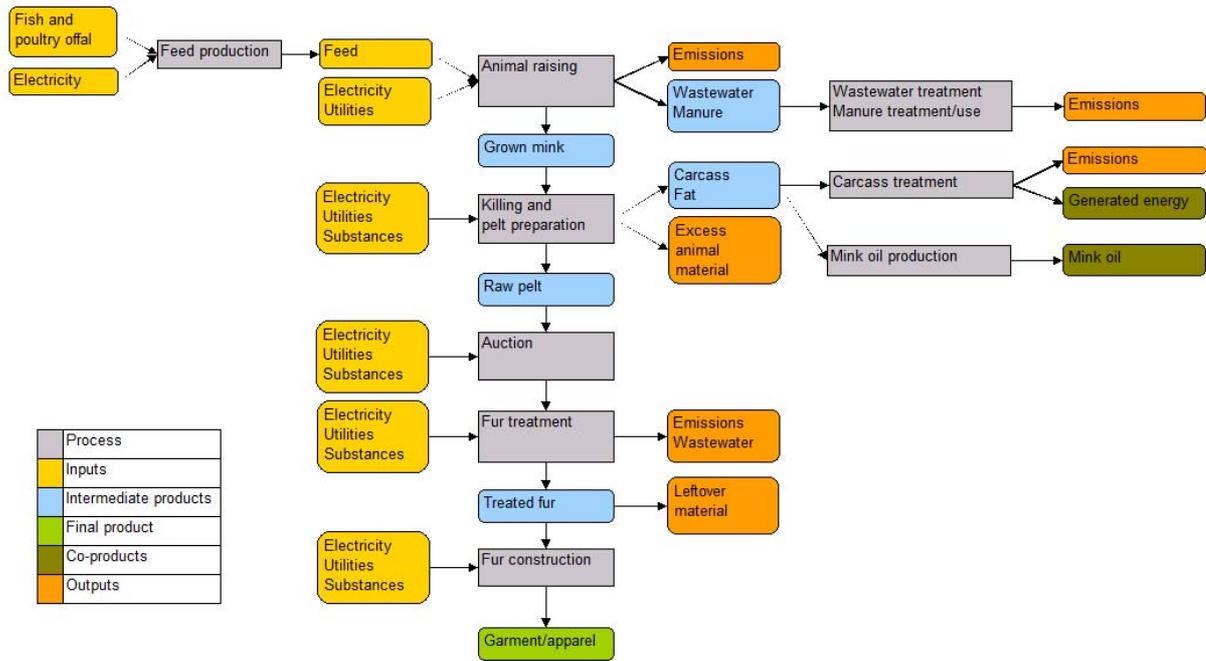
Not included in the analysis are fabrication of apparel (coats, collars, etc.), product maintenance and characteristics of the final product (lifespan, insulating capacity). This is for the same reason of comparability.

Secondly, different fur products have different characteristics, making it hard to formulate assumptions about the likely properties of the final product.

¹ This concerns 'blue' water only and thus does not give a full water footprint as reported on e.g. waterfootprint.org.



Figure 1 System of the fur production chain



The goal was to fully map all the inputs and outputs of the fur production chain, in an endeavour to draw up a complete inventory. In practice, however, there proved to be many data gaps: not all the data required to map all the inputs and outputs is freely available. Some aspects could thus only be partially covered, while certain aspects were not covered at all, owing to lack of data or deliberate omission. Figure 2 shows the aspects that have and have not been taken into account in the analysis. Table 1 provides further details on the included and excluded aspects, as well as the reason for (partial) exclusion.

Figure 2 shows a change in system boundary: mink oil production now lies outside the system. In addition, manure treatment/use is also placed outside the system.

- We found no evidence that mink oil is produced out of minks, grown in The Netherlands. Besides, data on mink oil production is lacking, as well as data on the fat content of mink and conclusive data on mink oil value. If known, we could assign part of the environmental impacts up to mink killing and pelt preparation to the mink oil. Since we do not know what share to attribute to mink oil, though, we place mink oil production outside the system. This way we ignore the mink oil production and assume that the fur is responsible for the sum total of environmental effects. So there is no allocation to mink oil, which would lead to a lower environmental score for fur. At the other hand, fur is not assigned (part of) the additional burden associated with mink oil production and transportation to the oil production location.
- Mink manure is either used as fertilizer on farmland, or digested in a biogas plant. As data on biogas production are lacking, we assume the manure is used on farmland. The use of fertilizer is an input for the agricultural produce grown on the land, so these emissions are not part of the mink-keeping system.

Figure 2 System boundary and inputs/outputs actually investigated

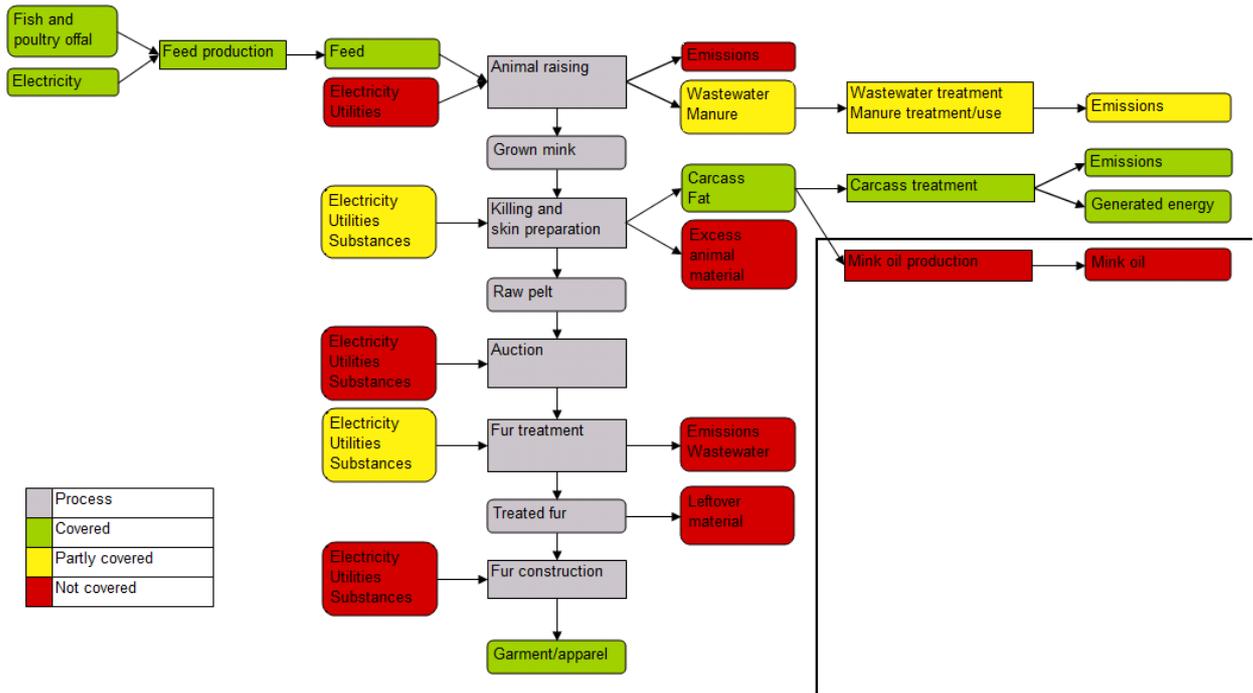


Table 1 Data availability and gaps in the model of the fur production chain

	Included	Excluded	Reason for exclusion
Feed production	Fish, meat and offal production Electricity for refrigeration		
Animal raising	Feed Use of straw Drinking water for minks	Electricity use of barns Water consumption for cleaning Emissions caused by utilities use	Lack of data Lack of data Lack of data
	Manure production Emissions due to manure	Wastewater and wastewater treatment Manure treatment and use	Lack of data Belongs to other system
Animal processing	Use of gas for killing Electricity for a number of machines	Electricity for a number of machines	Specifics for a number of machines are available
	Carcass treatment	Freezing of the carcass at farm Mink oil production	Lack of data Lack of data
Auction		All inputs	Deliberately omitted: minor influence anticipated
Fur treatment	Chemicals	Consumption of electricity, water and other utilities Wastewater	Lack of data Lack of data
Fur construction	Electricity consumption		



	Included	Excluded	Reason for exclusion
Transportation	Indication of all transport steps from mink feed production to making of apparel		

Comparison with other textiles

The functional unit is 1 kg of mink fur or textile. This functional unit has been chosen to allow fair comparison with other fabrics with different properties. For example: the functionality of 1 m² cotton fabric differs from 1 m² fur, which makes them incomparable. Only fabrics with a certain area having the same functionality (like fur and fabricated synthetic fur) can be fairly compared. Van Dijk (2002) takes this approach: she selects a functional unit of 1 m² of fur, for comparison with 1 m² of synthetic fur. Synthetic fur, according to Van Dijk (2002), is made of 100% acryl (fibre and backing), or acrylic fibre with a cotton backing.

In this study, though, the aim is to compare fur with a wider range of common textiles (wool, polyester, etc.) for which 1 kg is a better functional unit for the intended comparison.

The following example shows that in this approach it is still possible to compare fake fur with real mink fur, as the density of the two is similar:

- density of fur: 670 g/m² (measurements, this study);
- density of fake fur: 693 g/m² (Van Dijk, 2002).

The composition of synthetic fur is (Van Dijk, 2002) is:

- 72% acrylic fibre;
- 28% cotton fabric.

The environmental impact of 1 m² synthetic fur can be calculated according to this data. The environmental impact of 1 kg fake fur is the score for cotton fabric x 0.72 + the score for polyacryl x 0.28.



2 The fur chain

This chapter starts out by providing some general information on the global mink market (Section 2.1) and an introductory review of the fur chain (Section 2.2). Section 2.3 presents the inventory data on the constituent links of the chain and the assumptions made in this study and discusses the remaining data gaps. The chapter concludes with the data inventory for production chains of the common textiles analysed for comparison (Section 2.4).

2.1 Mink fur production

Table 2 shows the ranking of mink-producing countries according to FCUSA (2010) and EFBA (2010b). The Netherlands ranks as the world's third-largest producer. Most mink farming takes place in Europe. In 2009, nearly 65% (30 million pelts) of global mink fur demand was supplied from European farms. The other main mink-producing countries are China, the USA, Canada and Russia. Within Europe, fur farming is concentrated mainly in the EU-15, principally Denmark, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden (EFBA, 2010a; 2010b).

Table 2 Mink fur-producing countries

Country	FCUSA (2010): year 2010	EFBA (2010b): year 2009	Mink pelt production per year ²
Denmark	27.7%	35.7%	14,000,000
China	23.8%	19.4%	12,000,000
Netherlands	9.5%	11.7%	4,500,000
Poland	8.5%		4,300,000
USA	6.7%	6%	3,400,000
Canada	4.4%	5.0%	2,200,000
Finland	4.0%	5.2%	2,100,000
Baltic states	2.8%		801,000
Russia	2.6%	4.5%	1,300,000
Sweden	2.0%	3.3%	1,200,000
Belarus	1.6%		800,000
Belgium			150,000
Italy			150,000
Other	6.4%	9.2%	3,200,000

² European data: EFBA (2010b); other: calculated and rounded according to FCUSA (2010) reporting a world pelt production of 50.48 pelts in 2010.



2.2 Description of steps and processes in the fur chain

Breeding mink

In the Netherlands, mink are bred in half-open or closed sheds, with each bitch having her own pen. The bitches give birth once a year, around April/May; the mother animal gives birth to 5 to 6 young a year (NFE), the average litter size being 5.5 (LEI, 2007). The young are bred and subsequently skinned in November or December (LEI, 2007 and USFCA).

The mink are kept in cages (with a maximum of two per cage) with one sleeping compartment (box) per mink, the minimum size of which is laid down by decree in the Netherlands (Dienstenrichtlijn PPE, 2009).

Table 3 Minimum cage size and area per mink

	Min. cage size:	Min. box size (1)	Min. box size (2)	Total for 2 mink	Total for 1 mink
Length (m)	0.85	0.2	0.2	1.25	0.63
Width (m)	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.35
Height (m)	0.45	0.15	0.15	0.75	0.38
Area (m)	0.255	0.04	0.04	0.875	0.44

Figure 3 Cages and gutters



Source: Jasopels catalogue.

Figure 4 Mink cage with feed on top



Source: Rond, 2008.

Manure

Manure is collected in gutters and removed or collected on belts and transported for storage in a manure pit. The manure may be treated to reduce its nitrogen and phosphorus content and/or dried. Whether as slurry or dried, the manure can be used as fertilizer on farmland or digested in a biogas plant. In the Netherlands there are a number of biogas plants processing poultry and mink manure (WUR, 2010). We were unable to find any indication of the split between processing in biogas plant and as fertilizer.

Feed

Feed is placed on top of the cage at least once a day (Dienstenrichtlijn PPE, 2009). Mink are fed by-products from the fishing and poultry industries (EFBA, NFE). Animal waste is processed to mink feed by feed manufacturers, who supplement the meat with wheat, minerals and vitamins. The processed feed is frozen using so-called plate freezers, which form large frozen slabs of meat. The meat is then cold-stored and transported in insulated trucks (Keizersberg diervoeders).

Figure 5 Feed production: plate freezing and storage



Source: Keizersberg diervoeders

Slaughter and carcass processing

The mink are killed on the farm (EFBA, LEI). The only FCUSA-approved method for slaughtering mink is by bottled gas: either pure carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide (FCUSA, AVMA guidelines on euthanasia). In the Netherlands the animals are placed via a lock in an airtight box, which is then filled with carbon monoxide (NFE).

Figure 6 Gas box, for killing mink



Source: Jasopels catalogue.

Mink oil is a co-product of fur production. The thick fatty layer under the mink skin is removed from the pelt when the animal is skinned and then rendered into mink oil. Mink oil is used in several medical and cosmetic products and for the conditioning and preservation of leather (Wikipedia, mink oil). It is not known whether mink fat is indeed removed at Dutch farms, since it is not mentioned at all in LEI (2007).

The carcass is frozen and then disposed of and incinerated by destruction companies (NFE). In the Netherlands the company Rendac takes care of collection and destruction. The end products, animal fats and meal, are used as a biofuel on-site and in power plants and cement kilns.

Skin preparation

Following slaughter, the mink are skinned and the pelts prepared for auction. To aid in these processes a wide range of machines are available. The skinning and preparation phases can be largely automated (Jasopels catalogue). There are two ways of skinning animals, known as 'cased' and 'open'. All furs except beaver and badger are prepared in the former manner. After skinning, the pelt is fleshed (left-over muscle and fat are removed) and then placed inside out on a board for stretching and drying (Jasopelt catalogue). Drying the pelts takes three to four days (Belgian environmental permits).

Trade, auction

The majority of raw skins are sold through auction houses, often located close to producing areas (International Fur Trade Federation, IFTF). The world's largest auction houses are in Copenhagen, Helsinki, St. Petersburg, Seattle and Toronto.

Further fur processing

Because of the preservation techniques used, the raw pelt is hard and dry. After auctioning, the raw fur is further processed in a process known as fur dressing to convert the skin into leather and render it suitable for use in garments. To obtain the desired look, the processed fur may be optionally dyed (BASF). Fur dressing is similar to leather production, but with conservation of the hairs (BASF).

Table 4 Fur dressing processing steps

Phase of fur dressing	Description
Soaking	Restoration of the dried collagen to approximately the water content it had in life and preparation of the skins for subsequent mechanical and chemical treatments (Kite and Thompson, 2005)
Washing	
Bleaching	Optional step for whitening the fur
Pickling	Prevents bacterial attack and contributes to hydrolytic breakdown of non-collagen material in the skin structure (Kite and Thompson, 2005)
Tanning	Conversion from skin to leather, rendering it resistant to decomposition
Water-repellent treatment (oiling)	Lubrication of the skin with oil

The main international centres for skin dressing and processing are in the Baltic States, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy and Russia.

Apparel manufacture

In Europe, important fur apparel manufacturing locations are Kastoria and Siatista and the surrounding area, in Greece. Here, the fur industry dominates the local economy (Pelsdieren.be; Wikipedia - Kastoria).

The steps of apparel manufacture are as follows (Connecticut Furs Inc.):

- selection of the number of furs needed for the desired design;
- slicing the skin into strips and sewing these together to make the designed pattern;
- soaking in water, stretching and drying, to match the form and design of the pattern;
- mounting additional parts, like closures.

Figure 7 Piece of fur, composed of strips



Source: Kite and Thompson, 2005.

2.3 Inventory

This section presents quantitative inventory data for each of the process steps and reports the assumptions made.

This study makes use of publically available sources for data on mink fur production. Various Dutch agencies provide information on mink-farming emissions and regulatory documents are available in the Netherlands.

For certain aspects of the life cycle multiple data sources are available, with conflicting information. For some aspects, assumptions have been made and a range of possible values calculated. It was opted to take the lowest values, to construct a conservative model of the fur production chain. The results of the environmental impact assessment will thus reflect the lower bound.

2.3.1 General: animal growth and fur yield

Mink fur density

The organisation Bont voor Dieren provided two fur samples, which were measured as having an average density of 673.6 g/m². In this study a rounded value of 670 g/m² was used.

Pelts per kg and m²

Average sizes for female and male pelts were provided by the US importer and distributor Chichester, Inc. From this information the usable area of one pelt can be determined (Table 5). With the usable area and weight, it can be calculated how many pelts are needed for 1 kg and for 1 m² of fur (Table 6).

Table 5 Calculation of usable pelt area

Size of 1 pelt		Inch	mm	mm ²	m ²
Female	Length	21	533.4		
	Width, top	2.5	63.5		
	Width, bottom	4	101.6		
	Usable area			108,387	0.1084
Male	Length	24	609.6		
	Width, top	3	76.2		
	Width, bottom	5	127		
	Usable area			154,838	0.155

Table 6 Calculations: pelts per kg and pelts per m²

	Mean	Female	Male	
Area of one pelt	0.1316	0.1084	0.1548	m ²
Weight of 1 m ²	670	670	670	g
Weight of 1 pelt	88.2	72.6	103.7	g
Number of pelts per kg	11.4	13.8	9.6	p
Number of pelts per m ²	7.6	9.2	6.5	p

Litter size

LEI (2007) states that the average litter size for mink (in the Netherlands) is 5.5.



2.3.2 Feed

Composition

Both LEI (2007) and Van Dijk (2002) report a distribution of feed components. The most recent figures of LEI have been selected, shown in Table 7. 'Other' represents flour and additives like vitamins and antibiotics. As the exact amounts and types of additives are unknown, as a simplification we have assumed that 'other' represents flour only.

Table 7 Mink feed composition

	Van Dijk, 2002 inventory	Van Dijk, 2002 modelled	LEI, 2007
Fish (offal)	20%	22.20%	28%
Chicken (offal)	70%	77.80%	64%
Other	10%		8%

Amount of feed

LEI (2007) indicates that the total amount of feed consumed by a mink during its lifetime is about 40 kg. This was checked using data from LEI and NFE. The calculated value has been used and taking into account the feed of the mother animal as well, the total amount of feed is closer to 50 kg than 40 kg.

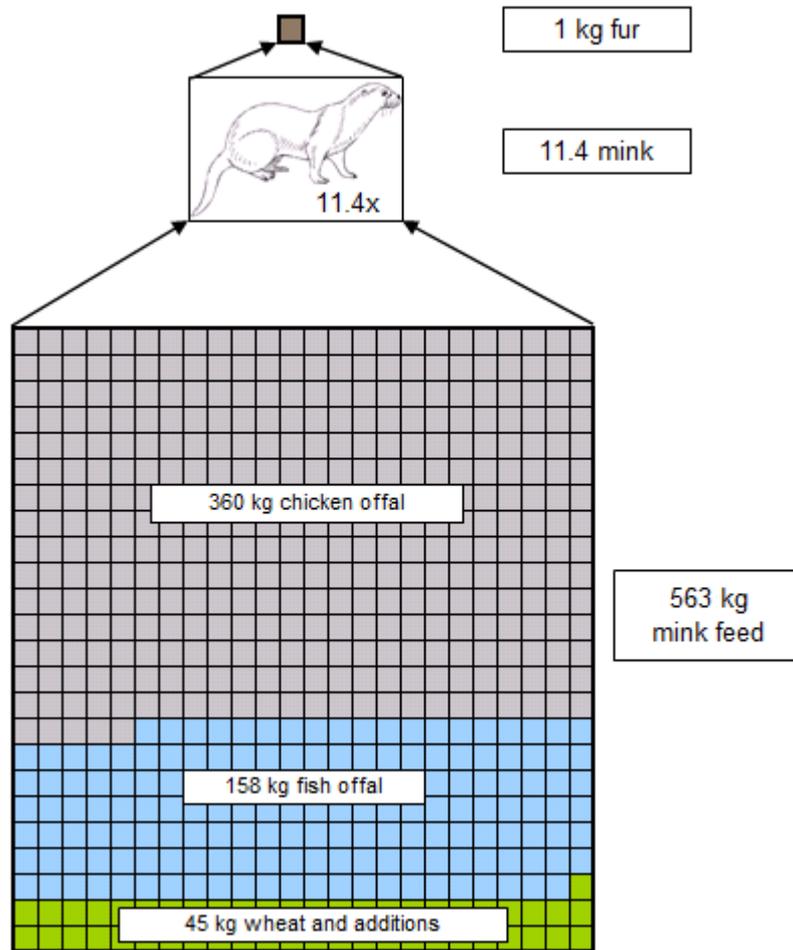
Table 8 Calculation: amount of feed

Subject	Value
Mother animals in the Netherlands (year 2006; LEI, 2007)	700,000
Young per mother animal (LEI, 2007)	5.5
Total number of mink	4,550,000
Offal consumed annually by mink farms (NFE, 2010)	180,000 to 200,000 kg
Feed per mink per year	41.8 kg (mean)
Taking into account 1/5.5 of mother animal	49.4 kg

With a total of 49.4 kg feed per mink and 11.4 pelts per kg, the total amount of feed required for 1 kg of fur is 563 kg. Figure 8 shows the implications of this: large amounts of chicken offal, fish offal and wheat are required to produce 1 kg of mink fur. The need for 563 kg food for 1 kg fur means that fur is inefficiently produced.



Figure 8 Food conversion



Feed data

Table 9 Source of background data used for modelling

Meat type	Background data
Chicken	Data according to Blonk (2008) and CE (2010)
Fish	Data according to Blonk (2008) and CE (2010)
Flour	Ecoinvent database: wheat grain

Blonk (2008) provides the background data (inputs and outputs) used for modelling the breeding/raising of chickens, fish catch and processing. This data was previously used in another project carried out by CE Delft (CE, 2010).

Allocation

The mink feed consists largely of offal, which has an economic value. Based on the economic value of offal and the value of the main products (for human consumption), allocation factors were determined. An allocation factor indicates what part of the environmental impact is to be attributed to the meat for human consumption, and what part to offal.

Both Blonk (2008) and Van Dijk (2002) report allocation factors for offal, as shown in Table 10 and Table 11.

Table 10 Allocation factors for chicken waste

Chicken wastes	Type	Share of chicken (weight)	Allocation factor	Environmental load of 1 kg product compared with 1 kg chicken
Blonk, 2008	Organs and blood (not for human consumption) and waste products	0.29	1.7%	5.9%
Van Dijk, 2002	All wastes	0.336	1.78%	5.3%

Table 11 Allocation factors for fish waste

Fish wastes	Type	Share of chicken (weight)	Allocation factor	Environmental load of 1 kg product compared with 1 kg fish
Blonk, 2008	Salmon	0.36	0.05	14%
Van Dijk, 2002	Plaice	0.5	0.42	0.83%

While the allocation factors reported for chicken are very similar, those for fish differ a great deal. The choice of allocation factor makes a major difference to the overall result: the higher the allocation factor, the higher the environmental load per kg offal.

In this study we have chosen to calculate the lower bound of the environmental impact of fur production, to be sure that the values shown represent the lowest calculated values. It was therefore opted to take the following values:

- the environmental impact of 1 kg chicken offal is 5.3% of 1 kg chicken;
- the environmental impact of 1 kg fish offal is 0.83% of 1 kg fish.

Refrigeration of feed

Data was collected on the energy requirements of freezing the offal and keeping it frozen in a cold-storage room. Refrigeration of the offal prior to processing at feed-producing companies was not specifically taken into account.

Table 12 Data inventory for refrigeration of feed

Subject	Value	Source
Energy requirements, plate freezer	60 to 100 kWh/tonne feed	Duiven, 2002
Energy requirements, cold storage	30 to 50 kWh/m ³ /year	Duiven, 2002
Density of meat	1,072 kg/m ³	Mean value of various meat products, according to Marcotte, 2008
Storage-room occupation	25 to 50%	Assumption
Chill duration	1 to 6 months	Assumption



The energy requirements of cold storage are expressed per m³ of storage. The energy requirements per m³ of food depend on the efficiency of using the storage room. It has been assumed that the storage room cannot be used to the full 100%, since space is needed for transportation and manoeuvring by forklift trucks. 50% has been assumed as an upper bound, with 25% arbitrarily taken as a lower bound, although a lower occupation rate is also possible. Chill duration is an unknown factor. Depending on the storage temperature, meat can be stored for over a year. It has here been assumed that the meat is frozen for 1 to 6 months.

Based on these data and assumptions, the energy requirements of freezing the feed and keeping it frozen were calculated. As assumptions regarding storage-room occupation and chill duration are of major influence on the results, two scenarios were run: one based on the lowest values, the other on the highest.

Table 13 Calculated energy requirements for 49.4 kg feed MJ

Energy requirements for 49.4 kg feed	Lower bound	Upper bound
Energy required for freezing the feed by plate freezers	3.0 MJ	4.9 MJ
Energy required for keeping the feed chilled in cold storage	0.2 MJ	4.6 MJ
Total energy required for freezing/cooling	3.2 MJ	9.5 MJ

Straw

Placing straw in the cage for the mink to use in the sleeping compartment is not obligatory by law but is done in practice. No data could be found on the exact amount of straw used for this purpose with mink and it was therefore assumed that each animal uses 2 kg straw in its lifetime. This figure may be low, but bearing in mind that not all farms probably use straw, it can be regarded as a suitable estimate for average mink farming.

2.3.3 Manure: emissions and use

During manure handling and storage, emissions occur. If handled correctly (manure collection in gutters, storage in containers), the manure will only cause emissions to air. Several studies and documents provide data on emissions from mink manure (Table 14) and these were used to establish emissions of methane, ammonia, N₂O and particulate matter (Table 15).

We were unable to find any indication of which share of the manure is used as fertilizer and what part is processed in a biogas plant. For this study, it is assumed that all manure is used as fertilizer.

When the manure is spread on farmland as fertilizer, there will be emissions to soil, water and air. These emissions have not been allocated to mink farming, however: the fertilizer is an input for the agricultural product grown on the land in question, so these emissions are not part of the mink-keeping system (they are outside the system boundaries). This approach to modelling the by-product manure is called 'cut-off'.

WUR (2003) reports that in some years there was an imbalance between the input (in feed) and output (in manure) of N and P on mink farms: there was a surplus of N and P, and some N and P was unaccounted for. The imbalance fluctuates markedly from year to year and it is unclear whether the surplus leads to emissions to soil, water or air. Owing to these uncertainties, possible emissions due to minerals surpluses have not been taken into account in this study.



Table 14 Emission factors and other data used for calculating emissions

Subject	Value	Source
Methane emission factor (g CH ₄ /kg manure)	0.62	NIR, 2010
Ammonia emission factor (kg NH ₃ per cage per year)		InfoMil ³
- Open manure storage under cage	0.58	
- Daily manure removal to closed storage	0.25	
N excretion per mother animal (kg/yr)	2.4	NIR, 2010
N excretion per mink (g/yr)	396	Calculated, assuming 5.5 young/mother animal and 1/5.5 share of mother animal
N emission factor	0.023	NIR, 2010
Annual PM ₁₀ emission per cage (g)	9	InfoMil
Manure production per mother animal (kg/yr)	103.7	NIR, 2010
Manure production per mink (kg/yr)	18.9	Calculated, assuming 5.5 young/mother animal and 1/5.5 share of mother animal

Table 15 Modelled emissions due to mink feed and manure

Category, source	Emission	Calculation	Value (g/lifetime)	Emission to
Manure management (NIR)	Methane emission	Em. factor * manure production	12	Air
Manure management (Infomil)	Ammonia emission	Emission factor/2 (2 mink per cage)	208	Air
Manure management (NIR)	N ₂ O emission	Em. factor * N excretion, converted to N ₂ O	16	Air
Animal management (WUR, 2003)	Particulate Matter < 10 µm	Emission factor/2 (2 mink per cage)	4.5	Air

2.3.4 Slaughter and carcass processing

Skinning

The Jasopels catalogue shows a large number of machines and tools for the fur industry, details of which are available on the company's website. Based on these specifics, the power requirements of a number of machines on which sufficient data are available were calculated. Machine usage will obviously differ from farm to farm: the machine park may be more or less comprehensive. The numbers are therefore merely indicative, to provide an idea of the order of magnitude of the environmental impact of the carcass processing phase. For details and calculations, see Annex B.

³ Website of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, Regulation on Ammonia and Cattle Farms, Main Category H: Fur-bearing animals.



Table 16 Calculation of CO requirements for killing one mink

Gas box	Value	Source
Box	~ 1 m ³	Jasopels catalogue
Gas	100% CO	NFE, 2010
Number of mink in box	30 to 50	Assumption
Density (room temperature, atmospheric pressure)	1.165 kg/m ³	Website: Engineering Toolbox
CO use per mink	0.02 to 0.04 kg	Calculated value

Table 17 Electricity and air requirements per pelt

Machine	Utility	Value per pelt	
Body drum	Electricity	36.3	kJ
	Compressed air, 8 bar	0.007	l
Skinning robot	Electricity	7.2	kJ
Fleshing machine	Electricity	461	kJ
	Compressed air, 8 bar	2	l
Drying	Electricity	817	kJ
	Compressed air, 4 bar	108	l
Total	Electricity use	1,321	kJ
	Compressed air use	110	l

Carcass disposal

The carcasses are collected and treated by Rendac. Data on the processing of carcasses by this firm are reported in CE (2008).

Table 18 Utility use for carcass treatment by Rendac

Utility	Value per kg carcass
Water use (m ³)	0.39 m ³
Energy (MJ, primary)	-2.37 MJ

Co-product: mink oil

We found no evidence that mink oil is produced out of minks, grown in The Netherlands. Therefore, in this study 100% of the modelled impacts have been allocated to the fur itself. Mink oil might be produced, however. As mentioned before, no conclusive data on mink oil value is found, but in this section we use consumer prices for mink oil to estimate the possible allocation to mink oil: part of the environmental impacts up to mink killing and pelt preparation gets attributed to the mink oil.

Unfortunately, no data on mink-oil production processes are available and data on yields and prices fluctuate and are from unofficial sources (websites, newspaper articles). Our first impression is that pure mink oil is expensive (consumer price), while yields are low. Based on available information, possible allocation factors for mink oil have been tentatively assessed here.

An article in the Wall Street Journal states that in 2008 the average mink pelt price was \$ 66, a record: 36% higher than the 2007 price (\$ 49 per pelt). Online, a number of mink oil products were found. The company Pure Mink Oil states that 3 to 10 ml of mink oil is obtained from one mink.



Table 19 Mink oil value and yield

Mink oil	Brand	Source
Production quantity	3 to 10 ml per mink	Pure mink oil
Price of end product	Sesbellot pure mink oil	\$ 89 for 50 ml
	Touch of mink, pure oil	\$ 57 for 56 g
	Brand unknown	\$ 36 for 56 g
		Ebay

It should be noted that these are consumer prices, which will be much higher than the price of mink oil as a raw ingredient at the point of separation from fur and carcass. It is the raw material price at that stage which should properly be used for economic allocation. Based on the fact that in LEI (2007) no mention is made of financial income for mink farmers from mink oil sales, one may conclude that the income is negligible compared with that earned from fur.

Nevertheless, from this information prices have been calculated for 1 kg of fur and for 34 g and 114 g of mink oil. In each instance, a high and low scenario have been calculated.

Table 20 Calculations: price per output

Output of 11.4 minks		Price, high (US \$)	Price, low
1 kg	Fur	$11.4 * \$ 66 = \$ 752$	$11.4 * \$ 49 = \$ 557$
34 g	Mink oil	$34 * \$ 89/0.05 = \$ 61$	$34 * \$ 36/0.056 = \$ 22$
114 g	Mink oil	$114 * \$ 89/0.05 = \$ 203$	$114 * \$ 36/0.05 = \$ 73$

Taking the highest and lowest values, the following two allocation scenarios were calculated.

Table 21 Allocation scenario 1

Outputs from 11.4 mink, low scenario for oil	Value (\$)	Allocation factor
1 kg fur	752	97.2%
34 g oil	22	2.8%
Total value of outputs	774	

Table 22 Allocation scenario 2

Outputs from 11.4 mink, high scenario for oil	Value (\$)	Allocation factor
1 kg fur	557	73%
114 g oil	203	27%
Total value of outputs	760	

In the case that mink fat is collected to produce mink oil, between 2.8 and 27% of all processes including killing and, partly, pelt preparation (see Figure 1) can be allocated to mink oil, according to these calculations. This 27% upper bound is interpreted as an absolute extreme, given that this is based, as stated, on consumer prices. Actual economic allocation may even be lower than 2.8%.



In the analysis we have therefore opted to allocate the full 100% of all impacts to fur. In the case that mink oil is indeed produced, this will introduce only a minor overestimate into the results.

2.3.5 Further fur processing

An attempt has been made to map the consumption of water, chemicals and other auxiliary materials during the fur-processing phase, as described in Section 2.2. Our main source of information was the '*BASF Pocketbook for the Leather Technologist*', which devotes one chapter to fur processing. This includes a list and description of substances used in the individual phases of fur processing. For fur, the *Pocketbook* does not provide a list detailing the amounts of chemicals used in each phase, but it does do so for the processing of leather. The fur industry is closely related to the leather industry, the main difference being that the fur remains anchored in the leather and the operations are carried out in such a manner that the hair is not damaged (BASF, 2010). BASF (2010) lists chemicals for both fur and leather processing. It shows the types of chemicals used for both processes are similar. Since volumes of chemicals are not available for fur processes, the volumes of the Nappa leather manufacturing process are adopted. Nappa leather is soft leather, used among other things for clothing. Based on the description of the individual substances, the best-fitting Ecoinvent substance was selected for modelling the fur-processing phase.

In a recent study Krautter (2010) tested fur samples for a number of toxic substances, five of which were mink fur samples of differing origin. Four of the latter showed levels of formaldehyde exceeding the legal limit for this substance, as laid down in EU toy safety directives, and the maximum values currently set in key industry standards, for example (Krautter, 2010). Although chrome salts are used in fur dressing, the samples did not test positive for the toxic variant chrome VI.

Mean values for formaldehyde and two other substances found in the mink fur samples have been included in the model. Although other chemicals were also found in these samples, most of these are very specific and are not present in the Ecoinvent database. Therefore, only three substances have been modelled. Approximately 200 mg of chemicals are unaccounted for.

Since the levels of chemicals reported in (Krautter, 2010) pertain to the end product, it is likely that far larger amounts are used during the fur-dressing phase. In all likelihood, then, modelled consumption of chemicals and other substances represents a lower-bound estimate.

In the model, only the actual use of the chemicals has been factored in. Potential leakage to the environment (and effects thereof), atmospheric emissions of volatile substances and wastewater treatment have thus not been taken into account, because this type of data is unavailable.



Table 23 Modelled substances used in the fur-dressing phase, according to BASF, 2010

Fur-dressing phase	Mean amount (g/kg)	Name	Description	Selected substance, Ecoinvent
Soaking	10	Bascal	Aliphatic dicarboxylic acids, for acidic post-soaking	Polycarboxylates
Wetting	35	Eusapon S	Ethoxylated synthetic alcohol for wetting, dissolving and emulsifying grease	Ethoxylated alcohols, petrochemical
Bating	15	Basozym 1000	Organic enzymes in acid environment	Not in Ecoinvent, omitted
Tanning	100	Basyntan	Aluminium and chrome complex	50% Sodium dichromate 50% Aluminium sulphate
Fatliquoring	7	Lipoderm	Various anionic agents, based on: ester sulphite, lecithin, or biobased	Dimethyl sulphate
Washing	10	Soda		Soda, powder
Picking	10	Formic acid		Formic acid

Table 24 Modelled substances as found in fur, according to Krautter, 2010

Substance	Amount (mg)	Selected substance, Ecoinvent
Formaldehyde	0.38	Formaldehyde
2,2,4-Trimethylpentane	0.12	Dimethylpentane (as proxy)
Ethyl acetate	0.67	Ethyl acetate

2.3.6 Transportation

Data on the modes of transportation involved in various stages are lacking and assumptions therefore had to be made. It is uncertain, for instance, whether the pelts and finished fur are transported by ship or plane and where exactly the pelts are transported to. According to EFBA (2010b), Oslo seems to be Europe's main auction location, with 25 out of 30.1 million pelts auctioned here.

For further fur construction, four possible transportation scenarios were run:

1. Fur treatment and construction within Europe, transportation by truck and ship.
2. Fur treatment and construction within Europe, transportation by plane.
3. Fur treatment and construction overseas, transportation by ship.
4. Fur treatment and construction overseas, transportation by plane.

The assumed transport routes and distances for the four scenarios are shown in Table 25.



Table 25 Transportation routes and distances

Transport route	Location		Distance (km)				Source
	Scenario 1 and 2 (EU)	Scenario 3 and 4 (World)	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4	
Offal to feed processing			75 (truck)				3 locations
Feed from processing to mink farm			50 (truck)				To 4 to 5 locations
Pelts from farm to auction location	To Oslo		1,250 (truck)				Googlemaps
Carcass to animal waste treatment	Farm to Rendac		100 (truck)				To 2 locations
Pelt from auction to processing	Oslo to Italy	Oslo to Hong Kong	2,500 (truck)	2,500 (plane)	18,848 (boat)	11,000 (plane)	Googlemaps, sea port distances
Pelt from processing to manufacturing	Italy to Greece	Hong Kong	1,000 (truck)	1,000 (plane)	50 (truck)	50 (truck)	Googlemaps

For transportation within the Netherlands, we made use of standardized distances by MERLAP, as available in CE (2007).

Table 26 Standard distances

Transport to	Distance (km)
Municipal waste incineration	40
Pellet generation	150
Cement kiln	150
1 location in the Netherlands	150
2 locations in the Netherlands	100
3 locations in the Netherlands	75
4/5 locations in the Netherlands	50

2.4 Textile production

In black, Table 27 shows the materials and processes used in modelling the textile production chain of cotton, acryl, polyester and wool. The grey phases have not been included in the analysis.



Table 27 Life cycle of textile products

Process	Process phases	Details
Raw materials	Production of fibre materials	Selected: cotton, poly-acryl, polyester (recycled and virgin PET), wool
Production	Production of fibre	Yarn spinning
	Construction of fabric	Weaving
	Pre-treatment	Cotton: scouring and bleaching Other: pre-treatment for dyeing
	Colouring	Disperse dyeing
	Finishing	Singeing and de-sizing
	Product assembly	
Packaging	Packaging	
Use	'SUCAM' : selection, use, care and maintenance	
Treatment	Post-user treatment	
Transportation	Transport	Transportation steps: 1 kg material from China to Europe (trans-oceanic freight) 1 kg processed material within Europe (truck)





3 Results

This chapter presents and discusses the results of the environmental impact analysis. It consists of three parts:

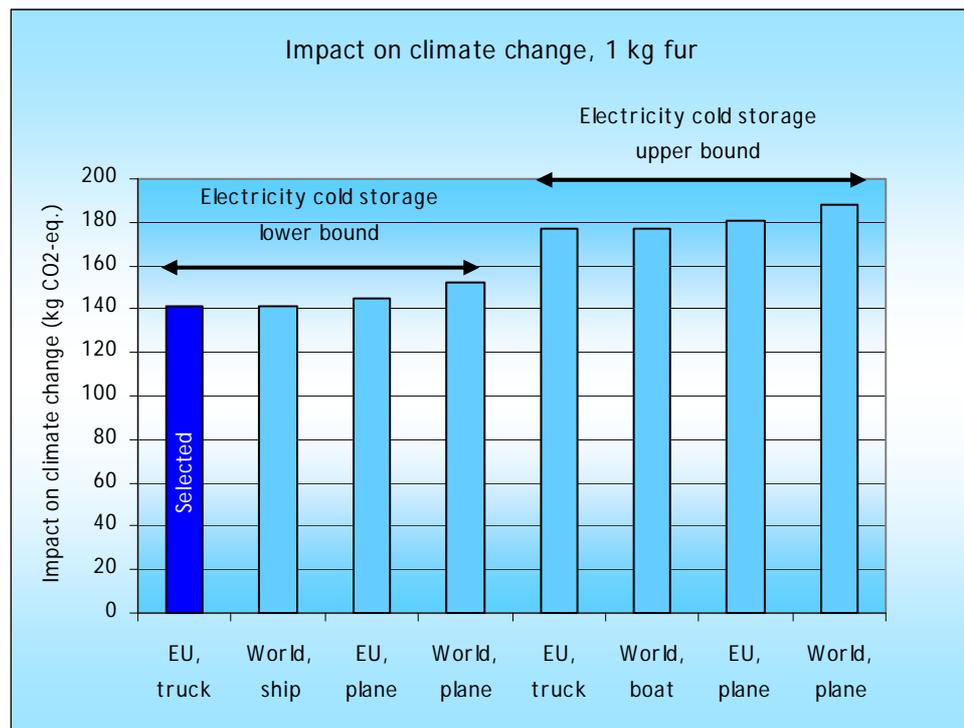
- Presentation of the results of environmental analysis of 1 kg of fur.
- Discussion of the results.
- Comparison with other types of textile.

3.1 Results

3.1.1 Upper and lower bounds

Figure 9 shows the impact of mink fur with respect to climate change (one of the 18 environmental effects under study) for eight different scenarios, based on the two scenarios for electricity for cold storage and the four scenarios for transportation. In Annex C.1 the scores on all 18 environmental impacts in each of the eight scenarios are reported.

Figure 9 Impact on climate change in different scenarios, 1 kg fur



As can be seen, taking the upper bound for electricity consumption increases the climate impact by about 1/3. The main reason for this large difference is that power consumption relates to a large volume of feed: all in all, 563 kg of feed is required to produce 1 kg of mink fur, all of which needs to be kept frozen.

Although transportation mode and distance also have a certain influence, relative to the total score this is only limited.



For further analysis and comparison with other textiles, the most modest scenario was taken, i.e. that representing the lower bound. In practice, therefore, the impact of fur production is most likely to be higher than the values shown in the bar chart.

Besides transportation and electricity for cooling, two other factors contribute to the statement that the impacts are most likely to be higher than reported:

1. A number of lifecycle aspects have not been included in this LCA, or only partially so. Such aspects as wastewater treatment and emissions associated with the use of volatile substances (fur treatment) will mean that aggregate environmental impacts are in fact higher.
2. The allocation factors adopted for mink feed are of pivotal importance: since 563 kg of feed is required for 1 kg of fur, it makes a huge difference what share of the environmental impact of chicken and fish is allocated to chicken and fish offal. In this study low allocation factors have been used. However, the fish allocation factor in particular may be higher, leading to higher environmental impacts.

On the other hand, there are two aspects that may reduce the overall environmental impact:

1. The allocation to mink oil has been set at 0%. In the case that no mink oil is produced out of Dutch minks, this is correct; in the case that mink oil is produced, this leads to a slight overestimation of results (see Section 2.3.4).
2. Biogas production from manure in a biogas unit has not been allowed for, with all manure assumed to be used as fertilizer, which lies outside the system boundaries. Biogas production may involve a modest environmental benefit.

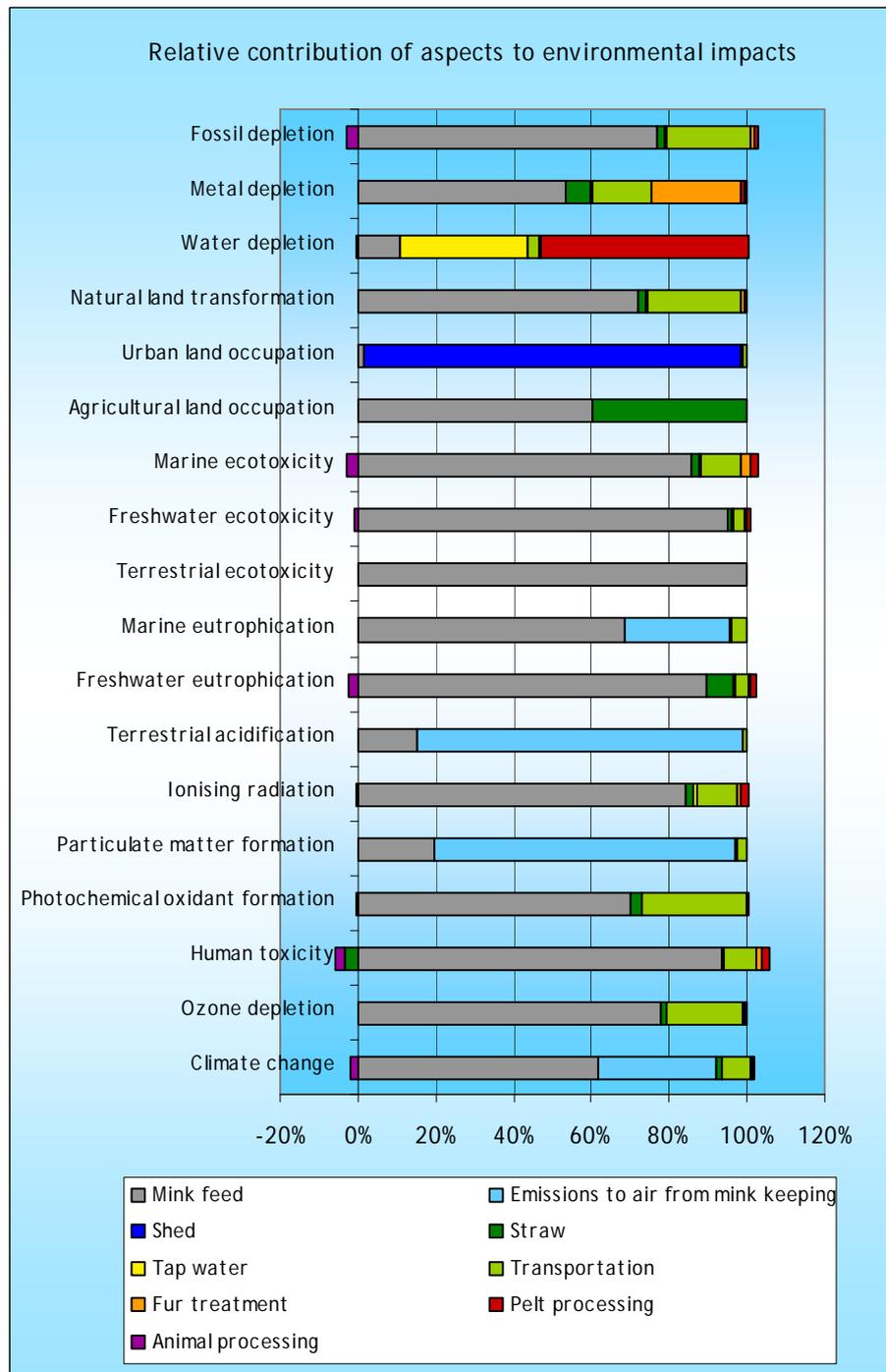
In all likelihood the total overestimate is far less significant than the combined underestimates above, because of the low allocation factor for feed and the many omissions in the LCA.

3.1.2 Environmental impacts

Figure 10 shows the contribution of the various aspects of the mink fur life cycle to the 18 environmental impacts, as analysed using the ReCiPe Midpoint method. This bar chart applies to the 'lower bound' scenario (Figure 9). For the other scenarios, the shares of mink feed (grey) and transportation (light green) will be somewhat larger. In Annex C.2, the information in Figure 10 is shown in the form of pie charts.



Figure 10 Relative contribution of life cycle aspects



As can be seen, for most environmental impacts mink feed is the factor responsible for the greatest share. Again, this is because of the large quantity of feed required for 1 kg of fur (563 kg).

A number of impacts show a different pattern of contributions from the various life cycle aspects, being dominated by aspects other than mink feed, or by several aspects. Examples include those impacts related directly to a specifically modelled emission, such as terrestrial acidification or particulate matter formation.



Surprisingly, the 'fur treatment' phase, characterized by its use of chemicals, is not of much influence (see the fur treatment phase). This is because only the use of chemicals is modelled: volatile emissions and wastewater treatment were not included in this study, because these emissions are unknown to us. These emissions depend on how the chemicals are handled: emissions to air can be prevented or mitigated when air is filtered; wastewater treatment and proper treatment of sludge leads to smaller emissions as well. On the other hand, waste water treatment itself involves substance use and thus leads to an impact as well. Measures taken to prevent emissions differ per fur treatment facility. no data was found on volatile emissions and the degree of pollution of the wastewater.

Were this data available, it may well be the case that the fur treatment process would in fact prove more dominant on several environmental effects, like climate change, eco- and human toxicity and fossil depletion.

Mink feed

Since mink feed is a dominant aspect for most environmental impacts, we take a closer look at the underlying processes. For almost all environmental impacts, chicken offal is responsible for the greatest share of the environmental burden of mink feed. Fish does not contribute much, owing to the low allocation factor for fish offal (0.4%), as well as the relatively low emissions associated with the fish itself.

It is remarkable that flour (from wheat), which constitutes only about 8% of the total feed, is responsible for a (sometimes much) larger share of the environmental impact. This is due mainly to emissions to air and water and fertilizer use. This means the environmental impact will actually decrease if the minks are fed only offal. Were the minks to be put on an all-grain diet, the score on most environmental impacts would actually be higher than is currently the case. The overall environmental burden would be lowest if the feed consisted solely of fish offal.

Figure 11 shows the contribution of aspects to mink feed. Here, the conservative scenario for electricity consumption for refrigeration is shown. However, electricity consumption may account for a relatively large share of the overall impact, when the other scenario is selected. This is not shown in the figure.



Figure 11 Factors contributing to the environmental impacts of mink feed

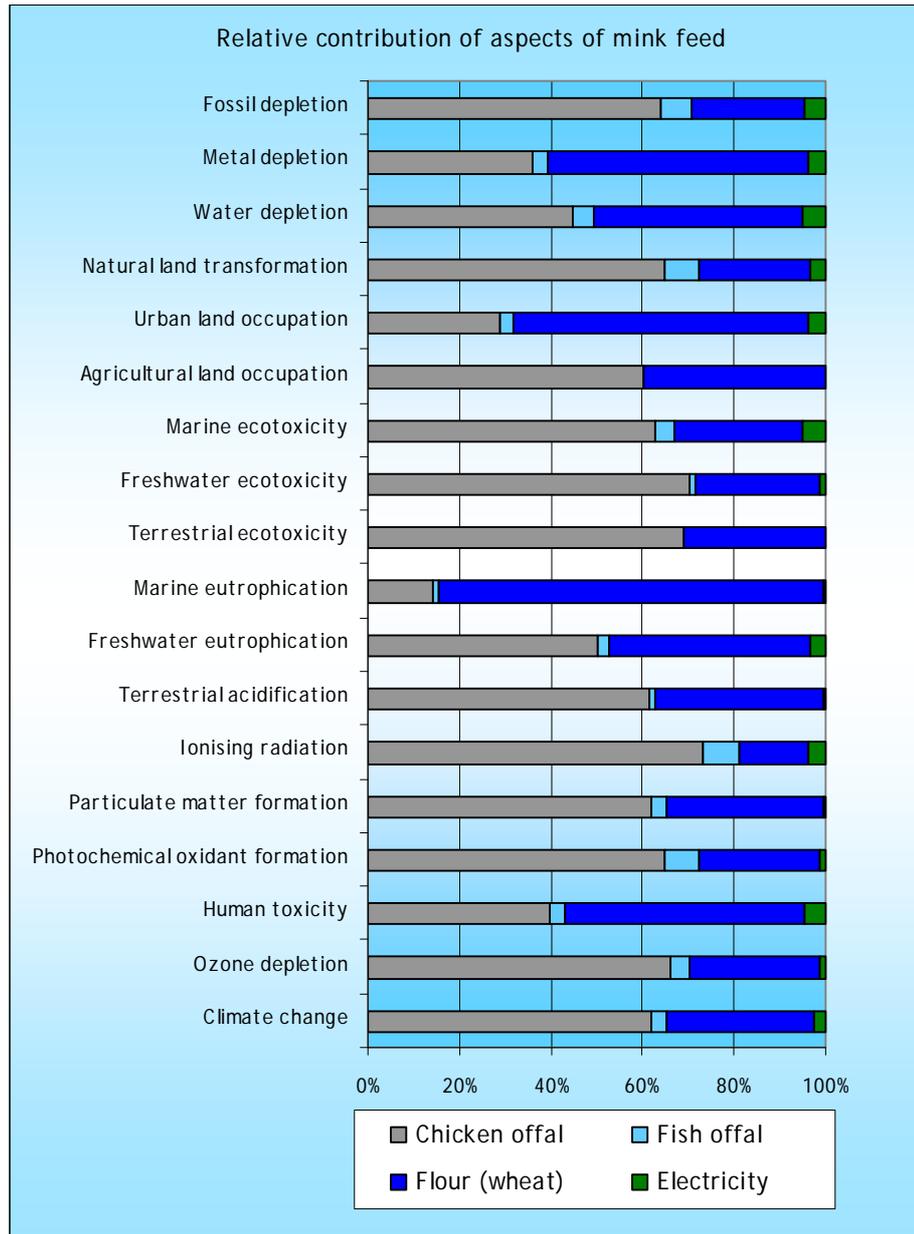
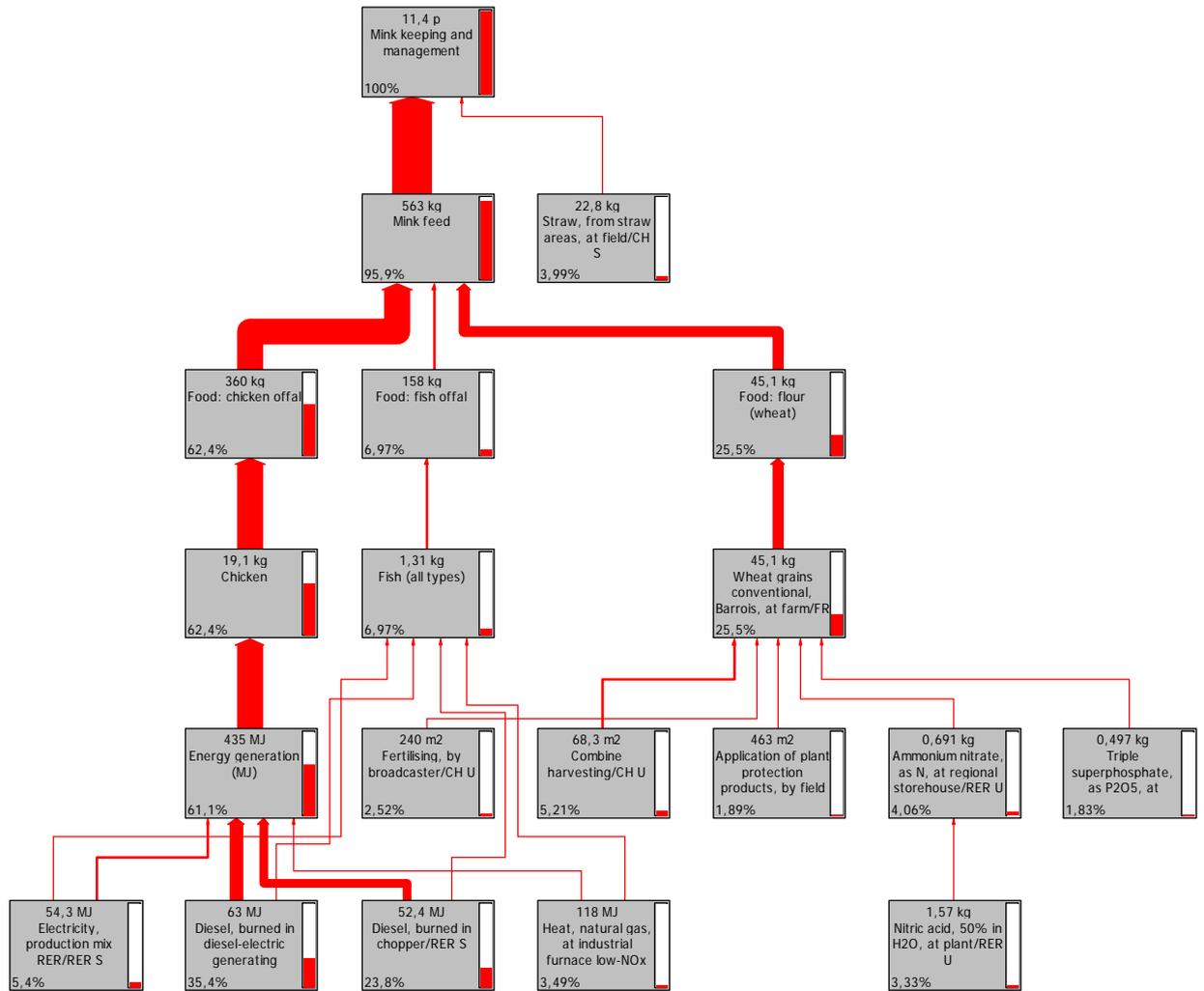


Figure 12 shows a flow chart of mink fur production. The large contribution of mink feed to the impact on climate change is immediately apparent.



Figure 12 Flow chart of climate change impact of mink feed



As already stated, a huge volume of feed is required to produce 1 kg of fur, with 11.4 mink needed for that fur, which has enormous impact on aggregate feed requirements.

If mink fur is compared with other animal products, for instance pork, we see that kilo for kilo far more feed is required. Blonk (2008), for example, reports that 3.1 kg feed is needed to produce 1 kg of pork. In the wider literature, feed conversion factors of 3 to 4 kg per kg pork are cited.

In mink feed, grains (for flour) are a direct ingredient. However, grains also constitute an indirect ingredient, via the chicken offal. The typical feed conversion factor for chickens is 2 kg feed per kg chicken, while 75% of chicken feed consists of grains and soy. Offal makes up 33.6% of the total weight of chicken (see Table 10) and 1.8% of the impact of chicken is allocated to chicken offal. All in all, then, there are $360 \text{ kg} \times 2 / 0.336 \times 75\% \times 1/8\% = 28 \text{ kg}$ of 'indirect crops' involved in producing 1 kg fur.

For the total crops required for 1 kg of fur, the conversion factor is over 70, in terms of input crops to output product (fur).

In terms of total feed input, the conversion factor is 563 (see Figure 12).



3.2 Discussion

3.2.1 Results compared with Van Dijk (2002)

In 2002, a study of the environmental impact of mink fur was performed by Van Dijk. The results of Van Dijk (2002) are compared with the results of this study.

There are a number of differences between the results of this study and those reported by Van Dijk (2002). This is due in the first place to Van Dijk adopting a functional unit of 1 m² rather than 1 kg, as used in this study. On our calculations, 1 kg fur corresponds to 1.5 m². For fair comparison, then, Van Dijk's results should be multiplied by 1.5.

Secondly, Van Dijk assumes 9 to 10 mink per m², whereas we calculate 7.6 mink per m² (or 9.2 female mink per m²). This difference has consequences for the amount of feed per kg of fur and should lead to higher values in Van Dijk (2002) compared to this study (following multiplication by 1.5).

Table 28 Assumptions in this study

	Mean	Female	Male
Number of pelts per kg	11.4	13.8	9.6 p
Number of pelts per m ²	7.6	9.2	6.5 p
Area of 1 kg	1.5	1.5	1.5 m ²

As for the results, Van Dijk (2002) reports substantial differences between mink fur and other fabrics, which is fully in line with the results of this study. The overall picture and conclusions are similar: fur gives rise to a higher environmental burden with respect to numerous environmental impacts.

There are differences, though, all of which can be explained by differences in the background data used. The processes used to model the fur production life cycle differ between the studies.

Climate change: Van Dijk (2002) calculates a substantially higher score for climate change than is found in this study. Van Dijk's climate change score accrues mainly from the N₂O and CO₂ emissions of chicken manure, attributable to chicken as part of the feed. In total, 74% of the climate change impact comes from the chicken in the mink feed. In the present study, chicken in mink feed is responsible for 20% of the total impact on climate change. A noticeable difference between the two scores is the high relative contribution of N₂O in the contribution of van Dijk (2002). As the amount of feed needed per year per mink, as well as the percentage of chicken in the feed, is similar in both studies, the discrepancy in contribution of N₂O to the total can only stem from differences in background modelling for the chicken production system. These differences cannot be traced in more detail from the literature sources. However, the data used here (Blonk, 2008) are considered most recent and consistent. It should be noted that the difference in scores cannot be interpreted as an improvement made since 2002 in the mink fur production, as there is no change in feed composition or feed quantity.

Aquatic ecotoxicity (freshwater): Van Dijk calculates a higher ecotoxicity score for non-fur fabric than for fur. This difference in results is due to differences in background data. Van Dijk takes into account the emissions of several substances to groundwater associated with cotton-fibre treatment, leading to high toxicity levels. The background data on textile production used in the



present study involve only very modest emissions to groundwater, as production takes place in a closed environment.

Aquatic ecotoxicity (marine): the absolute scores reported by Van Dijk are of a far greater order of magnitude (a factor 20,000 higher). The difference in results is again caused by differences in background data. Van Dijk models an emission to air of mercury at the production of acrylic fibres. Mercury does not feature in our background data on acrylic fibre and fabric production. The difference can be explained by dating: Van Dijk's background data originates from a Danish study, dated 1997; our background data is much more recent: the Ecoinvent database provides data on the raw materials and fibre production (European average, dated: 2009).

3.2.2 Other producing countries

This study focuses on mink fur production in the Netherlands. In several other European countries, including Italy and Belgium, mink fur is also produced and it is interesting to estimate to what extent our results remain valid in a wider context than Dutch mink farming alone.

Feed and N₂O emissions are the main aspects contributing to the scores on most environmental impacts (see Figure 10). Differences in these two aspects will therefore have most influence on the total environmental score.

The environmental impact of feed is determined by the type of feed (feed composition) and the allocation factors adopted for each of the feed ingredients; both of these may differ in other countries. In the case of N₂O emissions by the mink themselves, though, the situation is unlikely to vary much from country to country. Feed is thus the one aspect that needs investigating to pinpoint the greatest inter-country differences in environmental impact.

No exact data on feed composition was obtained for other countries. According to the Italian mink breeders' association (AIAV) and the Belgian fur federation (Belgische Bontfederatie), mink in Italy and Belgium are fed with meat and fish offal, together with cereals, as in the Netherlands. AIAV also reports that feed is refrigerated in much the same way as in the Netherlands (plate freezers). It is therefore to be expected that Dutch, Italian and Belgian feed composition and processing differ very little. The prices of offal and meat were not investigated. For further research this would be an advisable first step, along with determining the exact feed composition in the respective countries.

Apart from the question of feed, emissions from mink keeping may also differ in other countries because of different manure handling procedures, thus affecting the overall environmental impact. In this study it has been assumed that manure is removed through gutters and stored in a container; the assumption is therefore that emissions to soil and water are zero. If mink manure is stored not in containers but in farmyard piles, there will be emissions to soil and water due to leaching, increasing the scores for acidification and eutrophication.



3.3 Comparison with fabrics

On 17 of the 18 environmental impacts investigated, mink fur scores higher than other fabrics. In Annex C.3 the comparison of fur with these various other fabrics is reported individually for each environmental impact. As these charts clearly show, mink fur scores far higher than any of the fabrics with respect to all the impacts except water depletion.

Considering that the values calculated in this study for fur represent a lower bound, the difference between 1 kg fur and 1 kg of other textile is likely to be even larger. It can be stated with certainty that fur is the least preferable option compared with common types of textile. Table 29 shows the relative difference between the scores of 1 kg mink fur and the closest score of the other textiles.

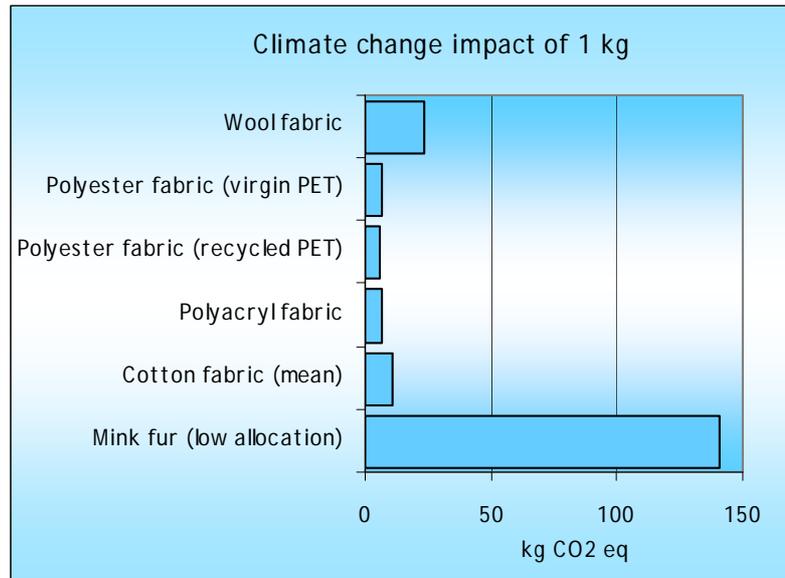
Table 29 Difference factor between mink fur and other textiles

Environmental impact	Reduction rate of impact of fur needed to match the highest score of the other textiles
Climate change	4.7
Ozone depletion	11.9
Human toxicity	3.4
Photochemical oxidant formation	28.1
Particulate matter formation	17.0
Ionising radiation	2.1
Terrestrial acidification	15.3
Freshwater eutrophication	5.2
Marine eutrophication	12.9
Terrestrial ecotoxicity	24.0
Freshwater ecotoxicity	2.6
Marine ecotoxicity	3.2
Agricultural land occupation	5.3
Urban land occupation	27.9
Natural land transformation	9.5
Water depletion	0.4
Metal depletion	6.8
Fossil depletion	6.5

Of the five other fabrics, wool and cotton fabric tend to score higher than the others on a number of environmental impacts. In the case of cotton this can generally be explained in terms of fertilizer inputs, irrigation, production processes and emissions to air and water. Wool has a higher scores compared to the synthetic fabrics, mainly because of the impacts associated with sheep keeping. Compared to fur, though, wool has lower scores. These lower scores are explained by the difference in diet. Because of its vegetarian diet (grass, soybean meal and corn), the meat of the sheep can be used as well, i.e. the wool is not the main output. According to the Ecoinvent process for wool, a sheep produces 4.2 kg of wool per year and 62.8 kg of meat (live weight) per year. The allocation factor for wool (economic allocation) is 22.8%.



Climate change



Climate change is the environmental impact on which there is currently greatest focus, since it is a global impact with known causes and visible consequences. The climate change impact of 1 kg of fur is far higher than that of the other textiles. As already mentioned, this is due mainly to the use of animal wastes as feed.

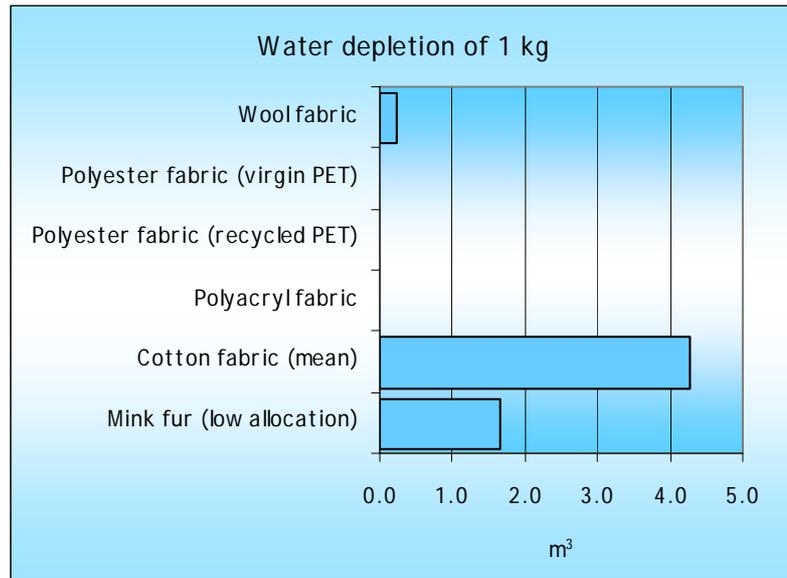
This impact is not only high compared with other textiles. There are not many raw materials scoring this high per kg on climate change: the score of mink fur is similar to that of materials involving high fuel consumption, or solvents for extraction (e.g. precious metals).

With an emission factor of about 110 kg CO₂ eq. per kg fur, the impact on climate change equals a car drive of over 1,250 km.⁴

⁴ Based on EU emission standards (2008/2009): the CO₂ emission standard for cars is 140 g CO₂ per km.



Water depletion

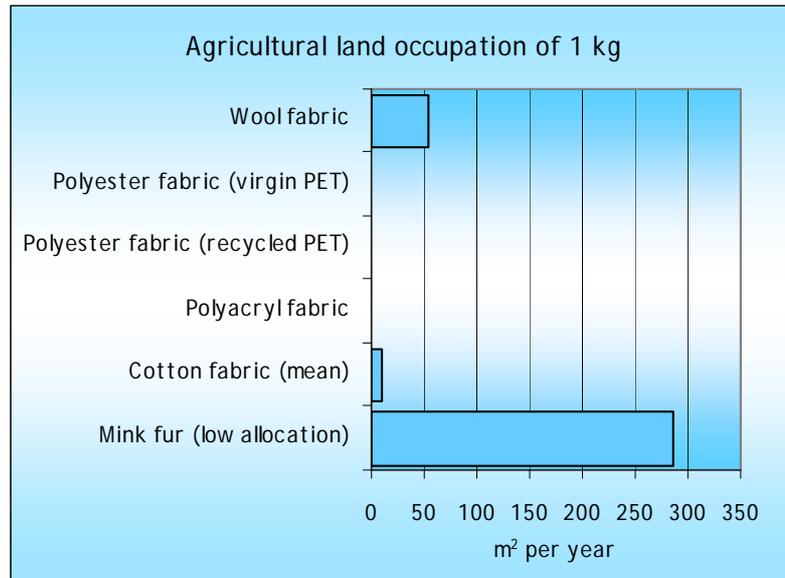


Water depletion is the only impact on which fur scores better than one of the fabrics, viz. cotton. The water depletion chart on the right only takes into account the water added by human activities, thus excluding rainwater.

The water requirements of 1 kg cotton are known to be high and in some countries the crops are heavily irrigated; in other countries irrigation is moderate. The value shown represents the mean of average cotton production in China and the USA.

The water requirements associated with 1 kg mink derive mainly from irrigation of the wheat for chicken feed. Not included are water use for the chickens, water use in the barn for cleaning and water use for fur treatment. Actual water consumption for 1 kg fur is therefore likely to be greater than shown.

Land use

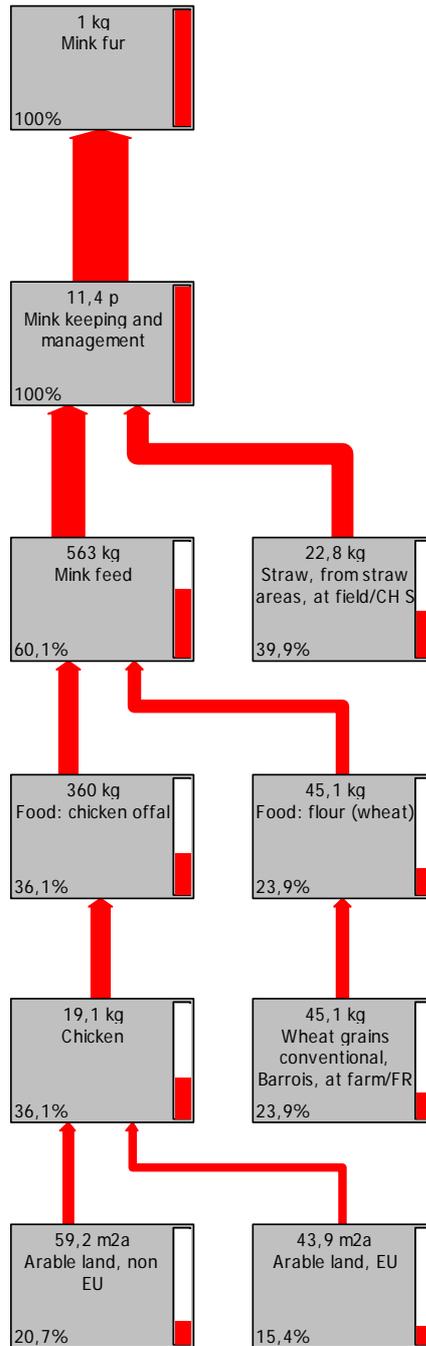


For land occupation, fur scores far higher than the other textiles. Further details are provided in Annex D.2:

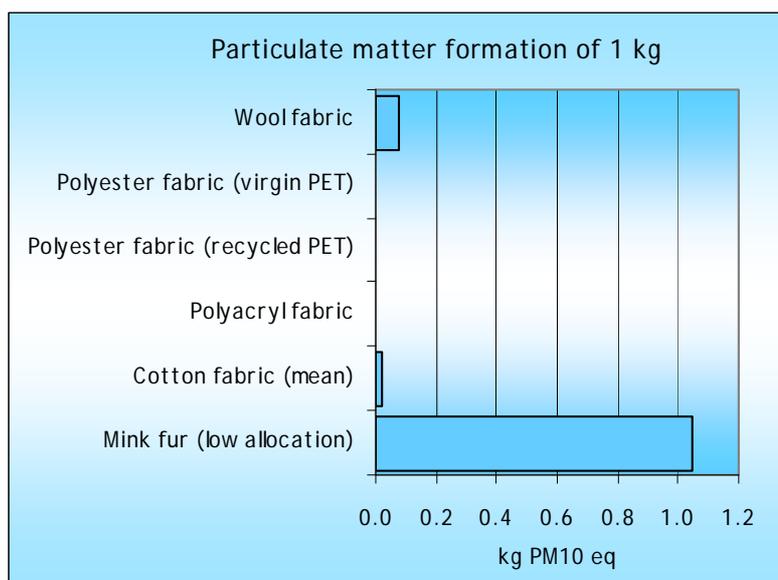
- 45 kg of wheat is required per year, for which a total of 68 m² land is needed;
- to meet the annual feed requirements of the chickens (corn, soy, grains) 103 m² is needed.

The use of straw is optional; in this study it has been assumed that an average of 2 kg of straw per mink is used. If straw is not taken into account, land occupation will be 172 m².

Figure 13 Flow chart: agricultural land occupation



Air quality



Two environmental impacts affect (local) air quality: particulate matter (PM) formation and photochemical oxidant formation. On both of these, fur scores far higher than the other textiles. Here, the results for PM formation are shown; the results for photochemical oxidant formation are available in Annex D.3.

80% of the PM formed originates from the NH_3 emissions from manure. Though PM formation for 1 kg cotton may seem low, the production of 1 kg of cotton scores higher on this count than 1 kg of mink feed.

Transportation and the large volume of feed account for the high score on photochemical oxidant formation and explain the difference between mink fur and the other textiles.

Non-quantifiable aspects

The fur production chain also entails certain non-quantifiable impacts. Although these are not part of this study, we mention them briefly.

Odour

Odour is an aspect of air quality that cannot be assessed very well in a general sense as it depends on the local situation whether people will experience nuisance from odour or not. The mink themselves, the manure and the feed all have a typical smell (NFE). In many countries, legislation sets a minimum distance from mink farms to the built environment, depending on the size of the farm (total number of animals and mother animals) and the type of surroundings.

Escape of minks to the wild

The Belgian Research Institute for Nature and Forests (INBO, 2010) concludes that the American mink is an invasive species in Europe, a territorial predator which competes with native species like the otter, muskrat and the marten. Being domesticated does not lead to reduced predator impact, but possibly even the contrary ('hyper-predation'). Because of competition with other species and hybridisation with European mink (genetic impact), there is a real threat of biodiversity loss in case of escape or liberation.

Animal welfare

Animal welfare is not part of most environmental analysis yet, but is an issue that should not be neglected. In fur production, animals are mostly carnivores and thus several animal husbandry systems are involved in the life cycle, with various potential animal welfare issues.

Much has already been written on this subject, by a wide variety of organisations. In the Netherlands, minimum standards for keeping mink are in place (Dienstenrichtlijn PPE, 2009). In Belgium, no minimum standards are determined by law; regulations for killing the mink are in place, only. It is very much a personal issue whether or not one finds it offensive for humans to keep wild animals under conditions differing from their natural habitat.





4 Conclusions

4.1 Main conclusions

The study in general

Data used for the analysis is retrieved from public sources. Information on mink farming in the Netherlands was available from a variety of agencies and regulatory documents. To model the fur lifecycle, most phases are approximated, based on available data. Some data gaps remain in the inventory.

On issues on which there was uncertainty, several scenarios were established and the scenario with the lowest environmental impact taken. The main data gaps leading to underestimation of the overall environmental impact are wastewater treatment (both at mink farms and during fur treatment) and emissions of the volatile substances used in fur treatment.

Two aspects that have not been taken into account in the study will involve environmental benefits. Allocation to mink oil has been set at 0% and all mink manure is assumed to be used as fertilizer, with no consideration being given to the scope for biogas production.

It is a near certainty that the underestimates associated with data gaps and the conservative approach will outweigh the overestimates.

Interpretation of results

In terms of fur output, feed conversion is highly inefficient: to produce 1 kg of mink fur requires 563 kg of feed. It is due above all to this volume of feed that 1 kg of fur has such a relatively large environmental footprint, despite the fact that only very minor environmental impacts are associated with one kg of feed. Fur production is analysed on 18 environmental impacts, among which impact to climate change, eutrophication, particulate matter formation, ozone depletion, toxicity, land occupation and fossil depletion.

On 17 of the 18 environmental impacts studied, 1 kg of mink fur scores worse than 1 kg of other textiles. Only in the case of water depletion does fur have a lower score, but the water used to produce the chicken feed (grains, etc.) was not included in the mink life cycle, and the water requirements of cotton growing are notoriously high.

Even in a conservative approach, the environmental impacts of 1 kg fur (apart from water depletion) are a factor 2 to 28 times higher than those of common textiles. This is a very clear and consistent result, with indicator categories all pointing in the same direction. In this situation, in LCA practice it is preferred not to 'weigh' the environmental categories into one single overall score as this step always requires a subjective weighting scheme.

Mink feed is the main contributor to 14 of the 18 environmental impacts studied. Besides feed, N₂O and NH₃ emissions from mink manure make a noticeable contribution to several environmental impacts. The use of chemicals (for fur treatment) makes only a limited contribution to overall environmental impact, but it should be noted that emissions could not be modelled and the effects are thus underestimated.



Applicability of results

The analysis is based on data for Dutch mink farming. Data collection proved to be very time consuming and thus detailed comparison with systems in other European countries such as Belgium and Italy was not feasible. However, results can be considered representative for a wider range of European industry due to the determining influence of impacts associated with feed. As long as feed quantity and composition are similar, the results will be similar as well. Other results should be expected for different feeding or manure management regimes.

4.2 Further work

A core issue with respect to mink keeping is the ethics of captive mink breeding and animal welfare. A full sustainability assessment should encompass all three pillars of sustainability, i.e. economic, social and environmental aspects, which would include animal welfare. This study addresses only quantifiable environmental aspects. Although the results of the comparison with typical textiles give a clear picture, a complete picture of impacts and their relative contribution to the total would be desirable. The results of this study give lower limits to true impacts of fur due to several data gaps.

Further work could also be done to assess in more detail difference between systems (countries) as well as animal types. Other common fur animals are fox, (finn)raccoon and chinchilla, for some of which there is also significant production in European countries.



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Annex A Methodological background

A.1 LCA

Figure 14 Schematic view of life cycle phases



The goal of life cycle assessment is to quantify the environmental impacts caused by products and activities during their entire life cycle, from raw materials extraction via usage through to the waste phase, or in other words 'from cradle to grave'.

LCA is used to compare (product) alternatives and provide insight into their production chains. Besides this kind of 'comparative' LCA, the methodology can also be used to obtain an absolute figure for environmental performance, which is used for the eco-labelling of products. The latter practice is subject to strict rules for execution (ISO14001, PAS 2050).

LCA has been widely incorporated into decision- and policy-making processes in industry, government agencies and NGOs alike.

A life cycle assessment study comprises the following sequence of phases:

- determination of goal and scope;
- data inventory;
- modelling of the production chain;
- impact assessment: quantification of environmental impacts;
- interpretation.

Determining the goal and scope of the study includes the 'what' and 'for whom' questions: what functional unit is to be studied, and what system boundaries are to be adopted? The question 'for whom' will determine choices regarding the data inventory, the impact assessment method and the reporting of the results.

For modelling and impact assessment a variety of tools are available. We made use of the Simapro software, which contains databases of life cycle information on a wide range of materials and processes as well as an array of methods for calculating impacts. Using this software, it is possible to:

- model all the inputs and outputs of the life cycle, by selecting existing materials and processes;
- create user-defined processes for use in the model;
- perform impact assessments of the full life cycle, or phases thereof, using different methods;
- create graphs for interpretation.

For the purpose of this project we used the ReCiPe 'Midpoint method', as explained in the next section.

A.2 Environmental impacts: the ReCiPe Midpoint method

After completing the inventory, the environmental result is calculated. This primary result is a long list of emissions, raw material requirements and other relevant aspects (see the left-hand column of Table 30). To help interpret this list, impact assessment methods are available.

In this study we used the ReCiPe impact assessment method, the successor to the frequently used Eco-indicator 99 and CML2 methods.

The ReCiPe method converts the long list of inventory results to understandable indicators. The method offers three levels of impact assessment:

- midpoint level (18 environmental impacts);
- endpoint level (3 indicators);
- one single indicator.

In this study, impacts are reported at the midpoint level.



Table 30 Schematic overview of ReCiPe midpoint and endpoint impact categories

LCI results	Midpoint	Normalization	Endpoint	Single indicator		
Long list of emissions and substances: Raw materials Land use CO ₂ VOS P SO ₂ NO _x CFC Cd DDT etc.	Ozone depletion	DALY	Damage to human health (DALY)	Single indicator, obtained by weighting the three endpoints		
	Human toxicity	DALY				
	Ionising radiation	DALY				
	Photochemical oxidant formation	DALY				
	Particulate matter formation	DALY				
	Climate change	Human Health: DALY	Damage to ecosystems (species*yr)			
	Terrestrial acidification	Ecosystems: species*yr				
	Terrestrial ecotoxicity	species*yr				
	Urban land occupation	species*yr				
	Agricultural land occupation	species*yr				
	Marine ecotoxicity	species*yr				
	Freshwater eutrophication	species*yr				
	Freshwater ecotoxicity	species*yr				
	Minerals depletion	\$			Resource depletion (\$)	
	Fossil depletion	\$				
	Marine eutrophication	-			-	-
	Water depletion	-			-	-

Table 31 shows the midpoints and the units in which they are expressed.

Table 31 Midpoint indicators and their units

Midpoint impact categories	Unit
Climate change	kg CO ₂ -eq. to air
Ozone depletion	kg CFC-11-eq. to air
Terrestrial acidification	kg SO ₂ -eq. to air
Freshwater eutrophication	kg P-eq. to freshwater
Marine eutrophication	kg N-eq. to freshwater
Human toxicity	kg 14 DCB-eq. to urban air
Photochemical oxidant formation	kg NMVOC-eq. to air
Particulate matter formation	kg PM ₁₀ -eq. to air
Terrestrial ecotoxicity	kg 14 DCB-eq. to soil
Freshwater ecotoxicity	kg 14 DCB-eq. to freshwater
Marine ecotoxicity	kg 14 DCB-eq. to marine water
Ionising radiation	kg U ₂₃₅ -eq. to air
Agricultural land occupation	m ² * yr
Urban land occupation	m ² * yr
Water depletion	m ²
Minerals depletion	kg Fe-eq.
Fossil depletion	kg oil-eq.



Description of environmental impacts (midpoint level)

Climate change

The impact category 'climate change' refers to the reinforced greenhouse effect: a process by which thermal radiation from a planetary surface is absorbed by atmospheric greenhouse gases, among which carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and N₂O. As a result, the temperature is higher than it would be if direct heating by solar radiation were the only warming mechanism. The effect is calculated according to IPCC standards with a 100 year time horizon.

Ozone layer depletion

Most atmospheric ozone is found at an altitude of around 15-30 kilometres and this part of the atmosphere is therefore known as the ozone layer. This layer absorbs much of the damaging ultraviolet radiation emitted by the sun. The ozone layer is depleted by a variety of gases, including chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), resulting in a decline of layer thickness. The reduction is greatest in spring, but at most locations levels are almost back to normal by autumn.

Acidification, terrestrial

Acidification of soils (and water) is a consequence of air pollutant emissions by factories, agricultural activities, power stations and vehicles. These acidifying emissions include sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), ammonia (NH₃) and volatile organic compounds (VOC), which are transported via the atmosphere or the water cycle and end up in soils. This is referred to as acid deposition. By way of foliage and root systems these substances penetrate trees and other plants, making them more susceptible to disease. Acid deposition also causes damage to lakes and rivers, ultimately harming the wildlife that lives or drinks there, because of elevated acid and aluminium concentrations.

Eutrophication, freshwater

Eutrophication is the term used for elevated nutrient concentrations in water in particular. In biology it is used to refer to the phenomenon of certain species exhibiting strong growth and/or reproduction following addition of a nutrient surplus, generally leading to a sharp decline in species richness, i.e. loss of biodiversity. Eutrophication may occur, for example, in freshwater bodies subject to fertiliser run-off, particularly nitrogen and phosphate deriving from manure, slurry and artificial fertilisers from farming activities. The result is pronounced 'algal bloom', recognisable as dark-coloured water masses with an unpleasant smell. Eutrophication can lead to hypoxia, a deficiency of oxygen in the water.

Human toxicity

The impact category 'human toxicity' covers emissions to air, water and soils that result (ultimately) in damage to human health. In calculating toxicity, the environmental persistence (fate) of the substance and its accumulation in the human food chain (exposure) are taken into account as well as its toxicity (impacts).

Ecotoxicity, terrestrial, freshwater and marine

The impact category 'ecotoxicity' covers emissions to air, water and soils that result (ultimately) in damage to the ecosystems in soils, freshwater and marine waters.



Photochemical oxidant formation

Photochemical oxidant formation, or smog (a combination of the words 'smoke' and 'fog'), is a form of air pollution involving mist polluted by smoke and exhaust fumes, which may in certain periods suddenly increase in severity, with potential consequences for human health. The substances of greatest influence on smog formation are ozone and airborne particulates and, to a lesser extent, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide.

Particulate matter formation

Particulate matter (PM) refers to airborne particulates with a diameter of less than 10 micrometres. It consists of particles of varying size, origin and chemical composition. When inhaled, PM causes health damage. In people with respiratory disorders and cardiac problems, chronic exposure to airborne particulates aggravates the symptoms, while in children it hampers development of the lung function. The standards for particulate levels are currently exceeded at numerous locations in Europe, particularly along busy roads.

Ionising radiation

Ionising radiation results from the decay of radioactive atoms like those of uranium-235, krypton-85 and iodine-129. There are two types of ionising radiation: particle-type radiation (alpha radiation, beta radiation, neutrons, protons) and high-energy electromagnetic radiation (X-rays, gamma radiation). Ionising radiation can damage DNA and cause a variety of cancers.

Land use, agricultural and urban

The impact category 'land use' refers to the damage to ecosystems associated with the effects of human land occupation over a certain period of time.

Depletion, minerals and fossil

Consumption of mineral resources and fossil fuels has been weighted using a factor that increases in magnitude as the resource in question becomes scarcer and its concentration declines.





Annex B Inventory details

B.1 Specifications of machines used for mink processing

Body drum		
Specifications	Electricity	3 x 400 Volt, 3.7 A
	Air consumption	0.05 l/min, 8 bar
	Operating time	3 to 24 min.
	Capacity	100 males, 120 females
Calculations	Mean capacity	110 minks/ 15 minutes
	$3 \cdot 400 \cdot 3.7 =$	4,440 J/s
	$4,440 \cdot 15 \cdot 60 =$	4.0 MJ per 110 pelt
	$4.0 / 110$	36.3 kJ per pelt
	$0.05 \cdot 15 / 110$	0.0068 l compressed air per pelt

Skinning robot		
Specifications	Electricity	3 x 400 Volt, 0.3 A
	Operating time	20 sec.
Calculations	$3 \cdot 400 \cdot 0.3 =$	360 W
	$360 \cdot 20 =$	7.2 kJ per pelt

Fleshing machine		
Specifications	Electricity	3 x 400 Volt, 32 A
	Air consumption	10 l/min, 8 bar
	Max. capacity	300 pelts per hour
Calculations	$3 \cdot 400 \cdot 32 =$	38,400 W
	$38,400 \cdot 60 \cdot 60 \cdot 60 / 300$	461 kJ per pelt
	$10 \cdot 60 / 300$	2 l per pelt

Drying		
Specifications	Electricity	400 Volt, 63 A
	Drying time	3 days
	Dehumidifying	15 g water/skin/day
	Air quantity	4,000 to 20,000 l/h, 4 bar
	Capacity	8,000 pelts (mean)
Calculations	$400 \cdot 63 =$	25,200 W
	$25,200 \cdot 60 \cdot 60 \cdot 24 \cdot 3 / 8,000 =$	817 kJ per pelt
	Mean air consumption	12,000 l/h
	$12,000 \cdot 24 \cdot 3 / 8,000$	108 l per pelt





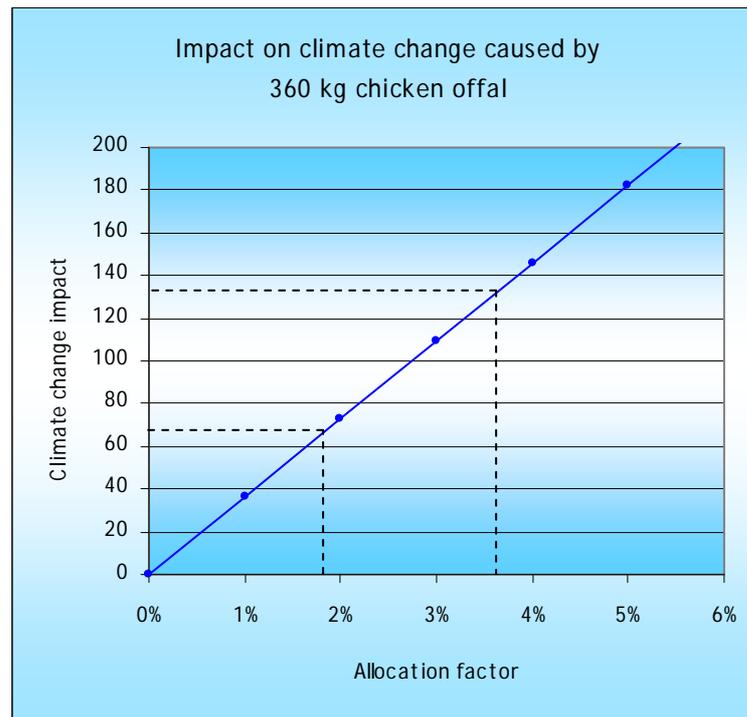
Annex C Influence of allocation factor

C.1 Impact on climate change according to allocation factor

The choice for allocation factor has a large influence on the environmental impact which is assigned to offal. This is illustrated in Figure 15 for the share of chicken offal in mink feed. Feed for 1 mink feed (563 kg) contains around 360 kg of chicken offal.

In this study, an allocation factor of 1.8% is taken, a low estimate.

Figure 15 Relation between impact on climate change and allocation factor for chicken offal



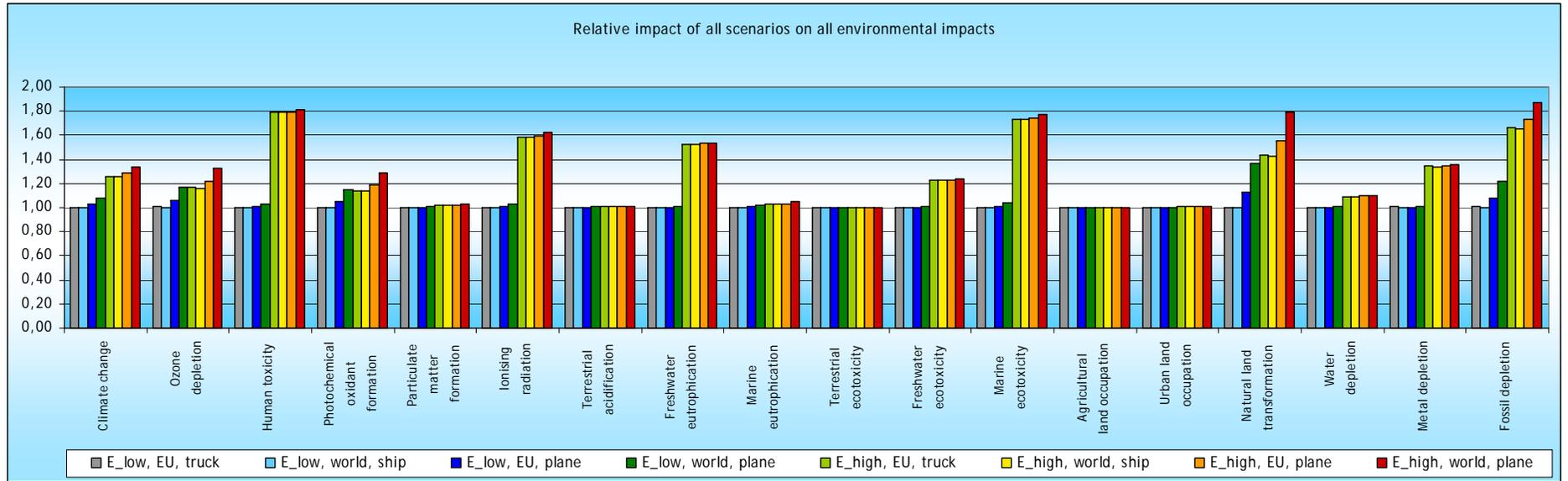


Annex D Detailed results

D.1 Relative impact scenarios

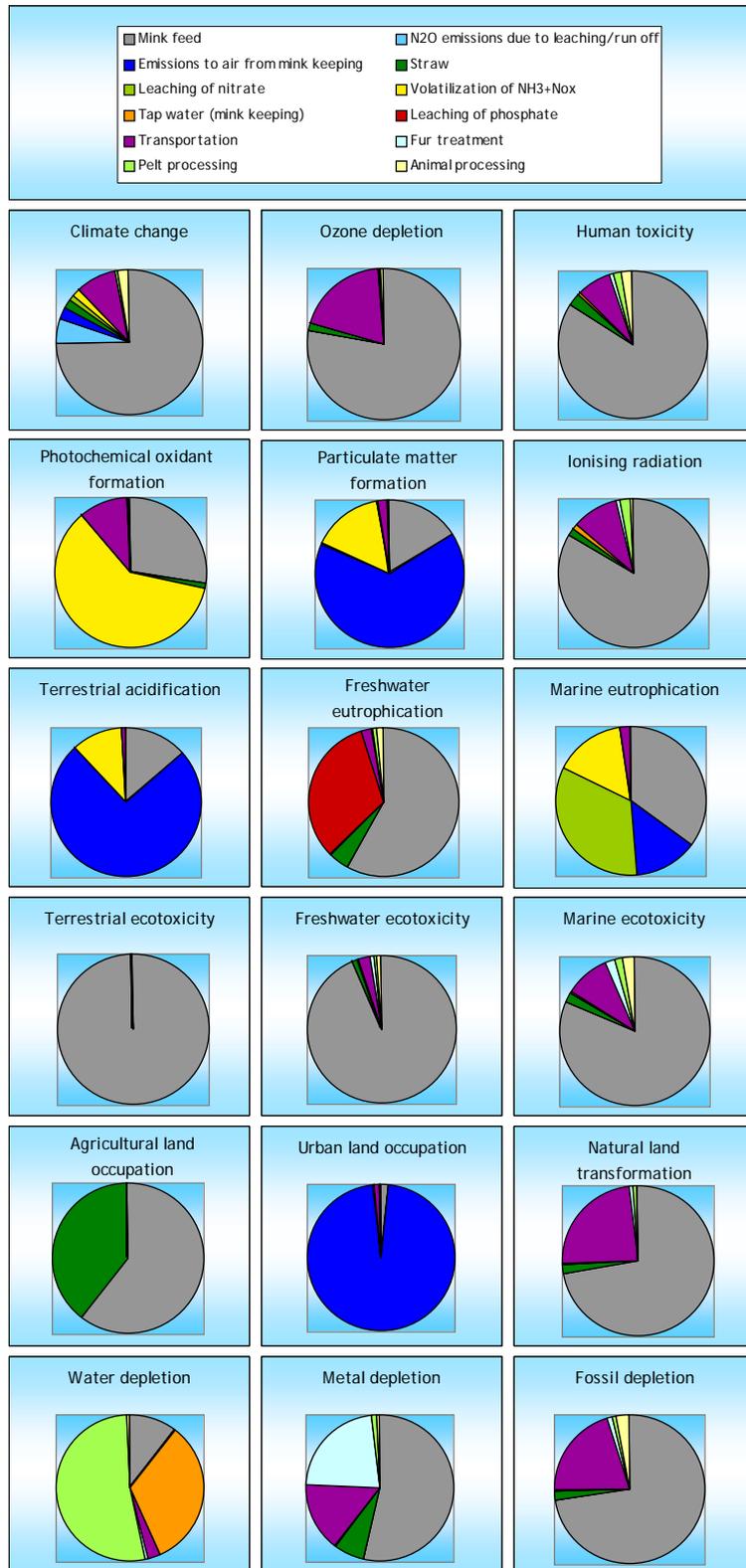


Figure 16 All scenarios: relative scores per environmental impact category



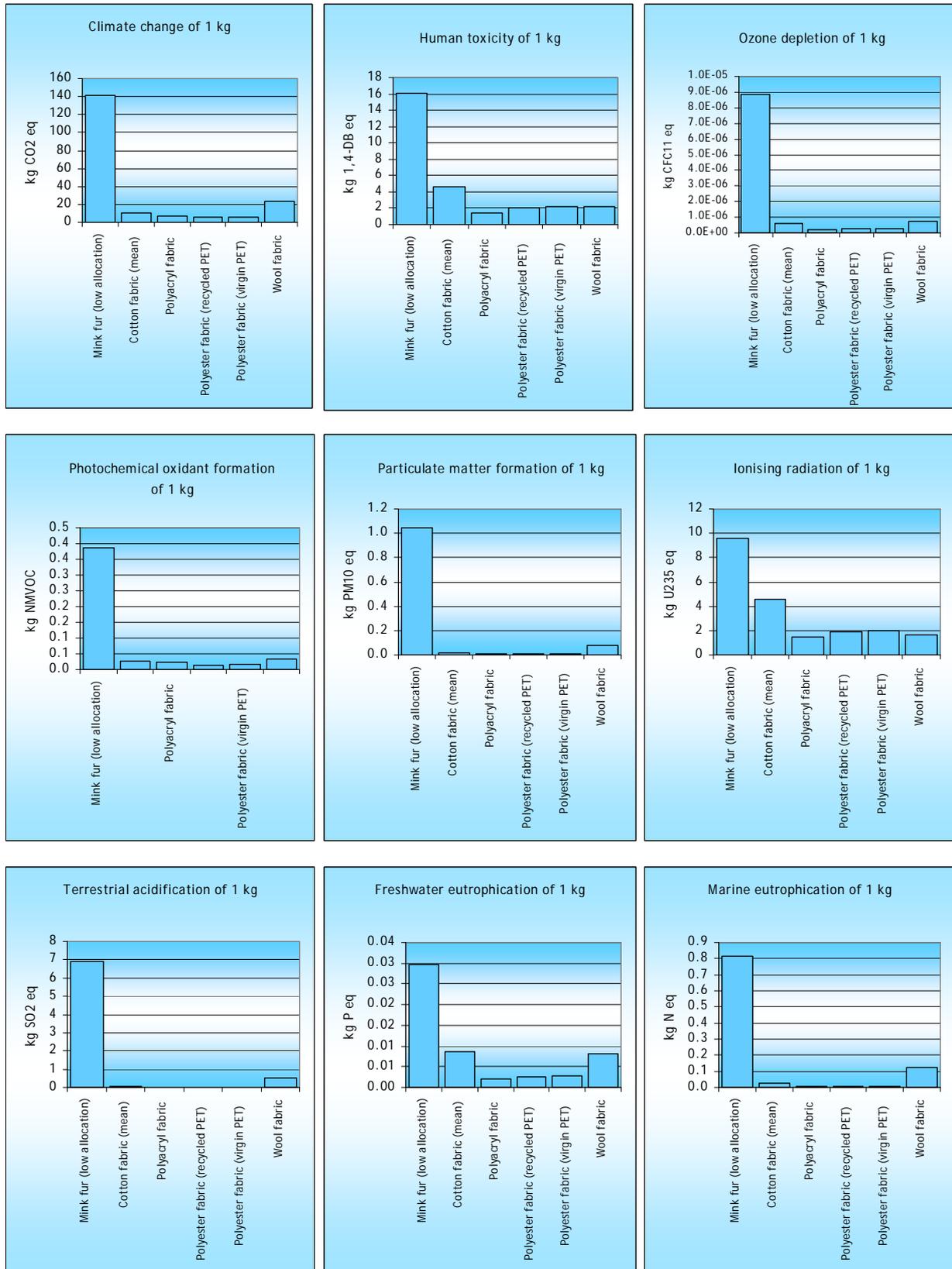
D.2 Fur production chain

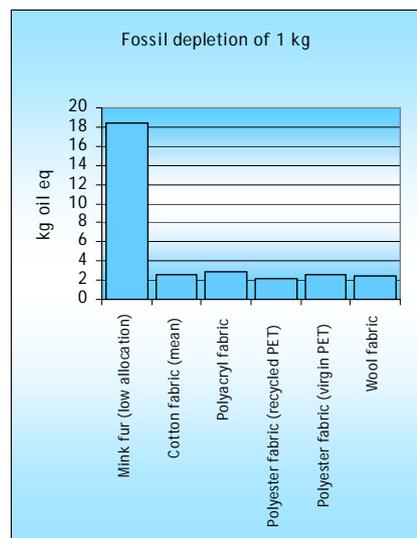
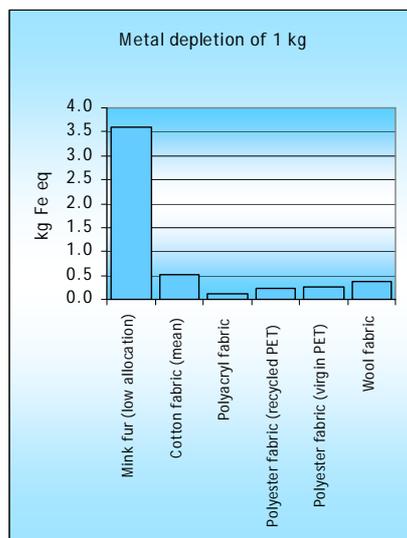
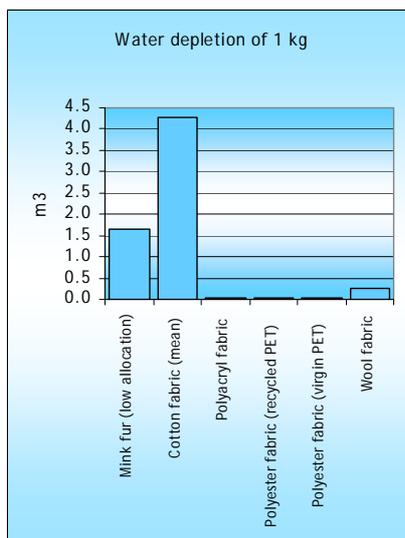
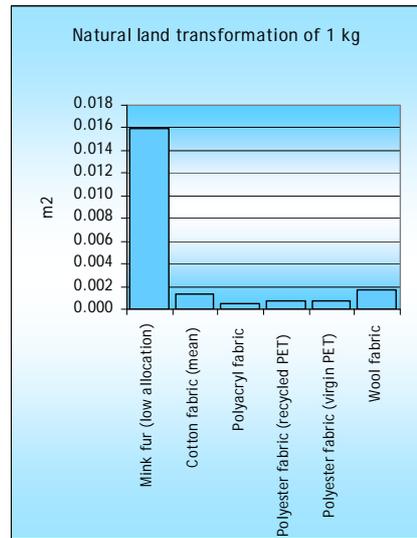
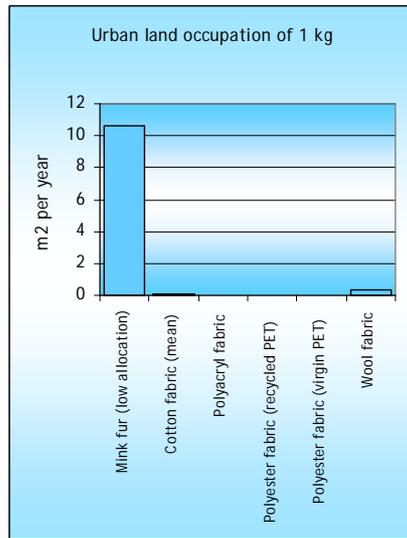
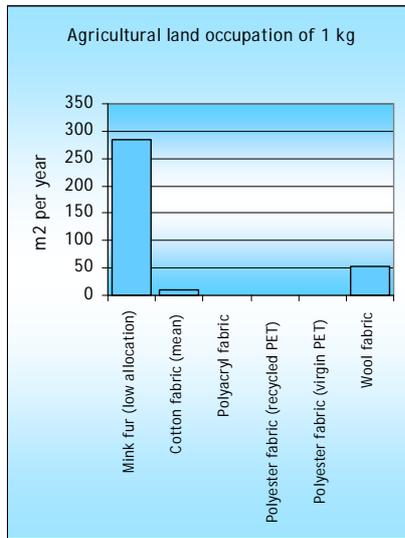
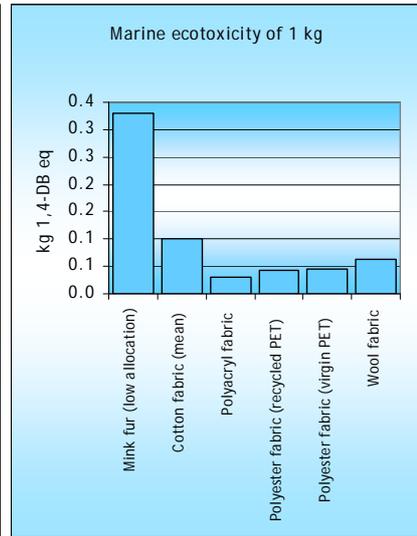
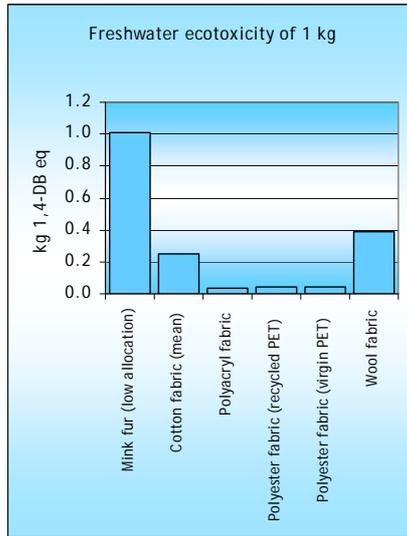
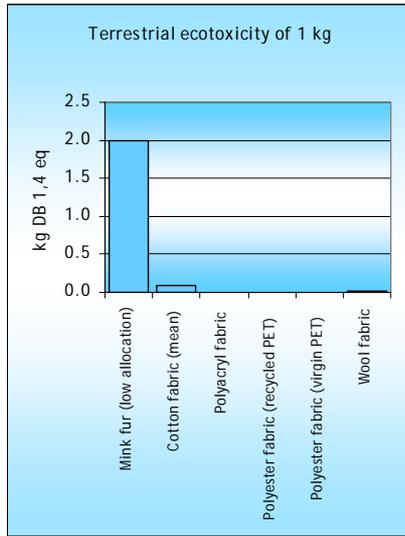
Figure 17 Relative contribution of aspects of fur production chain to environmental impacts



D.3 Comparison, all impacts

Figure 18 Comparison of mink fur production with other textiles





Fur Ban / May 15, 2019 Hearing

Good Morning,

I am a NYC resident and live in Keith Powers District.

I wish to submit the following as testimony as I will not be attending the Wednesday, May 15th meeting.

Here is my testimony and I have also attached a copy.

Thank you for submitting this.

Fur Ban for NYC

It is with profound interest that I am writing about the impending efforts to establish a fur ban for NYC.

As a Management Consultant over the years I have consulted and worked with many industries and individuals whose jobs have been both historical and significant for both NYC and therefore the workers themselves.

This time it is professionally clear to me that the skills involved in this industry can be “parallel parked” meaning those employees will have ample opportunity to use their current skills in the fashion world that supports fake fur and therefore not face any financial hardships. Its a transition that with their current capabilities and experience they can continue to make a living and contribute towards a more compassionate and humane city.

Its more than time that NYC which is a leader in so very many fields join its sister cities of San Francisco and Los Angles and establish a fur ban.

**Sincerely,
Flora Mattis
East 74th Street
NY, NY 10021**

My name is Diane Gaddy.

I would like to express my view on the matter concerning the fur ban hearing that took place in the City Hall on 5/15/2019.

I want to stand up for my freedom of choice especially on my clothing and accessories. Everyone has a right to express their love for fashion the way they want.

This is a matter of personal choice and everyone should be allowed to exercise their judgment on what to eat and what to wear, i.e. fur, leather or other materials.
Fur has always been a symbol of beauty, success and fashion since the beginning of time.

Another issue is support for the small businesses . I find it absolutely outrageous that thousands of family businesses and their workers might be losing their jobs because of the strong feelings vegans have towards this issue. I have friends who were building their businesses from zero. They worked seven days a week, no holidays didn't see their kids, struggled greatly to survive economic ups and downs only to come to this day where all their effort could lead to bankruptcies, broken dreams, and uncertain future. Some of them are not young people who have time to switch their careers. Is this a fair way to treat people?

Moreover, if the purchase of fur is banned in NYC, people will buy it in the neighboring states. If it's banned everywhere in the US, it will be purchased overseas. What do we achieve here? Lost jobs, misery, and aggravation and lost revenues for the city. Can we really afford it? It would be a big mistake to ban fur in NYC or anywhere else as it represents only a certain viewpoint and interests. I would greatly appreciate if you could consider my opinion in this matter.

3220 Fairfield Ave.

Riverdale, NY 0463

Good Afternoon to all,

My name is Alexandros Politidis and I'm a 17 year-old high school senior and an incoming freshman as a Honors student at Baruch college right here in New York City. The proposed fur ban played a huge role in my college decision, although I'm beyond grateful to have received a full scholarship through Baruch, I was forced to leave many more enticing opportunities on the table due to the financial restriction they would apply on my family if this fur ban were to pass. The reason I share that story today is because between all this debate whether fur should be used in fashion or not, a very important group of people have seemed to be forgotten in this very complex equation. The son's and daughters of those that will be affected if the ban of fur were to occur. In other words, we have failed to truly ponder how we are affecting the next generation of hard-working Americans. For example, I aspire to become a lawyer and my brother recently became a certified teacher for the Department of Education. Both of us we able to pursue our dreams thanks to our parents hard-work and dedication in the fur industry. So as I stand before you today, I don't only fight for the hard-working men and women in the fur industry, I fight for those who are merely too young to fight for themselves. Today, I fight for our future doctors, lawyers, teachers, and engineers. I fight for the dreams of every son and daughter that simply has no control what their parents do to make ends meet. Now for those who don't get the full picture, I'd like to ask a simple favor. I'd like every mother and father to go home today and ask their kids "what their dreams are" and take special note to how their faces will light up talking about that dream now tell them their dreams are nearly unattainable thanks to you not being able to provide for them and once again the fright and anguish in their faces will tell you the complete story. In the shortest of terms, the proposed fur ban is robbing our youth of opportunities and crushing their dreams in the process.

Now that is what I call inhumane.

Thank you,
Alexandros Politidis

I'm a tax paying, voting New York Citizen, and virtually all my friends and I are adamantly against the use of any kind of real animal fur. We care deeply about animal welfare and protection, and we also care about our environment. Only someone truly selfish and lacking in compassion and awareness could possibly use or purchase fur in the 21st-century.

Once one becomes aware of the horrific torture and terrible abuse animals suffer in order to produce for products, no Ethical sane person could ever purchase or wear for again. Furthermore, most reputable fashion designers have stopped using it because of consumer demand for cruelty free Ethical products. There's no excuse to continue allowing barbaric for farms and animal trapping, etc., as we no longer need fur to keep warm, we have far better products for that. My family, friends and I always vote, and we pay close attention to politicians views and actions regarding animal welfare. Please do the only decent thing and help and this horrifically and unacceptably cruel Industry now.

Sincerely,

Julianna Lavin

Ban Fur

June S. Iseman JIseman@stribling.com

I strongly support New York City joining the dozens of designers, fashion houses and cities in prohibiting the sale of fur apparel.

Sincerely,

Anita Smith

Wilson Street

Staten Island, NY 10304

Please support intro 1476 to ban fur in NYC. This barbaric, cruel and inhumane industry needs to end and we, as human-beings, need to move into a more compassionate, caring world, free from the murder and torture of innocent animals, who feel love, fear and pain. We have the technology and access to a plethora of fabrics and materials to make warm, fashionable clothing and living beings do not have to suffer the torture, pain and death involved in ripping the skin from their bodies and they writhe in pain and agony, while almost always, still conscious and alive. I have seen some awful videos that have kept me up at night, and I'm sure if most of the population had the opportunity to view them, they would also agree to end this cruel and unnecessary industry. We have a moral and ethical obligation to do so, Let's seize the opportunity.

Thank you for your time.

Shari Markovich
72nd Avenue
Bellerose, NY 11426-2727

Hello, my name is Maria Victoria Lagardera and I'm a constituent of Margaret Chin.

My address is W 3rd St, New York, NY, 10012

I am writing to you today in support of Intro 1476 to ban the sell and manufacture of fur in NYC, and to ask all of you to reflect on the following:

Is the profit of a few, more important than the health and legal representation of the majority? Is it more crucial than protecting the environment? Is it worth the abuse and torture of countless animals, who suffer horrific treatment? who are anally and vaginally electrocuted and skinned alive? Who are kept in tiny cages developing psychosis, awaiting for even worse fates?

These horrors are perpetrated in the service of fur farms, in the name of fashion and warmth. And yet, with the amazing technologies that we have today, these cruelties are completely unnecessary. The clothing that is created synthetically protects us from the cold even in the harshest of environments, far exceeding the archaic rotting skins of old. Technology that, contrary to the claims of many people in the fur industry, are in fact more eco friendly than animals' fur. Animals' fur is treated with very toxic chemicals that not only pollute our lands, water, and air, but also poison the consumer and the workers who toil in these noxious hell scapes.

So I ask, is the profit of a dying industry more important than protecting our environment? More important than protecting our health?

Some may think that opposing these barbaric practices will limit the fashion choices available to us, and that we should have the right to wear whatever we please. Perhaps. But we must also know that the fur industry propagates numerous lies to deceive consumers into buying animal fur, thinking it's more eco friendly than faux fur, or that it is humane, while hiding the true cost of these wasteful and outrageous practices that remain increasingly pointless, and entirely without merit.

In fact, cities such as Los Angeles and San Francisco, as well as many of fashion's most prestigious and acclaimed companies are choosing to ditch animal fur because they are measuring the cost of their choices more accurately, and more in keeping with a work culture that is sincerely prosperous and truly formidable.

Most animals used for fur are raised in farms where conditions are so wretched that they develop mental illnesses so severe that they mimic human psychosis. Can you imagine, having the space you occupy for the entirety of your life restricted to the size of an airplane seat? To have this be where you live until the day that someone comes to electrocute you through your anus, just before they skin you alive and let you slowly die?

Have you ever heard their screams as this happens?

I have.

They are mortifying. And yet, I still cannot imagine the suffering that these animals endure.

Those who are caught in the wild don't have it better, as they are left without shelter at the mercy of predators for days, and will often chew off their own limbs in a desperate attempt to escape an inevitable gruesome and grisly death.

What are we supporting when we support fur? What unspeakable terrors are we participating in when we buy these products? Violence and trauma are all around us, and we may at times find that our wants and needs are worth it. Fur, however, is not one of these instances. It is no longer useful, and no longer stylish.

It is therefore at our own peril that we operate under the fantasy that we are safe from being contaminated by the suffering that surrounds us. Our ignorance of these atrocities does not assure our immunity. Ignorance of this grave matter is not a simple lack of knowledge, but a choice to ignore the preventable misery of our most precious companions.

So I ask you today, to please support Intro 1476, a bill that 75% of New Yorkers already support. Please represent the kind and conscious majority and not the minority that ruthlessly profits off of these horrors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Maria V. Lagardera

Sir/Madam

Please ban fur, as animals too have feelings and they too have the right to live as human being do.

Rubina Islam rubinaislamghy@gmail.com

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Hristos Tsapouris, I'm a furrier in New York City. I have been in this industry for 40 years together with my wife. If the fur ban goes into effect we will lose everything

We worked so hard.

We will lose our store and our inventory and we have no other income coming to our family.

I'm 55 year old I know nothing else but the fur industry. I still have a college tuition for my daughter which is starting this year along with all the other expenses everyone has. Fur is not a new thing in this city, it has a big history behind it since the pilgrims.

That was the only commodity they had to deal with and survive. Same as us now.

By abandoning it we will be putting a ban on the history of New York and most of the Country. If you ban fur will it be like also banning the Thanksgiving Turkey? It is a similar situation since the turkey is also living animal which is being farmed for human use purposes same as mink , fox and lamb. The fur industry has a tradition in this country that is as rich and old as that of the Thanksgiving Turkey. The turkey is euthanized in a civilized manner that is very similar to the way animals are prepared in the fur industry.

Is it inhuman use fur for its warmth, medicine and everyday use in life?

My testimony is short because many of my colleagues have already outlined many of the finer points of this argument and I don't want to be repetitive, but for the sake of my friends, family and colleagues I hope you make the right decision.

Please oppose the fur ban.

Hristos Tsapouris

My address: West 30th street , NY, NY 10001

Written Testimony in Support of Intro 1476, a Bill to Ban the Sale of Fur Apparel in New York City

May 20, 2019

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing,

I write to you today as a resident of New York City and an advocate for those who can't speak for themselves. I humbly ask that your committee swiftly pass Intro 1476.

A new poll was just released showing that a staggering 75% of New York City voters support a ban on the sale of fur. Reason being, worldwide, over 100 million animals are abused and killed for their fur every year and whether raised on fur farms or trapped from the wild, the public is not in support of the unimaginable cruelty inflicted upon them.

At the hearing, you heard from dozens of experts and residents who support this important bill. The reasons for supporting this bill are numerous. However, I believe that the most compelling reason is simple: it is the right thing to do.

Over the past few weeks, the fur industry has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to stop this bill from passing. They've personally attacked many of your colleagues and have resorted to tactics that are outside the bounds of appropriate lobbying. This industry does not represent the values of New Yorkers which is why I ask that the committee stand with justice and pass this bill out of committee quickly.

Fur is a product of extreme cruelty and has no place in New York City.

Sincerely,

Matthew Dominguez
416 Kent Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11249
Matthew.t.dominguez@gmail.com



Testimony on Int. No. 1476-2019

A Local Law To Amend The Administrative Code Of The City Of New York,
In Relation to Prohibiting The Sale Of Fur Apparel

Submitted by Wendy Scher
5/15/19

My name is Wendy Scher, I'm a Brooklyn resident and a representative of Global Justice for Animals and the Environment, GJAE.

While GJAE opposes the cruelty of fur trapping and ranching, we are also concerned with fur's environmental impacts. An extensive body of research debunks fur industry spin that portrays their product as natural and eco-friendly.

Fur farming damages biodiversity and wildlife habitats. The industry is responsible for the introduction of damaging non-native invasive species, including the American mink, raccoon dogs, and muskrats in Europe. The fur industry introduced nutria to the United States in the 30s and 40s. These aquatic rodents have wreaked havoc on marshes from Louisiana to Maryland.

With a market incentive to catch as many animals as they can, fur trappers deplete fur bearer populations, upsetting the delicate balance of predator-prey relations that are the bedrock of healthy ecosystems. The trapping of our state animals, beavers, undermines their vital role in wetland creation. Fur traps are left in the woods to catch any creature that crosses their path, resulting in the deaths of non-target animals, including dogs and cats, birds, and endangered and out of season species.

The fur industry is also a resource intensive polluter. Toxic chemicals used to transform pelts into coats, including ammonia, cyanide-based dyes, and formaldehyde, foul air and poison water with carcinogens. Waste effluent generated by intensive confinement farms also threaten our water. A study conducted for the government of Nova Scotia's environmental ministry found fur farms responsible for rendering the province's lakes and rivers unswimmable.

Global Justice for Animals and the Environment

1650 Sterling Place, Apt. 2F, Brooklyn, NY 11233

Email: info@gjae.org Web: gjae.org Twitter: [@GJAEnvironment](https://twitter.com/GJAEnvironment)

Facebook Page: facebook.com/GlobalJusticeforAnimalsandtheEnvironment/

Facebook Group: facebook.com/groups/GlobalJusticeforAnimalsandtheEnvironment/

A study by Dutch environmental research firm CE Delft compared mink fur and five textiles across a range of environmental impacts and found fur to be by far the worst in 17 of 18 areas studied. The study used the most favorable impact range numbers for fur, didn't account for volatile emissions and wastewater treatment which would likely produce even more fur-unfavorable numbers, and still found that "It can be stated with certainty that fur is the least preferable option compared with common types of textile."

The report charts the reduction rate of impact of fur needed to match the highest score of the other textiles:

Environmental impact	Reduction rate of impact of fur needed to match the highest score of the other textiles
Climate change	4.7
Ozone depletion	11.9
Human toxicity	3.4
Photochemical oxidant formation	28.1
Particulate matter formation	17.0
Ionising radiation	2.1
Terrestrial acidification	15.3
Freshwater eutrophication	5.2
Marine eutrophication	12.9
Terrestrial ecotoxicity	24.0
Freshwater ecotoxicity	2.6
Marine ecotoxicity	3.2
Agricultural land occupation	5.3
Urban land occupation	27.9
Natural land transformation	9.5
Water depletion	0.4
Metal depletion	6.8
Fossil depletion	6.5

The study found that even when using the most favorable figures for the fur industry, 1 kg of mink fur is responsible for 140 KG of CO2 equivalent GHG emissions. By contrast polyester and polyacryl, textiles used for faux fur, each contribute only 5 KG of CO2 equivalent GHG emissions per 1 kg of fabric.

A fur ban can be an opportunity to extend NYC's green new deal. With China's recyclable plastic import market collapsing, it's vital that we find local uses for our plastic waste. Already global textile and apparel manufacturer Ecopel produces faux fur from recycled plastics in China. NYC can create green jobs by incentivizing entrepreneurs to develop businesses to recycle our plastic waste into sustainable garments. Fur shops can transition to selling sustainable faux fur garments including locally produced, recycled content items. With this shift, the fur industry will finally be telling the truth when it claims to sell a green product.

Global Justice for Animals and the Environment

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Please ban fur!

This is a sick and twisted way use and kill and animal that does not want to die and begging for is/her life!!

Please help put an end to this once and for all! The new faux look so much better than real and lighter in weight!

Please help this poor animals that do not have a voice!!

Thank u sooooo much 🙄🙄🙄🙄

Trish Blatz
west 76 st
NYC!!

Dear Council members,

I attended the hearing last week and was pleased to hear strong arguments for the fur ban. I believe it is time to increase consumer awareness and establishing a fur ban speaks volumes about what this city will tolerate. I'm proud to live in a city and neighborhood where there is a great deal of tolerance, but when it comes to violence against sentient beings there is no room for tolerance. Certainly you are aware of the link between violence to animals and violence to humans. A fur ban ultimately creates a more compassionate society, minimizing opportunities for the animal - human violence link to continue.

I support a compassionate world. I hope you will too. Many eyes are on NYC as a model and I hope we will send a strong message for others to follow - with 3 major cities taking a stand - San Francisco, LA and next NYC!

Thank you for your time,
Dr. Corey Fenstemacher

Corey Fenstemacher, Psy.D.
8th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11215

hi here, my name is Lee Atzil and i live at West 72nd street in the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

I strongly support a fur ban in NYC and find slaughtering animals for vanity, and torturing them in the process unthinkable. NYC should serve as a leader in banning fur and serve as a guiding light to the rest of the country and the world.

Sincerely,

Lee Atzil

Good afternoon,

My husband and I are very supportive of Intro 1476 - a bill to prohibit the sale or offer for sale of fur apparel. The production of fur is primitive and it is a very cruel industry. We must join cities across the country and the world in banning the sale of fur products.

My address is below:

Megan and Tom Segaric
W 236th St.
Bronx, NY 10463

Thank you.

I am against the fur ban.

I know many hard working people who would lose .

Furthermore, I don't believe it's the government 's job to tell people what they can purchase. We do live in the United States.

If you don't want to purchase a product you don't have to.

I also think you should re-examine PETA. They euthanize cats and dogs.

Sincerely,

Anne Mantsios

Dear Council Member,

I came to the US from Ukraine in the late 90s with ambition, hopes, and dreams. I worked hard to learn English so that I could prove to myself, my family, and everyone around me that I belong here. From there, I knew I needed a secure job to be able to provide for my family and young daughter.

When I first started in the fur fashion industry, I fell in love with it immediately! The ability to design beautiful fur pieces for fashionable New Yorker's was a dream come true for me. I've been working for the same company for 18 years now and I love it every single day. Two years ago, I finally got to fulfill another dream of mine and bought a home!

At this point in my Life I have everything I've dreamed of and worked so hard for non be possibly wiped away from me is heartbreaking. I am not the only immigrant who has had to work their way up from nothing and I am not only one who's future is in jeopardy with this possible fur ban, it includes my co-workers and mentors I learned to love and respect.

Many immigrants have chosen to work in the fur industry, please vote no on the fur ban so we can keep achieving our dreams and taking care of our families. This country was built on small business and immigrant

ambitions.

Thank you for your consideration

Zhanna Paliy

Nicole Hidalgo

W 58th St

New York, NY 10019

Dear Council,

I am writing to tell you that I fully support the proposed fur ban. I have followed this issue for many years, and it is incredibly horrifying to learn about the production of fur and the unnecessary cruelty and pain inflicted on these innocent animals.

Who are we morally, if we fail to take a stand on this? New York City is a leader. I hope that the fur ban becomes law, and other cities follow suit.

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Nicole Hidalgo

Dear Council members:

I urge you to ban fur in NYC. It's cruel and unnecessary. There are plenty of cruelty free, environmentally friendly options. We owe it to animals, society and the planet to do better and banning fur is a small step in the right direction. The ban will also spur innovation as companies race to improve on current faux fur options.

Fur has no place in modern society. We need to strive to do better and protect the innocent from torture and slavery, human animals, fur covered animals, feather covered animals and scale covered animals alike.

Cheers,

Dina DiCenso, PhD, MSF, NP

Owner of Brooklyn Family Health NP&RN, PLLC Primary care clinic, Gristle Tattoo vegan tattoo shop and co-owner RIND vegan cheese. All based in NYC.

Dear Council Members:

I am a constituent in Little Neck, Queens.

My Council Member is Paul Vallone.

I am writing to ask you ALL to SUPPORT AND PASS BILL #1476 - TO BAN FUR.

The relentless inhumanity done to thousands of animals has to end.

Let us all stand up for

PROTECTING DEFENSELESS ANIMALS.

Please VOTE TO BAN FUR.

Thank you.

Constituent: Roe Castagna

Address: Glenwood St

Little Neck, New York 11362

Hello Councilmembers

My name is JOHN PETKANAS, owner of Jonevon Furs, manufacturing USA mink made in USA. I am a second generation Furrier starting at the age of 14 years old. I am in this industry for 42 years and have employed 10 employees for the past 20 years without **NO** Unemployment. This job and this industry kept many generations foundations to build sound families and dreams that every individual should have the rights to succeed. A special unique trade that is very much needed to teach and bring in young eager individuals that will learn this beautiful trade so that they to can support their ambitions and dreams as well.

Now with all mis-information that you have been fed by the Peta groups (non taxed status) which do nothing but kill and euthanasia animals they claim to save, pay organizations as a smoke screen to claim the cause of their efforts to saving animals.

You need to get all your facts together and find out who is really criminal about animal abuse. **PETA**

I am also a milliner making all types of fur hats, in addition to the Strummeil typically worn by the Hasidic population.

It would be very discriminatory if I only made hats for these customers. I am not a prejudiced individual and I believe that your ban is prejudice.

I am a manufacturer, not a farmer. I do not raise mink.

Regarding the farming end of this argument and facts that were brought up in the hearing. A mink is at the bottom of the food chain next to Humans! If we ask the mink how it wants to be killed, then why don't we ask the cow?

Or perhaps the inmate on death

row ?

Injection or electrocution ? What is more ethical for you?

This law is insane and has no right to even be brought up, as there are so many more incredibly important topics for the council to focus on.

Homelessness, drugs, guns, and racial discrimination.

Stop waisting my small business tax dollars that we are all paying to do the right things instead of looking to take jobs away from people with responsibilities.

I welcome all councilmembers to my showroom / factory and give you a firsthand lesson on our very beautiful and unique business that will always be desired by many more people than you PETAS paid polls say different.

When the beavers up the Hudson River start the dams and flooding, make sure you have enough money in the budget to pay the Army-core if engineers to fix it, perhaps our small business that you are looking to close will not be there to fund it if you had your way.

NO FUR BAN

PLEASE DO SOMETHING MORE PRODUCTIVE FOR OUR CITY.

Thank you for all your time

Hoping that you make the right choice

Respectfully

John Petkanas

Jonevon Furs

No fur ban

Human right !

Animals right !

Please do not pick one side !

If you want to do the best for New York City

Protect us all !

Give us the freedom to chose and the

Wisdom to be better !

You have the power to create a better world

Used it in a positive way !

So we can be proud of our CiTy ,

Freedom is gift that we need to protect !

Please !

Thank you !

Lina

Lina Gelo Lgelo2@aol.com

Hello,

I am writing in support of Intro 1476 to ban fur sales in NYC. This is long overdue and will help move NYC to become a more humane, evolved city that values animals' well-being. There are plenty of alternatives to fur available to consumers.

Thank you,

Katie Sperling

Mercer Street

New York, NY 10012

Ktsperling@gmail.com

GIGI BURRIS MILLINERY - VIRGINIA BURRIS - OWNER/FOUNDER

Coming from a small town in Central Florida, I worked tirelessly and sacrificed to make it to New York, the epicenter of American Fashion. I came here to pursue my dream of working in the fashion industry as a hat maker. In 2015, I proudly became a member of the CFDA, one of small group of milliners in the organization.

I am the founder of a female owned, self financed small business, which employs an incredibly diverse group of young men and women. The struggle of working in a niche industry is constant, but I believe millinery is my calling and it brings me great joy.

Millinery has been a women's craft for centuries and I am proud to carry on the tradition, promote craft, and most importantly support local production. What the Fur Ban does is further eliminate local production, cuts out a significant revenue stream for an already struggling millinery industry, and dictates MY incredibly personal design choices. As a tax paying small business owner, I believe that a small group of council members does not have the right to control my creativity when I gladly give up so much of my earnings in city taxes to be a part of the New York Fashion community.

Gigi Burris O'Hara gigiburris@gmail.com

nofurban

We have 3 stores in New England that carry fur trimmed garments as well as reversible stormcoats, very practical for our cold winters. We have been in business for 35 years and always purchased in the NYC market. We spend about \$250,000. a year in the market as well as lodging, food and shows. every trip. We have been dealing with the same vendors each year. I cannot imagine what would happen if the fur market disappears. So many lost jobs. These people are hard working individuals.

Fur is sustainable unlike the petroleum base faux furs.

You should also understand that meat from the minks are utilized in ingredients for dog and cat food.

We also work with animal welfare leagues to supply old fur for bedding. These shelters are thrilled with our contributions.

We live in America and should have freedom of choice as what we want to wear.

Dino International

Anne dinointl@furs@aol.com

My name is Yasmin Noor residing in Queens. My address is 77th St, Woodhaven NY 11421.

I support Intro 1476 to ban fur in NYC. The fur trade is an inhumane act of violence towards living creatures. Please add me to the plentiful group of people who do not support the sales or use of fur in NYC.

The fur trade ruins our environment and steals our resources. There is no reason that a city that wants to be ahead of its time is STILL using fur.

Thank you!

Please help us stop this barbaric use of innocent, feeling creatures. We don't need to torture living animals for our vanity. There are plenty of other fabrics to keep us warm and stylish. If you have any conscience or heart you will not be part of this abomination.

Thank you,

Natasha Brenner

My name is Larisa Aleksandrovich

And I'd like to express my view on the matter concerning the fur ban hearing that took place in the City Hall on 5/15/2019.

I want to stand up for my freedom of choice especially on my clothing and accessories.

I think everyone has to have a right to express his love for fashion the way he/she wants.

There It's a matter of personal choice and everyone should be allowed to exercise their judgment on what to eat and what to wear, fur or leather or other materials Fur always been a symbol of beauty success and fashion from the oldest times.

Another issue is support for the small businesses .

I find it absolutely outrageous that thousands of family businesses and their workers might be losing their jobs because of the strong feelings vegans have towards this issue. I have friends who were building their businesses from zero. They worked seven days a week, no holidays didn't see their kids, struggled greatly to survive economic ups and downs only to come to this day where all their effort could lead to bankruptcies, broken dreams, and uncertain future. Some of them are not young people who have time to switch their careers. Is this a fair way to treat people?

Moreover, if the fur is banned in NYC, people will buy it in the neighboring states. If it's banned everywhere in the US, it will be purchased overseas. What do we achieve here? Lost jobs, misery, and aggravation and lost revenues for the city. Can we really afford it?

It would be a big mistake to ban fur in NYC or anywhere else as it represents only a certain viewpoint and interests. I would greatly appreciate if you could consider my opinion in this matter.

west 5 th Street , Brooklyn,NY, 11224

Sincerely,

Larisa

FUR IS MURDER
Written by Kyle Paseka

So.....
You want a fur coat, how chic, or so you think
Don't you agree with me?
Fur looks better on a mink.
There was a time when wearing pelts made sense
Back when we all dwelt in cave apartments

We've evolved so much since
So why are you still wearing animal skins?

For status, to look rich, it's what you've been taught
First you must learn how they're trapped and caught
See how they're murdered, tortured and abused
You want to wear fur?
It's your choice... you choose

Don't wear indifference for vanity's sake
Where is the status in a chewed off leg?
Compassion is the fashion
Remember fur is dead
Their fate is in your hands
Use your heart - use your head!

They get some of those skins off them alive
I'm sure you don't know how they die
Otherwise why, why, why?
Would you wear fur, knowing it's murder



Fur Is Murder.m4a

Innocent creatures who live in the woods
Never thought they'd get trapped and end up in this
neighborhood

So this was their divine destiny?
On someone's back, going down the street
Strolling down the avenue
A lot of innocent blood was shed for you
But you know better now
I know you do
You'll do the right thing
It's the only choice for you

We all have a destiny
That's why we're here
In the meantime, be kind to every being here
There's no need for suffering and fear
I think I've made my point
I think I'm perfectly clear
Fur is murder
Fur is murder.

This is my testimony for banning fur in New York City Thank you
> Compassion is the fashion Remember fur is dead Please use your heart
> And your head Kyle Paseka

kyann414@gmail.com

Hi

My name is Michele Poli and I reside at Carlton Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10309. My Council Member is Joseph Borelli.

I write to you today as a constituent of District 51 and, more importantly, I write to you as a mother, a NYC mother who strives to raise her children with dignity, family values and respect for all. My children are being raised to treat others how they want to be treated. Just as much as they are aware of racism, sexism and discrimination as a whole, they too are aware of speciesism, which is where we as a society value our lives and profits over the lives of animals. It's time we create a world where children can grow up learning that oppression is a thing of the past. Let our strong city set this tone for generations to come.

Many of us share our homes with fur bearing animals, those of which we consider to be part of our family. How can we continue on as a civilized society, one that shows compassion and unity and still try to justify animals being enslaved in fur farms or being shot in the head in the wild. We cannot justify anal electrocution on account of business and profit.

In NYC we already have a wonderful luxury faux fur designer! Anna Tagliabue of Pelsuh has begun the transition from real fur to Luxury ethical alternatives to avoid the senseless killing to billions of foxes, seals, mink, raccoons and so on.

After continuously avoiding the topic of fur, many of our well known fashion brands have finally decided to drop fur and proceed to adapt a more ethical sense of fashion for their brands. No one is out of business because of it.

If you're a true designer you don't need to rely on the backs of animals to support your livelihood. Be creative and let this be a stepping stone in advancing business to meet the ever-growing need for compassionate and ethical fashion trends!

A choice is never a choice when there is a Victim at hand. Please support Intro 1476!

Thank You

Michele Poli

May 20, 2019

Dear Consumer Affairs Committee Members,

Re: New York City Professionals Against Fur/Support for Bill 1476

Thank you so much for introducing Bill 1476. It has been common knowledge for many years that the fur industry is a cruel, outdated sector, and we are proud to live in a progressive city that recognizes this fact. During the hearing, Mr. Cabrera correctly recognized that New Yorkers across all demographics and income levels support this Bill, and it is to support this fact that we collectively submit this letter of support signed by a former Wall Street attorney (now working at Thomson Reuters), a veterinarian (with a successful vet practice in Manhattan), and a pediatrician (with a successful practice in Manhattan). We write on behalf of dozens of other similarly situated professionals (attorneys, doctors, etc.) that we know and have spoken with that support this Bill, and we would be happy to assemble a list/petition of such professionals if this Committee would find such a list helpful. We have nothing to personally gain from the passage of this Bill, but we support it without any hesitation because we want to immediately end the unnecessary egregious and unconscionable suffering that so many animals experience. We believe that by passing this Bill in New York City, the fashion capital of the world, we will send a clear message to the rest of the world that fur is no longer the coveted status symbol that it once was. In doing so, we will save millions of animals from unnecessary torture and inhumane conditions. We will also be one step closer to living in a kinder, more tolerant and humane society that gives a voice to the voiceless.

In support of Bill 1476, we further submit the following:

- With very few exceptions, our work colleagues and neighbors no longer wear fur. The exception to this are the Canada Goose winter jackets that some of our peers wear, and that are occasionally trimmed with fur. With respect to these jackets, based on our observations and discussions, the fur is not a necessary aspect of these jackets, and our peers would purchase these Jackets even if they had faux fur. In fact, the people that we have spoken with would prefer the jackets to be trimmed with faux fur;

- We dispute the opponents' claim that the jobs at issue do not involve transferable skills. We live in a fast-paced world where shifting trends and tastes are the norm, and agility is key. Of the alleged 7,000 jobs impacted, it is our belief that 90% of them involve transferable skills of some kind. At the root of this, lies the simple greed of a handful of furriers that, out of pure self-interest, are alleging (incorrectly!) that many others will be impacted. In fact, during the hearing last week, one of us spoke with a number of people who had been bussed in for the hearing who were essentially clueless as to why they were there. Frankly, since fur is no longer in demand, the sooner these employees retrain and retool, the better for them. As for the handful of business owners who are behind the opposition efforts, they can use their business acumen to launch new businesses in the many new and growing industries. We would support a fund/initiative that helps retool some of these individuals provided, however, that it was made available to the thousands of New Yorkers who have been displaced by the changes in the retail sector in the past decade (rather than being exclusive to the fur industry);

- Moreover, the claim relating to “freedom of choice” is equally misplaced. Consumers have a lot of choices today with respect to many aspects, but we need some laws and regulations in place to protect our society and move in a positive direction. This is why, for example, we have child labor laws notwithstanding the fact that it deprives some people of some level of “choice”;

- The FairMark proposal is nothing more than a delay tactic, and even if the self-regulating nature of it worked (which is highly doubtful!), it would not resolve the underlying tension of

needing to do away with the archaic and barbaric practice of trapping and torturing living things that are intelligent and feel pain. Further, having "experts" mandated to find the "most humane way" is pure manipulation, as "the most humane way" is a relative concept compared to the current *status quo*, and negates the only certain way to make this practice "humane," which is to eliminate it; and

- Similarly, the hollow claims made by the \$1200/hour attorney from Kelly Drye are nothing more than a delay tactic/red herring. The Case cited can be distinguished and is inapplicable here. The undersigned attorney would be happy to work, on a *pro bono* basis, preparing a memorandum that further expounds on this point.

Accordingly, we urge the Committee to pass this very important Bill that will not only help animals in the United States, but will also have far-reaching positive ramifications for sentient creatures around the world. We are available at any time to answer questions, provide further testimony, or assist the Committee in whatever way it deems fit.

Thank you for your time in reading this testimony, and for introducing this very important Bill.

Yours truly,

Sarit Shmulevitz, Esq. Director, Thomson Reuters (former attorney with Sidley & Austin in NY)

Dr. Andrew Kaplan, Veterinarian, City Veterinary Care (owner)

Dr. Cathy Ward, M.D. Big Apple Pediatrics (owner)

On behalf of many other similarly situated attorneys, doctors and other NYC professionals with a conscience

To whom it may concern:

My name is Kiirstin Calister-Kuhi. I reside in District 5 at E 54th St, and my council member is Ben Kallos. I'm writing to you today to ask you to please support and put forth to vote Intro 1476, the bill to ban the sale of new fur in NYC.

I was in attendance at this past Wednesday's hearing, but I wasn't sure what I could say that wouldn't be more eloquently said by my peers until I started to hear some of the tactics furriers were using to sway the council to their side. One particular excuse to continue the unnecessary torture and murder of innocent animals that really irked me was that the banning fur would somehow be an attack on immigrants and their families. As I'm sure the committee witnessed, there were many immigrants and people of color in support of the fur ban, but this particular lie struck such a personal chord with me as my family approaches the one year anniversary of my grandmother's death.

My grandmother, Anna Calister, has one of the most incredible immigrant stories I have ever heard. She grew up on a farm in Croatia and loved all the animals as her pets. She named them all and couldn't bear to watch a single one be killed, and she never did.

Her husband, my grandfather, a longshoreman, jumped ship in the United States when he became aware that another world war was about to break out. He assumed he would be able to send for my grandmother and their newborn baby, but the war started and all communication was cut off. For 4 years they didn't know if the other was dead or alive. For 11 years they were separated, and in that time my grandmother experienced the death of their young son and the loss of 2 brothers to the war. Finally, after 11 years, my grandfather was able to gather all the documents needed for her to come to the United States. She didn't want to come here. It broke her heart to leave her family. Her parents and her brothers and sisters that remained were her entire world, but she came in order to fulfill her duty to her husband in the eyes of God.

She came to Brooklyn, NY to find a hardened alcoholic who she barely recognized. She spoke no English and went to work as a seamstress in what was essentially a sweatshop. In Croatia my grandmother had been skilled dress and suit maker. She could make anything. She made uniforms for soldiers. She could look at a dress in a fashion magazine and replicate it without any pattern. She sewed well into her 90s and would only ask that others thread her needles for her so she could patch a hole or repurpose an old shirt into a pillow case.

I tell you all of this about my immigrant grandmother because I feel I am continuing her legacy of compassion. Because of her experience with the animals on her farm she was an ethical vegetarian for

more than 60 years and never wore fur in her life. She would never have worked with animal fur as a seamstress, and she often spoke about how animals deserved the right to live just like you and me.

My grandmother was born Croatian, but she was New York City. She and my grandfather raised 3 children in Brooklyn, and lived the hard life of immigrants in the United States in the 1950s and 60s. They worked incredibly hard to give their children the best lives possible, and never once had to bloody their hands with the skin of another species to do it. Their legacy continues on today in myself and my brother and cousins.

Banning the sale of new fur in New York City is not an attack on anyone, and certainly not an attack on immigrants, but a celebration of everything that is good and right in this city. We are a sanctuary city, and we can be that for all living beings, including the most innocent among us. I am so proud to call myself a New Yorker, and I am so proud to be on the right side of history. I'm very sure if my grandmother were alive today, she would have been a proud supporter of this bill as well.

Anna Calister died at the age of 106 in her bed in her studio apartment in Manhattan surrounded by her family. This weekend we will all be traveling to Croatia to bury her remains with her family. I fight for the rights of innocent animals in honor of Anna.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. I truly hope you see through the charade and support Intro 1476, the bill to save innocent animals from abuse, torture, and murder.

Sincerely,

Kiirstin Calister-Kuhi

646.765.4258

E 54th St

NY, NY 10022

--

Kiirstin Marilyn

www.KiirstinMarilyn.com

Hi,

I wanted to share my opinion on the fur ban. I believe I'm a rational human being and can see both sides to an argument. Vivisection was sometimes used to save human lives and nutrients can be gained by eating meat, although the methods by which these practices are employed are questionable. But fur? Why should animals die to produce a coat when there are so many alternative environmentally friendly options?! It's absolutely barbaric and there is no rational argument that can be made to state otherwise! If we wouldn't gas and electrocute humans why would we do the same to animals? They are sentient beings. Science continues to prove this over and over again! . hey have emotions, can form complex bonds, communicate, etc... Further to use the excuse that it should be allowed for religious or cultural reasons is also insane! Slavery was also considered a cultural practice. People still use the argument that civil war "heroes" should be given a pass if they were slavery proponents because "that was just the time...it was considered the norm and they didn't know any better." Bullshit! Cruel is cruel, rape and murder are never okay and those were the atrocities committed to humans back then and these are the same atrocities we continue to commit against animals. And for what? for vanity?! Give me a break.

I remember those anti-fur videos back in the 80s and if someone told me that we'd still be using fur today I wouldn't believe them.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Best,

Elaine

Elaine Masci

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

Strategy Star Award Recipient

Emerald Club Award Recipient

Halstead Manhattan, LLC

451 West Broadway, New York, NY 10012

O: 212.521.5708 | **C:** 917.400.1465

Confidential Fax: 646.775.4233

Emasci@halstead.com



Official Real Estate Firm of the New York Yankees

New York City | Hamptons | CT | NJ | Hudson Valley

Nofurban - we have 3 stores in New England that carry fur trimmed garments as well as fur reversible storm coats , very practical for the cold winters here - we have been in business for over 35 years and have always purchased in the NYC market . We spend about \$250000 a year in the market as well as lodging food and shows every trip . We have been dealing with the same vendors for years , I cannot imagine what would happen if the fur market disappeared , its unthinkable . You should also know as retailers we also service what we sell and have an impressive viable cold storage business which is a huge part of our income . We also work with animal welfare leagues to supply old fur for bedding . These shelters and rehabbers are thrilled for our contribution and very grateful . Fur is sustainable unlike petroleum based faux man made materials . You should also understand that the meat from

the mink farms is also utilized in the ingredients for domestic dog and cat food as you know they cannot live without animal protein .

Think about it get real and get fur . Responsible , Sustainable , Lawful .

9788356998@vzwpix.com

Hello-

I am writing today as I didn't have the opportunity to testify on Wednesday May 15 regarding my support of Intro 1476.

Without getting into my personal reasons for banning fur in nyc, our politicians should support their constituents' stance on this matter - An overwhelming majority of residents support banning the sale of fur apparel in the city, [a new poll](#) shows. The citywide survey, conducted by Mason-Dixon, [found that 74% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans and 79% of independents support the sales prohibition.](#)

Support this bill. Do it, if not for stopping the cruelty of this industry, for standing with the people you represent.

Thanks you.

Elena Ramos-Velita

E 1st st, nyc 10003

1476 bill to Ban Fur

there is nothing more to say about the way humans treat animals but today it s recognized and altered slowly but certainly/

no one species has the right to willfully harm another and the fur industry is one of the most heinous b/c humans do NOT need fur for warmth/

it s a status symbol that is outdated (thanks to animal welfare agencies since the 1970s) wretched and downright murder: Stop it now w/ legislation /

thank you sincerely, ellen lytle

ellen lytle thedgey@me.com

Dear Committee Members,

I was able to attend the full hearing on Bill 1476 on Wednesday May 15th, and found the proceeding very interesting. Thank you for your patience and time during yesterday's meeting, and for carefully listening to both sides.

I write as a New York City resident of 20 years living on the Upper West Side (70th Street), as well as a mom, and attorney by training. I practiced commercial litigation and bankruptcy with top Wall Street firms, and currently work for Thomson Reuters managing a legal product. I am a wife, a mom, and avid traveler/hiker, and our daughter attends MS 54/Booker T of the West Side. My husband is a partner at a law firm in New York City.

I am in full support of passing Bill 1476 because, as we have all known for decades, the fur industry is horrific, cruel and inhumane. I applaud your leadership in proposing and considering this very important bill that, if passed, would help make our city a kinder, more compassionate, and tolerant place to live. By passing the law in New York, we will see ripple effects throughout the United States and abroad and millions of animals will be spared of unnecessary horror and suffering. I believe that the passage of Bill 1476 would also lead to more tolerance and compassion in other areas outside of animal well-being because people will become more self-reflective about how their actions impact others.

Anecdotal Evidence to Support the Contention that Demand for Fur is Drastically Down

As a resident of the upper west side, I can offer anecdotal evidence that supports the statistics that fur is no longer something that most upper west side residents aspire to have or wear. There has been so much education in the past 20 years that even non-animal-lovers know that the industry is cruel and vicious. I rarely, if ever, have seen anyone wear a fur coat in my neighborhood over the past 10 years. I do occasionally see people wearing fur-lined Canada Goose jackets but believe that these consumers would purchase the jackets even if the fur was faux. It is the warmth (and possibly the branding) but not the fur trimming that appeals to buyers.

I completely disagree with the contention made by one of the opposition panelists that the demand is still there but has shifted from storefronts to the internet. I simply do not see anyone below the age of 75 wear fur anymore in my neighborhood.

Proposal for FairMark is a Delay Tactic, and Would be Difficult and Expensive to Administer

I listened carefully while the opposition outlined the workings of their FairMark proposal. In my opinion, the industry has had more than enough time to deal with the inherent cruelty of fur and it is too late. This is simply a red herring/delay tactic. As mentioned by Committee members, the self-regulating aspect of this proposal makes it unworkable. It would be costly and burdensome to enforce and police. At best, it might reduce the cruelty but will not eliminate it. For the sake of living in a humane society, we need to eliminate the sale of fur.

The question of how one enforces sales that happen over the internet is a good one. I don't presently have the answer but am confident we can look to Los Angeles and San Francisco, and other models to provide guidance.

The Argument for Free Choice is Without Merit and Is Self-Serving

The argument raised by the opposition that consumers should have free choice is without merit and self-serving. Clearly, we have laws in place to ensure that we live in a safe and humane society. We don't (and nor should we) have the choice of employing child labor, or for paying someone below minimum wage. The City Council's role is to lead and put laws in place that are in the greater good of all. By nature, laws will restrict some but are necessary in our world.

Slippery Slope Argument is Without Merit and Is Self-Serving

Similarly, the slippery slope is without merit. If we can easily and effectively reduce some suffering then we should take the steps necessary to do so.

The Impact on Jobs and Economic Loss is Significantly Lower than Alleged by the Opposition

The opposition alleges that if this Bill is passed then 7,000 jobs will be lost. I don't have a breakdown of these numbers, but would bet that at least 5,000 of these jobs are of very junior staff members who happen to work in this industry but would be equally able to work outside of the fur industry. I believe that the opposition is driven by the greed of a handful of business owners. I have little sympathy for these business owners because they have been on notice for effectively 20+ years that society's norms are changing, and have had more than enough time to transition into another industry. Moreover, the retail industry has suffered so much in the past 10 years and so many business owners have been decimated around the city. I have far greater sympathy for business owners who were not involved in the fur trade.

Path to Retooling Employees

Contrary to the opposition's claims, I find it hard to believe that skills involved in the fur industry are not transferrable to other sectors. Business owners have business skills that can help them start a new business. Employees/Non-owners could get a job in another sector. In the long-run, given the changes in consumer tastes, it is in the fur industry's own best interest to adapt to these changes sooner rather than later. I suppose the City could set up a small fund to help retrain these employees. However, given the decimation of the retail storefront industry since the emergence of Amazon (I see this regularly as a bankruptcy attorney that has been following the retail sector), there is no reason to unduly favor the furriers over the other (more compassionate) business owners that have been impacted by changing shopping trends.

The Kelly Drye Attorney's Legal Argument is Very Likely Without Any Merit

I took note of the case cited by the attorney for the opposition but have not had a chance to review it. I am 99.9% sure that it can be distinguished and would not apply here. The Council's job is to make laws,

and inevitably, the laws will have some negative impact on somebody someplace. This is a stalling tactic/red herring.

In sum, I support the passing of this Bill, and look forward to living in a more humane city. Thanks for your time and for supporting this Bill. I am more than happy to devote my time, on a pro bono basis, to helping distinguish the attorneys' claims and otherwise helping this Bill pass. My husband, a partner at a leading New York law firm, supports this Bill as well, as does everyone I have asked at my workplace and community.

Yours truly,

Sarit Shmulevitz, Esq.

As a global leader in fashion and culture, New York City holds a great deal of power to shift public perception of inhumane practices that have become normalized over the years. That is, most people do not consider the pain and torture behind their fur-lined parkas. It's perfectly normal to buy that jacket and totally normal to not even realize it is coyote fur. A ban shines a light on this and will help consumers realize this is inhumane and no longer necessary, particularly as faux fur products improve in quality.

New York is a huge consumer market. Producers will reconsider having to make two different versions of the same product in order to abide by New York City's anti fur laws. This can make a huge dent in the global demand for fur.

With cities across the country joining the movement to ban fur, for New York to take a stand on this issue, it forces everyone to reconsider their practices. Let's move on and move forward and leave these kinds of animal enslavement ideas behind us, because we can do much better as a society!

Thanks,

Anna Marandi

(I live part time in DC and New York - my address in NY is Horatio Street, 10014)

No to Fur Ban

My name is Jane Sperlazzi and I live in Maine but am originally from the tristate area . I travel to NYC at least a couple of times a year and have purchased many fur garments as well as leather and sheepskin all from upscale city shops that NY is known for . Many of my girlfriends do the same and after all isn't NY the fashion hub of the world ? It baffles me how a city could even propose a ban on anything that is legal to sell ??? We are after all in America last I checked . I also resent strongly anyone in government at any level insisting on regulating what I choose to wear on my body and feet . Shame on you council people for that ! To the same point I respect anyone who chooses not to wear fur go for it your choice as an American thank God for that !!!! I also want to make a point that I resent being morally judged for wearing dead animals as suggested isn't New York the state that just legalized full term abortions ? Talk about morality that that's okay . Again shame on you . What I will Thankyou for is the opportunity to be heard and I hope you will take a step back here and see the bigger picture here really isn't your interest in the protection of animals more of an authority / power trip . I call that Hitlerism . Jane

Hello City Council,

Thank you for your time in hearing this proposal to ban the sale of fur in NYC.

As a veterinary professional who works with animals on a daily basis, I can tell you sincerely that ALL mammals feel pain, both emotional and physical.

The practice commonly used to permit fur in the retail industry without a doubt, inflicts pain and cruel and unusual suffering.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The greatness of a nation can be judged by how it treats its animals." I hope NYC will pave the way for more enlightened and progressive treatment towards animals that are being used for an aesthetic industry- knowing that there are alternatives.

I believe that most consumers would stray from fur if they had this information- and you, the city council, have a responsibility to inform New Yorkers- by supporting this Ban, we take an admirable stance. I hope you will agree.

In appreciation,

Marcela Salas VMD

Brooklyn Roots Veterinary Hospital

3rd Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11215

Hello,

My name is Robert and I live in Williamsburg, district 34.

I love living in a city whose progressive culture is an inspiration for social change around the world.

And it's time we progress for the most horrifically tortured animals.

It's time we progress out of the most widely barbaric and condemned animal abuse--the murder of animals for fur fashion.

It's time we show leadership for people and communities around the world, by saying, "We New York City turn our backs on this cruel culture and embrace a new humane culture for animals and people."

As a proud longtime resident of New York, I want to continue living in a community that advances justice and compassion for all.

Thank you all so much for taking the time to read my words.

-Robert

Rob Gilbert rgilbert123@hotmail.com

Hello. My name is Jen Flanagan Othonos. I live in East Elmhurst in District 22.

My family has been in the fur business for over 30 years and I have been full time with them for the last 3. Myself, my father in law, my uncles depend on this business as their source of income to provide for our families. This is all they have ever done and without this, I do not know how mortgages, rent, bills will be paid. Passing this fur ban will rip the rugs from under working class people.

My family is a family of Immigrants. Greek Immigrants who came here for the American dream and until now, have been living it – working hard to provide for their families and to send their children to school. They have worked hard to provide for their families and continue to work hard to provide for them. New York prides itself on being a sanctuary city for immigrants and immigrant families. What this bill is doing is threatening to strip away these Americans and Immigrants of their livelihoods. The skills my family have are not transferable to other industries.

I feel the need to share that it is disheartening that other city council members consider the jobs of these hard working Americans as a small % of the city and implying they do not matter as the speaker, Mr. Cory Johnson, showed in the video at the beginning of the meeting. They matter no matter how small the % may be.

The polls stated in testimonies at the hearing on May 17 were collected online and people stated that "the voices of New York are in clear opposition" I had to show a Greek furrier I work with how to use Uber. He did not vote in your poll online nor did countless others. Their voices were not heard. This is an **immigrant** industry of many many Greeks. People who hold green cards. And have no voice in votes of councilmembers. Many stated they are here to be the voice for the voiceless animals.

I am writing this to be a voice to voiceless human beings we have an obligation to.

Please know that the hearing started with 7 council members and dwindled down to 2. Councilman Johnson, who is the main supporter of this bill was not present through the majority of the hearing and did not hear how his bill will impact working New York residents.

It is disappointing as a New York City resident that there were only two city council members sitting through a majority of the meeting when we started with 7. My family matters. Our jobs matter. This was disrespectful and dishearting to all in attendance, on both sides.

Is there a humane way to tell my 57-year-old co-worker who just finished chemo treatment he is out a job and to start training in a new field? Where is the alliance with humanity?

I would also like to ask one question. Is all red meat sold in New York from cows who's skins were then sold to leather factories or in turn meat taken from leather cows sold to meat factories? Do you have a bill for that? Many stated leather is ok because it is a by-product of meat. So if that is the argument, 100% of leather sold in New York City must be a by-product. no? The leather on your shoes is surely a confirmed bi-product. Because I do not see the difference between skin taken from a cow whose body was NOT sold for meat and skin taken from a mink. Please consider the hypocrisy.

I urge you to please get involved. Save the jobs for countless Greek workers. Do not pass the proposed fur ban.

Jen Flanagan Othonos

Ditmars Blvd East Elmhurst NY 11370

Jen Flanagan

www.jengflanagan.com

@jengflanagan

Dear Councilmembers,

I'd like to voice support for Intro 1476, legislation to ban the sale of fur in New York City. Let's join other major U.S. cities like L.A. and San Francisco, as well as many countries around the world to take a stand against this horrifically cruel, environmentally harmful industry.

There's no doubt about it: making fur for use in clothing and accessories IS animal cruelty. Despite any weak, "humane-washing" claims by the fur industry, making fur for the fashion industry involves breeding billions of animals to be kept in dirty, tiny, wire cages throughout their lives, until they are violently killed, usually by genital or anal electrocution (sticking an electric probe into the orifice and delivering an electric shock), or by bludgeoning. Undercover investigations at fur farms over the decades, including by Swiss Animal Protection/EAST International reveal that many animals are skinned alive, struggling through the entire process of peeling their skin off until they are thrown into a pile of bodies, still gasping. Many pelts imported to the U.S. for sale are mislabeled as to what species they belong to. A lot of lower-end fur sold in NYC comes from China, the world's largest fur exporter, where they kill dogs for their fur and dye the pelts to make them look like other animals.

The animals killed for their fur that aren't part of the 85% that come from fur farms are wild animals who are trapped using cruel leg-hold vices or snares. The animals sometimes remain there for days, struggling and tearing themselves apart until the trapper comes to bludgeon them to death.

Fur farming is also harmful to the environment. The high concentration of animals means a lot of feces and urine dumped into the environment, polluting the ground and local waters. It also means a lot of bacteria and illness that infects local wildlife.

Fur is a relic of an arcane idea of luxury that most people wouldn't wear anymore. More designers are turning away from fur, and there are more and more designers choosing to eschew materials made from animals altogether. Plus, there are many faux, cruelty-free alternatives to fur on the market.

Please take a stand against the wanton cruelty of the fur industry and support Intro 1476.

Thank you.
Galia Outes
3rd St
Brooklyn, NY

My name is Steve Cowit. I am the co-owner of Henry Cowit Inc & Madison Ave Furs. My brother and I are 3rd generation furriers. I have been in the fur industry for 42 years. Our business dates

back over 80 years. Our business employs 5 full time workers besides my brother and I. If you pass this fur ban, these workers will all lose their jobs and we will have to shut our doors. All of us

are over 50 years old and at a tough age to be looking for new types of jobs as we have all been involved in the fur industry for many years. This ban is almost criminal in nature as the

Speaker of the Council and his backers looks to close thriving family businesses. They look to put 1000's of workers on the unemployment line. They look to lose millions of dollars of tax revenue to the city. They look to add many more empty storefronts to the already saturated city. This ban looks to take away your constituents freedom of choice. Over the last few months, we have heard from hundreds of our customers asking that very question... how can they take away our choice to wear fur..... what will come next... leather, goose down, silk and wool. will you then take away our choice to eat meat, chicken, pork and fish. Where will it end? Speaker Johnson has refused to speak to our industry, visit our stores and businesses. He has spoken to a representative of PETA. Their agenda and goal is the total elimination of all animal use. They are against medical experimentation for life saving advances. They are a tax exempt organization who wants to put tax paying businesses like mine..out of business.

We ask the council and especially this committee to do your research and not base your decision on strictly emotion. We all believe in humane treatment of animals but how about humane treatment of humans

Thank you for your consideration

Steve Cowit

President, Henry Cowit Inc

Sec - Tres, Madison Ave Furs, Ltd.

118 W 27th St,

NYC, NY 10001

212-594-5744, Fax: 212-947-9436

Treasurer, The Greater Fur New York Assoc.

Exec BOD, Fur Information Council of America BOD

<http://www.furinsider.com/>

Date: May 19, 2019

Ted Ardelean
333 East 55th St
New York, NY

Dear Council Members of the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing:

I strongly support Intro 1476, the ban of new fur sales in New York City.

The use of animal skins and furs for clothing and accessories in New York City in 2019 is unacceptable and not justifiable considering all the cruelty involved, the detriment to the environment it causes, and the waste it produces. Only a small fraction of the animal ends in the end product.

To produce fur, millions of animals are farmed, solely for the use of their skins and furs, and face brutal killings. For what? A few jobs that are caught in a shrinking market serving the very wealthy who don't know better and don't think about the ugly business they wear on their back.

More jobs can be created in NYC and all around using alternative materials that are not sourced from animal products than currently exist in the fur trade.

Your vote in favor of this bill will save the lives of millions of animals and send an important message that fur is no longer in fashion and is history. More important your vote in favor will create new jobs in NYC from the adoption of new materials, new stores, and the marketing and sales of new products.

Please support Intro 1476.

Hello,

My name is Michael Ascari and I support the fire ban.

Thank you very much.

Michael Ascari mcascari@protonmail.com

Greetings Council Members. My name is Katerina Trabazo a professor at St. John's University, I currently reside in Daniel Dromm's District, who is in support of the ban to sell fur in NYC. First, thank you and thank you Speaker Corey Johnson for introducing Intro 1476 and the opportunity to speak in support of this bill. I recently learned that a few individuals are calling this a racist bill. It's unfortunate that anyone would use race to defend an industry that represents apathy, cruelty, exploitation, oppression, slavery, and torture, all which are not excluded to humans. I'll remind these same individuals that fur is used as a social status symbol of luxury and vanity mostly wore by white privileged women. It is criminal for anyone to support an unimaginable cruel industry especially when we do not need to wear something which represents exploitation, like humans, animals are not commodities!

Another excuse presented was the loss of jobs. Like many other things, jobs evolve, jobs are never secured nor should they be when it involves oppression. Remember that slavery was a business and legal and a personal choice. This is one of the reasons, the biggest names in fashion are no longer using fur. To the furriers, this is not your demise, this is an opportunity to create more jobs with many new different alternatives.

Fur is antiquated and wearing it in 2019 appears primitive, cruel, and apathetic. Be on the right side of history by ending the sell of fur! We can do this NYC!

Support Intro 1476 to ban fur

Please consider supporting the fur ban for NYC, as we should be a model city for ethical, moral behavior for the rest of country and world to follow. It is time for us to move forward as a city, not accepting using animals for their fur products, when there are many reasonable substitutes available, that do not involve in cruelty to animals. I do believe that a society is ultimately judged on how it treats its animals.

Thank you,

Laura Derderian
Chapel Road
Manhasset, NY 11030

Testimony in favor of Intro 1476, the Bill to Ban Fur Sales in NYC

FOR THE RECORD

Maureen Medina, 4202 5th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11232

Constituent of CM Carlos Menchaca

My name is Maureen Medina. I'm a resident in District 38, and my council member is Carlos Menchaca.

I'm here today to ask you to support Intro 1476.

This bill would prove that our progressive city chooses peace and compassion above all else.

Those opposing Intro 1476 are concerned about their profit and self expression, their fashion statement and status, and their personal choice. But they are forgetting someone. Rather, they are forgetting over 100 million victims that are abused and killed for their fur every year.

The only ones with the right to wear fur are the animals themselves.

We have no right to sell their fur. Or before that, we have no right to trap them in their own natural habitat, tear mothers from their children, or force them to live in small, cramped cages with other terrified animals. We have no right to use traps, which are inherently meant to hold someone forcibly against their will. Traps not only catch the animals meant for capture, but also children and other innocent animals that have the misfortune of stepping or swimming into them. Such animals include dogs, cats and birds like the ones we love and care for at home.

Animals caught in traps have chewed their own limbs off to escape. They have suffered from asphyxiation, hemorrhaging, and psychological distress. They endure days without food or water. Those that survive are anally or vaginally electrocuted, skinned alive, and then left to die a slow, excruciating death. We turn a blind eye to their suffering as we profit from their agony.

Over 75% of New Yorkers support this ban and, with high-end designers advancing towards ethical and sustainable fashion; we can no longer justify supporting an industry that is devastating to animals and the environment. Those opposing this ban are directly supporting and promoting violence and oppression.

"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor, it must be demanded by the oppressed." And since the animals cannot speak for themselves, since their screams fall on deaf ears and end up on fur trims and fur coats, we will speak up for them.

Please. Have compassion and support Intro 1476. Thank you.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Maureen Medina and I live in District 38. My council member is Carlos Menchaca. I am asking you to please support Intro 1476.

I work in social services and help veterans find housing and employment. I say this to demonstrate that yes, we care about people, but also to say that people, with the right resources and opportunities, can adapt. They can improve their situation and quality of life in spite of the barriers and trauma they may have faced in life.

Animals are not that fortunate. Those opposing Intro 1476 are concerned about their profit and self expression, their fashion statement and status, and their "personal choice." But they are forgetting someone. Rather, they are forgetting over 100 million victims that are abused and killed for their fur every year. Their execution is planned the day they are born.

It is simple: The only ones with the right to fur are the animals themselves.

At this point, we have learned about the cruelty that occurs in the fur industry. To regulate (unnecessarily) breaking someone's limbs, or to adjust the voltage with which to literally shock the life out of someone - that's not a discussion. It's a statement, a declaration of who you are and what you stand for.

When you consider what's humane, please ask yourself: would you want this done to you, your loved ones, or your pets at home?

What I have to say is only a reiteration of what supporters of Intro 1476 have already expressed: animals are not commodities. They are not products. Their bodies are their own and the fact that we use traps to capture them is indicative of how we force our "personal choice" on them. Traps and cages are inherently meant to hold someone against their will.

Those opposing this ban are directly supporting and promoting violence and oppression.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor, it must be demanded by the oppressed." And since the animals cannot speak for themselves, since their screams fall on deaf ears and are drowned out by humane washing, we will speak up for them.

Please. Have compassion and support Intro 1476. Thank you.

I am writing to express my support of the proposed ban on fur sales:
Fur is unspeakably cruel, mistreating torturing and killing millions of animals every year for high end luxury goods.

At the same time, the fur industry has lobbied for laws to help it conceal its farming and production, including laws that attempt to criminalize whistleblowing (ag-gag laws) or label protest as "eco-terrorism."

In spite of its efforts to conceal the realities of fur production, disgust over this cruelty has led many of the largest and most prestigious fashion designers to discontinue its use, and, as a world fashion capital, a ban on fur sales in NYC would have not only a symbolic effect, but a material impact on the global market for fur.

Moreover, the fur industry is not only cruel but toxic. While the industry has tried to claim it is more environmentally-friendly than fake-fur, fur farms and fur manufacturing produces a significant amount of pollution, including farm run-off and highly toxic chemicals used in processing furs.

As a 4th generation New Yorker, I urge you strongly to vote to ban the sale of fur in NYC.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Kate Ogawa
Astoria, NY

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm a longtime Brooklyn resident, and constituent of Chaim Deutsch within District 48. At 27 years old, I'm also an outspoken vegan, animal advocate, environmentalist, and active voter. I've worked many anti-fur campaigns with PETA over time and have dedicated my life to battling animal abuse in all forms.

One of the greatest revolutionaries our nation has ever seen, Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". This sentiment has always resonated with me. We are no longer living in the caveman era of needing to hunt and wear fur for warmth. As a matter of fact, innovative materials are being utilized every day to provide more compassionate alternatives within the realm of fashion. Animals cohabitate this earth, existing with us- not for us. We've also evolved past the dark ages of slavery and women being seen as subhumans deserving of lesser rights. When find ourselves in the dangerous territory of promoting systems of injustice simply because it's always been that way, we slip back into a more shameful narrative. The mentality that we should dominate others simply because we can is all that is wrong with this world.

I believe the more powerful a group is, the greater their responsibility to protect the vulnerable and weaker among them. A corrupt industry promoting violence deserves no sympathy. Often times, animals exploited for their fur are anally or vaginally electrocuted. This comes after they are trapped, separated from their families, experience extensive psychological trauma, and some are even skinned alive. Others are forced into gas chambers, which is commonly portrayed as the most "humane" way to kill an animal for their fur, which I still disagree with. We cannot continue to commodify sentient beings. Period. I ask you this, if any of what I just described is so humane then would you subject your own pets to this? Would you volunteer to go through any of that yourself? Or does our definition of what is "humane" tend to change depending on who it affects?

There are many arguments to support why intro 1476 should progress, but I will keep this simple because there's only one that truly matters. Killing for fur is wrong. Plain and simple. I don't care if it's for style, I don't care if it's for profit, I don't care if it's for tradition, it is wrong and needs to end.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Respectfully,
Mary Ann Persad

Please support legislation to prohibit all sales of fur. It is barbaric and inhumane!

Would you want your family—including family and friends view how these animals are treated in this process?

Karen Brand
E. 75th St.
NY, NY. 10021

Dear Speaker Johnson and NYC Council members,

My name is Charles Kwon and I am currently employed at ER Fur Trading Corp, a fur manufacturing company located on 224 W 30th Street in Manhattan. I have been working at this company for five years and can proudly say that it has given me valuable opportunities to advance my career. A fur ban would decimate the jobs and livelihood of everyone in this industry. This company has been in business for over 40 years, which is longer than most bars, restaurants, and small businesses have lasted in the Chelsea area. While I commend you on your support for animal rights, a fur ban in NYC is not viable towards an industry that generates substantial revenue and tax dollars in the city of New York.

We keep hearing suggestions for fur alternatives such as faux fur or synthetic fur, however these materials are a detriment to society as a whole due to the chemicals and plastics used in production. These types of cheap alternatives are sold in “fast fashion” stores such as H&M, Old Navy, Zara, etc. and are worn for a year at best. They will not biodegrade and will only end up in landfills for decades. Can this be a viable solution? Absolutely not.

Please protect our jobs. There are hundreds and thousands of skilled workers in this industry who cannot just drop everything and transfer jobs.

Thank you,

Charles Kwon
ER Fur Trading Corp. / Reich Furs LLC
Oscar de la Renta Furs
224 W 30 St. Suite 1101
New York, NY 10001
Tel: (646) 461-2442
Fax: (212) 202-6297
Email: Charles@odlrfur.com

Visit www.shoppersrights.org to protect consumer freedoms in NYC

May 21, 2019

Dear Council Member

I am writing to Council Members about the proposed fur ban because it would destroy businesses, jobs, harm the environment and lessen your tax revenue for New York City.

I am from upstate New York, grew up on a dairy farm, worked in a retail fur store for 36 years and then was able to enjoy the American dream to purchase the business.

When you grow up on a farm you are faced with many, many challenges. Like where to grow crops and what crops to grow to feed your animals in the winter months when they can't graze on your green open fields. When you grow any crops you run into many other obstacles (flooding and wiping out your crop or to dry and your crop is stunted or does not grow at all or animals get into your crop like deer, raccoon and woodchucks and eat or trample your crop so you can't harvest the food for your animals) when these things happen you have to protect it to the best of your ability. Sometimes you have to rid these animals so your animals can survive. Coyotes will go after your animals, example bite the hind legs of your cows, or lure away your dog and kill it. Weasels will get in chicken coops and kill chickens just to leave them there for you to find the next day. You can't keep all these animals it is survival of the fittest.

I went to work for my aunt's store in 1980 taking care of customers and disassembled fur coats to prepare them for the furrier for remodeling. In doing this you learn how garments are made and how many hours of sewing goes into each garment. We would recycle the fur by

remodeling your coat or your mothers coat into a new style you would wear.

My aunt and uncle started the store in 1934 and ran it for 53 years my aunt sold it to another woman from Massachusetts that also had a store and a mink farm. This is where I learned what went into fur farming the scrapes of food that the mink would eat that would have been dumped in landfills (remains of fish, chickens and horse meat). Ever think about where this goes?

Then in 2016 I was faced with my store either being liquidated or I had to buy it. After working in a place for over 35 years what do you do? Well I decided to buy it and put my life savings on the line. I am lucky that the bank wanted to work with me to obtain this American Dream.

So if this fur ban is passed in NYC you will also be affecting my business because I buy a lot of fur products in NYC. Since my business is primarily fur I could lose my business and my 7 employees would lose their jobs. They have been with the store from 10 to 40 years, among them immigrants from Bosnia and Cambodia.

Please DO NOT PASS THE FUR BAN in a time when small business and brick and mortar stores are disappearing.

JoAnn Wilkinson-Stott

Beck Furs

1475 Western Ave.

Albany, N.Y. 12203

Support Intro 1476 to Ban Fur

To Whom It May Concern:

I highly encourage the New York City Council to support a complete ban on the sale of fur apparel and products within New York City by supporting Intro 1476.

Every year, millions of animals endure abuse, torture and murder simply for their fur. It sounds utterly absurd doesn't it? Rabbits, foxes, coyotes, bob cats, wolves--even dogs and cats are senselessly killed so a human can wear their fur.

Please be aware that it isn't just animal activists that are supporting the ban on fur apparel--fashion designers and brands (Chanel, Gucci, Michael Kors to name a few!), cities (LA, San Francisco), and other leaders and politicians are joining together to end this inherent cruelty by supporting the ban on fur production and sales.

I have been honored to be a resident of this city for over a decade and have been immensely proud that the City has been renowned in its support of animal welfare and rights. Let's take another step in ending animal cruelty. Let's make a statement that animal abuse will not be tolerated or supported by New Yorkers. This is the best city in the world, let's back this sentiment up by doing the right thing. Support Intro 1476.

I appreciate your time, consideration, and for reading my message regarding Intro 1476.

Sincerely,

Keeley Mangeno

Address: Seguine Place,
Staten Island, NY 10312

May 15, 2019

Dear Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing:

On behalf of Friends of Animals 4,400 New York City members, we ask that you support Intro 1476, which bans the sales of fur and fur apparel.

Friends of Animals, incorporated in New York in 1957, is a nonprofit animal advocacy organization that works to cultivate a respectful view of nonhuman animals and free them from cruelty and institutional exploitation. It is exactly for these reasons that we support the fur ban in NYC. More than 90 million mink and foxes are killed for fur products each year. They live short, tortured lives at fur farms before being electrocuted, or gassed and skinned. Millions more are also clubbed or captured or drowned in sadistic limb-pinning or body crushing traps. Furriers contend their product is sustainable and regulated and that a fur ban would cost jobs and revenues to the city. What they never discuss is the morality of the slaughter necessary for the fashion items. That's because there is no argument that overrides that issue. Showing compassion for animals, and all sentient beings, is one of the purest expressions of our humanity. Morality cannot be set aside in this discussion about fur.

Furriers will also contend that faux fur harms the environment and a fur ban will put people out of work. What they don't note is that designers, including faux fur fashion houses, are making bank on environmentally friendly fabrics and textiles. Faux fur manufacturers such as ECOPEL launched a range of fur made from recycled plastics and House of Fluff in New York uses recycled polyester threads. Faux fur revenues have steadily increased with a predicted growth rate of 30 percent a year.

More than 850 retailers have gone fur free and as well as dozens of haute couture designers, such as Stella McCartney, Gucci and Versace. Major fashion houses in New York City including Chanel, Coach, Kors, Diane Von Furstenberg, DKNY, Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein, and Hugo Boss have spurned fur, and are doing just fine.

That's because society has moved on from fur. The signs that fur is over are everywhere. London Fashion Week went fur free, revenues from the sales of pelts from trappers have fallen and there's a growing number of vegan designers. The furrier industry in New York has shrunk significantly. Just 14 retail storefronts selling fur remain, where once there was hundreds.

Other cities that have banned fur have not suffered a loss in revenues. West Hollywood, the first to take the step, found strong demand for new fur-free retail businesses in the city.

No one wants anyone to lose their jobs, but clearly there is a way forward for furriers that doesn't involve industrial killing farms. New York can continue to be not only an innovative fashion mecca, but the ultimate compassion in fashion capitol of the world. By passing this legislation and joining cities such as Los Angeles and San Francisco that have also banned furs sales, NYC can embrace what most of society has come to understand – cruelty is not fashionable.

Sincerely,



Priscilla Feral,

President, Friends of Animals

Re: Keep industry here in New York!

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

- After one year of the proposed ban, NYC would lose \$76 million in tax revenue.
- NYC would miss out on \$850 million in total revenue in just one year.
- 7,500 jobs would be lost
- More than 150 businesses would be forced to close or move out of the city, almost all of which are family- and immigrant-owned.

NYC cannot afford to lose more revenue. The tax revenue from our businesses could completely offset this year's federal budget cut to public housing, or contribute necessary funds to another of the city's programs that millions of people depend on. It feels like this is just another time the City Council is solely listening to the loud minority of people. A ban would increase gentrification by hurting working class and middle class New Yorkers like me, which is already underway, and hurt New Yorkers who have been in NYC for generations, through good times and bad.

This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and you are in charge of protecting me and my family as your constituent. If this passes and I lose my job I want you to know it is your fault. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
D Papakostas
smallbill2454@aol.com
Astoria, NY 11102

Constituent

Re: CREATE NEW PLASTICS industry to replace FUR

Dear NYC Council,

CREATE NEW PLASTICS industry to replace FUR

Garry Rissman

Sincerely,
Garry Rissman
green.quality.control@gmail.com

255 w. 43rd street, #602
New York, NY 10036
Constituent

Dear Esteemed Committee Member:

My name is Lew Palmer and I am a 3rd generation Mink Rancher in Southeastern Idaho. I have a small family owned ranch. My Grandfather of the same name started his ranch back in the late 1920's in North Dakota. He trapped wild mink from the river banks and always talked about how well they took to captivity and how much he enjoyed raising and improving the quality of his mink herd.

He was very successful and won many prestigious awards and received top dollar for his pelts at auction each year. You might ask why was he successful? His success was because he knew a very simple principle which he would tell us over and over again, he would say to me, "Little Lewis, if you take care of the mink they will take care of you". This principle that quality care equals quality fur guides our every action on the ranch today. Unethical or cruel practices of any kind are an abhorrence to me as they would destroy my livelihood and go against my moral code as a human being. As a pet owner you probably know that if you don't take care of your animals, the first place it shows is in their coat. As tough as the market is, anyone who is unethical in their treatment of the mink has gone out of business.

As a young man I received a college degree in finance and worked as a banker for 13 years. Banking was good but I always wanted to raise my family on a mink ranch. I wanted my children to have the satisfaction of working with animals every day. There is nothing quite like it. I can't understand why anyone would want to take away my right to earn a living in such a great business. I don't raise mink just for the money. I care about and respect these beautiful animals.

The fur industry was a critical part of establishing this wonderful country of ours. Please consider how your decision will affect the future of Agricultural based families like ourselves. It would be a shame to lose such a productive and great way of life.

Sincerely,

Lewis J. Palmer

Re: Save 150 family businesses!

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my family business. I and my family need this business that has been owned and operated for 85 years. It is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

- After one year of the proposed ban, NYC would lose \$76 million in tax revenue.
- NYC would miss out on \$850 million in total revenue in just one year.
- 7,500 jobs would be lost
- More than 150 businesses would be forced to close or move out of the city, almost all of which are family- and immigrant-owned.

NYC cannot afford to lose more revenue. The tax revenue from our businesses could completely offset this year's federal budget cut to public housing, or contribute necessary funds to another of the city's programs that millions of people depend on. It feels like this is just another time the City Council is solely listening to the loud minority of people. A ban would increase gentrification by hurting working class and middle class New Yorkers like me, which is already underway, and hurt New Yorkers who have been in NYC for generations, through good times and bad.

This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and protecting me and my family. If this passes and I lose my job I will not be able to find a new one – this is all the training I know how to do. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for New York City and your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Rizzo
rizzo.lindsey@gmail.com
Lakewood Parkway

Buffalo, NY 14226
Constituent

Dear Council members,
please support this essential legislation to ban fur in NYC.
Animals who have their fur stolen, endure horrific suffering that
no one should experience, period.
NYC, being the greatest city and fashion capital of the world,
has a greater responsibility to do the right thing, of which in
this case, there is only one.
Fur on people, It's just not ok.
Your votes today can change history forever. Please ban fur in
NYC.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Alexandria
Main Street
Madison, NJ 07940

Support Intro 1476 to ban fur

Please ban fur. Its not fair for animals to die for their fur.
Thank you.

Natalie Santiago natalie_225th@yahoo.com

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lauren Corn, and I am writing to you on behalf of Steven Corn Furs as well as all New York City furriers, in reference to the current position to ban the selling of real fur garments in New York City. I strongly request that you and your fellow councilmen/councilwomen DO NOT move forward to pass this ban into legislation.

My family has been in the fur business since 1898, beginning our story with my great-grandfather and his sons opening our first store in New York City in the iconic garment district on 7th avenue and 28th street. The rest has been history. My grandfather continued in his father's footsteps and became one of the largest fur wholesalers and manufactures in the New York fur market. In the 1980's, my father entered the scene, turning our family's thriving business into a tremendously successful retail brand. In the last 30 years, he has operated three New York City locations, one store in White Plains, New York, and two New Jersey locations. Like so many other families and establishments of the east coast, all of his stores' successes were mainly fueled by the roaring power and activity of the fur market in New York City. Now over one hundred years later, my father and his peers have continued to turn the wheels of our industry to become

an undoubted financial powerhouse as producers, tenants, and taxpayers to the New York City economy.

I have spent my entire life as a witness to this business, observing and understanding the fundamentals of how this industry continues to thrive not only as an economic benefactor, but also as a firm representative of ethical and progressive practices.

In 2013, I graduated from New York University and entered the world as a professional. I first began in a different retail industry, yet I consistently found myself drawing parallels and knowledge from my parents' business as a guide. In 2017, at the age of 26, I decided to change my career path and finally take my entry into the family business as the fourth generation, to manage (uncoincidentally) our fourth store in New York City.

Within the last two years, my fur education soared, and although I never doubted the importance of this industry, I see now more than ever what a key role "we" play in not only the city of New York, but also the daily lives of so many citizens. Our product is unique and represents an establishment that has indescribable passion and respect for the materials in which we need to use and how to use them with the utmost care. With that being said, as providers of such an exceptional product, there is no doubt that a market still exists and craves our merchandise.

It is true and understandable that the nature of our product can raise issues of controversy and thus concern. However, instead of abolishing a thriving economy, we should be educating and properly promoting how our industry operates and contributes to society as a monetary, regulated, and principled enterprise that fulfills the needs of a large niche of consumers.

This positive publicity is also an important demonstration of our country's principal standpoints on freedom, especially in a capitalist market of supply and demand. There is no resentment towards a consumer who chooses of his or her own free will to not purchase fur products; this is the pure beauty of American consumerism. However, as long as there is a market for fur products, to use legislation to deny consumers and suppliers the right to conduct fair trade is a motion that contradicts constitutional liberties. An industry or business should only permanently close its doors, when supply and demand no longer pair.

As mentioned above, I am a young female business owner, whose presence in this industry is extremely rare. This is especially related to the fact that I represent a generation that has so much more exposure to different industrial practices and ideas. Yet, through open-mindedness and the willingness to understand, I have encountered and experienced a trade that does not represent the monstrosities that have unfortunately been falsely disclosed to the public. There are so many individuals within my age range, both

female and male, who want to participate in this business as both patrons and professionals. It is the fear and the negative stigmas falsely created by those who are hateful and not properly informed that jeopardize the growth and profitability of our industry and our continued contribution to New York City. If the government gives into such manipulations, there will only be an open door for a domino effect of destroying other industries; it raises the question: "after us, who will be next?"

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you and all those who took the time to read and hear my plea and urgency to overturn this ban. As a member of not only the fur industry, but also as a participant of New York City consumerism, please protect our constitutional rights and our main mission to exist as honest hardworking individuals who only wish to be an asset to our economy and community.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Lauren Corn

Lauren Corn | Salon Manager; Director of Marketing & Operations

37 West 57th Street, New York NY 10019.

www.stevencorn.com

To Whom it may Concern:

I'm submitting my input as a designer and business owner in the fashion industry regarding the proposed fur ban - which contains other restrictions that I consider outside the realm of FUR.

I have designed and utilized leather for the majority of my handbag and accessory collections in my previous and current business. My concern is that banning the use of "hair on hide", "hair calf", "pony" steps outside the realm of the true fur industry as all of these previously mentioned items are other terms for BOVINE LEATHER (the hides from a cow).

There is a misconception that the above mentioned items: "hair calf, hair on hide and pony" are derived from other animals than BOVINE. These products are the same base leather which is derived from the by-product of the FOOD INDUSTRY. These animals are not raised and slaughtered for their hides. The only difference between the "hair on hide" items, is that during the leather tanning process, the hair of the Bovine skin is kept on the skin whereas in other leather processes the hair is removed. Unless there is a total ban on all leather items, this should not fall into a separate category, NOT under FUR.

Banning this segment of the leather industry is not only senseless, but it is just as ridiculous as proposing a ban on all of the restaurants and grocery outlets in New York City to stop selling and serving BEEF. The leather from any of the hair-on hide products allows the animal to be fully utilized without waste - just as the animal was utilized hundreds a years ago. It should be the choice of those who shop or dine to decide whether or not they want to purchase or consume animal products.

I hope my points are taken into consideration for making an argument against the proposed ban.

Sincerely,

Missy S. DeGroot
missydegroot@gmail.com

SUPPORT INTRO 1476 TO BAN FUR IN NYC

Antonio Diaz

Willoughby Ave

Brooklyn, NY 11206

NYC Council District 36

These are tired falsehoods that fur is environmental or sustainable. There is no acceptable way of fur farming. We do not need fur today. Right now there are options that are more fashionable. Fur is simply unnecessary.

The obvious but ignored fact is what this cruelty is doing to our survival as a species. Ignored by claiming it's sustainable or environmental.

some animals are caught from the wild by cruel traps. Others are raised in cramped cages on fur farms.

Is it sustainable: Trapping is a method that may take days to kill due to stress or starvation or both. The traps are indiscriminate and kill non target individuals such as endangered species, beloved pets, even human beings can be victims of these traps.

Trapping can be any where - public,private,protected lands, even recreational areas.

Traps can be snares slowly strangling animal to death or leg hold traps in which animals may chew off a body part to escape only to die later.

Is it environmental: Fur farms cause dead zones. Water and land devastation directly affecting people living in the surrounding area. Recent documentary The Farm In My Backyard shows industrial fur farms in Nova Scotia private industries harming public and private lands. Hundreds of thousand of animals in peoples backyard. Polluting water with blue/green algae which produces toxins microcystin which attack the liver.

People cannot use their property nor sell them.

Jobs are seasonal, not high quality or full time vs the environmental damage.

As to what they do to the animals - using phosphorous in feed to increase animals appetite then to gassing, electrocuting , poisoning or neck breaking.

It can take unto 70 mink for 1 coat. Those animals are not eaten.

They are bred to be turned into coats.

Is fur important in cold weather. Astronauts as well as mountaineers who go to extreme cold climates do not use fur or down because it is not feasible. More light weight, faster drying and easier to maintain materials are now available.

Each year, millions of animals are killed across the globe to supply fur for fashion. It's an economic issue, a developmental issue, a social, moral and ethical issue.

This month the United Nations declared a million species will go extinct due to human activity. It's all our land, water and air.

“Oppose fur ban”

Please, save our fur jobs.

Freedom of choice.

Gliagias Furs - New York gliagiasfurs@gmail.com

Hi my name is Nicole Amendo I am born and raised in NYC. I have been fur free since I was 14 years old and realized the procedure of how the fur is obtained by extreme suffering. I ask you please support 1476 bill to ban fur. I don't understand how it is 2019 and this is still legal.

I hope that you will have compassion and realize this is animal torture and extreme abuse.

Thank you

Nicole Amendo

Dear Council,

Please consider the good men and women who are highly skilled and passionate about their work- who will be left jobless. What impact will this have on the economy? I am a designer, I graduated from Parsons in 2010. My life was changed by an opportunity to study fur design and ethical treatment and farming of animals when I was 19 years old. I studied at the Saga Furs Design Centre in Denmark. Please do not police my creativity. Please consider that my furrier is a father of two, who employs talented people that also have families. What will furriers do to feed their families now? How will his children eat? We have larger issues to police than fur.

Respectfully,

--



Raeana Anaïs
FOUNDER / DESIGNER

RAEANA

|| raeana.com || raeana@raeana.com ||



Dear Council Members,

I sell shearlings and fur accessories in my small single unit retail operation. I greatly appreciate a discussion of the ban because it brings the topic of inhumane treatment of source animals to the forefront, but a ban is not the answer to solving that problem. I base that assertion on my personal experience and on my understanding of the necessity of economic freedom to increase every citizen/consumer's ability to shape the world for the better.

We buy our fur accessories and shearling coats from a company that lists its sources of skins and furs because they don't want to be party to inhumane treatment of animals and neither do I. Like Aveda refusing to test products on animals, like kosher food designations that are privately determined and enforced, ethical sourcing, higher wages etc are points of pride and branding for producers. Generally speaking, consumers are willing to pay the premium for peace of mind. Any system in which the government puts requirements into place that a producer must meet increases costs to that producer and creates the incentive to game the system, either through definitions – think of the elasticity of “organic” and “free range,” or outright bribery of officials. Higher costs keep smaller companies out – perhaps the very innovators most committed to bringing best new practices of fur procurement and production to the market in an effort to educate and woo consumers.

I'll leave the arguments about fur's intergenerational durability to others – as some on the council may have experience with furs passed down to them, or furs they know they can gift to their children or friends.

But to me the most important argument against the fur ban rests on the ever-creeping scope of government and the fact that the ban chips away at each person's ability to create jobs, products, and wealth, and to interact with one another voluntarily. It's another nail in the coffin of economic freedom. There's such a direct correlation between economic freedom and prosperity (<https://www.heritage.org/index/book/chapter-3>) that New Yorkers would benefit from your efforts to increase participation in business formation, not harm industries which consumers' tastes are already reshaping in the direction of greater sustainability and ever better treatment of people and animals alike.

My fear is that one ban begets another, as people get used to decrees determining their day to day activities, not even realizing that their sphere of action and even thought is being eroded. Today I got an email about the banning of Mark Twain, an

author altogether too insightful into human nature for modern taste, in too many public schools. Intellectual and economic freedom go hand in hand, and both are essential to keeping New Yorkers and all the rest of us out of poverty and able to care about treating each other, animals and the planet with respect.

Sincerely yours,

Betsy Fisher



Betsy Fisher Albaugh
President and CEO
1224 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
202 785 1975 store
BETSY@BETSYFISHER.COM

WWW.BETSYFISHER.COM

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a customer of Pologeorgis Furs for many years and I am very much opposed to the proposed fur ban currently before the NYC Council. The fur industry employs thousands on hard working people who contribute to the local economy. People wishing to purchase fur coats will still be able to purchase them but not in our city. I fear that the proposed ban will also eventually lead to the outlawing of leather products and who knows what else? Should NYC also ban the sale of fresh chicken, beef and pork? Where will it stop?

Please allow the fur industry to operate here as we need the jobs.

Sincerely,

Michael Schreiber

I understand that jobs will be lost and that fur has been an acceptable norm for many years. I have furs from my mother and grandmother that I've cherished too, but that's a thing of the past now. It's one thing to hand down a fur from generations ago, it's quite another to perpetuate a cycle that profits off of the slaughter of animals. Any of these fur manufacturers you speak of should have been aware for many years now of a changing tide and adapted in some way. And though I know that is a callous way of looking at something that may have been a way of life for many generations, as our collective consciousness develops so should our collective knowledge that some people will inevitably have to suffer the consequences of changing the world for the better. Honestly, better them than the thousands of animals who die a horrible death every year to be made into a coat or a hat or a boot.

--

Sabrina Bacon

Please Support Intro 1476 to ban fur

Hi-my name is George Speros..home address is 53
west 8th street NY NY 10011...please support
legislation to ban fur in new york!!!!!!!!!!

thank you

George Speros g.speros@thesocietymanagement.com

Dear Councilmembers of New York City,

I am writing to ask you to support Intro 1476.

The Fur Industry is animal cruelty. We need to end the suffering these innocent animals go through all their lives on fur factory farms. They are confined to a 12" by 18" cage, this type of intensive confinement can result in self-mutilation, cannibalism, and high-level stress that weakens the immune system and makes animals more susceptible to disease.

These animals live with fear, wounded, without food or water... they are skinned alive. For fashion??? No, fur it is not fashion, is violence.

Animals need their fur, we do not.

Each year, more than 1 billion rabbits and 50 million other animals — including foxes, seals, mink, and raccoon dogs — are raised on fur farms or trapped in the wild and killed. Animals chew off their own legs in an attempt to escape those inhumane steel-jaw traps. We need to stop this.

Animals are the most innocent beings in this planet, they can not defend themselves. I stand up for them. I stand up for the foxes, coyotes, minks, rabbits, raccoons, and all the animals who are abused and exploited on fur factory farms and other industries.

I support City Council Speaker Corey Johnson's bill to ban the sale of fur in New York City and urge you to help get Intro 1476 passed into law.

Fur free NYC.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Viviana Tello
Woodside, NY 11377

Proposed Fur Ban——-Against

My name is Julia Chen lived in Main st, flushing ny 11355
Against Fur Ban.

It will destroy many jobs in America and Canada. I love
fur clothes, fur fashion and fur apparel. My life can't live
without fur. Please stop the Fur Ban.

Thank you.

Hello,

I've lived in NYC for ten years and am so proud of the ways the city has been a leader and example for the country on establishing policies that prioritize equity and justice - whether increasing the minimum wage, creating the family leave policy, to legalizing same-sex marriages years earlier than the rest of the country. I hope you will consider leading in the fur ban as well - and criminalizing the violence of the fur industry. As the fashion capital, this would send an incredible message to the rest of the country - and around the world. Please choose to save animals lives and drastically change their standard of living.

The majority of NYers will thank you - Democrat and Republican - over 70% of us support a ban on fur.

Thank you for listening. I hope you will lead us into a fur-free NYC.

With appreciation,

Jessica Devaney
Bedford Ave
Brooklyn NY 1126

JESSICA DEVANEY

I am Pablo Navarrete I've worked in the fur industry since the early 80's.

Started to work for central a cleaning plant. Now I work for a private company.

If this ban comes into effect it will impact much in my life, why? you might ask yourself i'm

58 years old who will hire a person at my age in another field of work

I have 3 son's still in college and my sick wife, to support plus pay rent.

What will i do. just will have to go on snap to feed my family.

Thank You
Pablo Navarrete

Like the flame held by Lady Liberty, New York City has been a beacon for people all over the world - a place where they know that hard work and dedication pay off no matter what your color, religion or sexual orientation. That beacon signifies not only the freedom to believe but the freedom to work, to find gainful employment, to find security and to be able to plan for the future. The proposed ban is a shadow obscuring this light. Thousands of jobs will be lost; elderly people who can no longer be trained in new professions will be out of work and dependent on public funds for support; thousands of families and all of the thousands they interact and do business with will be impacted.

We furriers and garment workers urge you to think about the human animal the dignity of the laws we have built to prosper and care for one another so that we are still the home and harbor to the “tempest tossed,” not the reason for their fleeing.

Leon Czarniak

**Sharnelle Furs
151 West 28th street
New York, NY 10001**

Dear Council and community members,

My name is Marcelo Czarniak and I am a NYC resident in Keith Powers District.

The proposed legislation ignores the importance, dignity and history of viable, sustainable business in support of ideological biases that have been inappropriately levied on the Fur business. Fur trade has sustained America far before the first Europeans set foot here, having been part of the history of the indigenous people's commerce for centuries.

Furriers are neither cruel to animals, nor do we represent a "niche" market. We are a vibrant and viable business supporting and clothing the city and its visitors. My customers include everyone from all classes, religions, neighborhoods and walks of life. People buy fur not only for beauty, but as a right basic to civilized peoples: to keep warm and protected from the elements. Man-made materials also have drawbacks and the pollutants of the environment of many of these materials are yet another environmental concern.

I have been in business with my family in New York City for over forty years, having brought my family from Argentina. We arrived here as immigrants, our parents having fled the Nazis. Our hard work and dedication allowed my daughter to gain a first-class education and attend Harvard. I am now working at funding my son's education. He has dyslexia and has had to attend special schools. My continued business is crucial to care for his future.

The fur business is key in the history of the American Dream. I learned the trade from an older generation of New York immigrants, such as

Jews and Greeks. The fur business is part of the heritage of New York. Please do not throw away this precious history, thousands of jobs will be lost; elderly people who can no longer be trained in new professions will be out of work and dependent on public funds for support; families and all of the thousands they interact and do business with will be impacted, for an ideological bias that does not understand who we are and what we do.

Thank you

Re: Save 150 family businesses!

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council so these workers will not lose their jobs. It is because of jobs like these that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am proud of lasting tradition here in the City, and for those whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut them down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

- After one year of the proposed ban, NYC would lose \$76 million in tax revenue.
- NYC would miss out on \$850 million in total revenue in just one year.
- 7,500 jobs would be lost
- More than 150 businesses would be forced to close or move out of the city, almost all of which are family- and immigrant-owned.

NYC cannot afford to lose more revenue. The tax revenue from our businesses could completely offset this year's federal budget cut to public housing, or contribute necessary funds to another of the city's programs that millions of people depend on. It feels like this is just another time the City Council is solely listening to the loud minority of people. A ban would increase gentrification by hurting working class and middle class New Yorkers like me, which is already underway, and hurt New Yorkers who have been in NYC for generations, through good times and bad.

This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and protecting these families. If this passes and they will loose their jobs and will not be able to find a new one – this is all the training They know how to do. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for New York City and your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Valerie Poore
valeriejp12@gmail.com

Glade Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45230

Re: Save 7,500 Jobs!

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and protecting me and my family. If this passes and I lose my job I will not be able to find a new one – this is all the training I know how to do. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for New York City and your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Karen Rizzo
rrizzok@roadrunner.com
Melissa Renee Court

Williamsville, NY 14221 Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and protecting me and my family. If this passes and I lose my job I will not be able to find a new one – this is all the training I know how to do. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for New York City and your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Cristiana feRAZZOLI
cristiana57@gmail.com
Manhattan ave

Union city, NJ 07087

Save 150 family businesses! and Protect our environment!

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council. I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy and ripple to other communities who supply New York, with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

- After one year of the proposed ban, NYC would lose \$76 million in tax revenue.
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NY cannot afford to lose more revenue. The tax revenue from our businesses could completely offset this year's federal budget cut to public housing, or contribute necessary funds to another of the city's programs that millions of people depend on. It feels like this is just another time the City Council is solely listening to the loud minority of people. A ban would increase gentrification by hurting working class and middle class New Yorkers like me, which is already underway.

This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

Fur is a renewable natural resource that can be managed and preserved for the future. Since man first walked on earth, fur has been used for its functional properties. Before our dependence on petroleum product that have truly damaged our environment, furs and skins allowed us to survive the elements. This ban would have the additional consequence of increasing our dependence on oil.

Please vote no to this proposed ban.

Sincerely,
Catherine I. Johnston

Sincerely,
Catherine I Johnston
info@ruthiesrun.com

Main St,
Lake Placid, NY 12946
Constituent

Please don't irreparably damage our economy

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and you are in charge of protecting me and my family as your constituent. If this passes and I lose my job I want you to know it is your fault. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
andrew warshaw
andrew@tyler-holdinds.com
10th ave

new york, NY 10001 Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
L louos
lkouis@yahoo.com

212 street
Bayside, NY 11360
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Carole McClellan
carolemcclellan@yahoo.com

2nd Ave
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council Members ,

I am opposed to the fur ban, PLEASE vote NO for the ban!

My name is Christopher Soukas, I am a 1st generation American, born in Manhattan, grew up in the Bronx and a furrier for the last 40 years.

I started my business 38 years ago in Manhattan while in my twenties.

All these years I created jobs for NYC well above the minimum wage and created pension for my employees that is fully funded by my company. Please do not forget the ancillary jobs created whether it is tanners, shipping companies accountants and others.

The fur products I buy and sell are mainly from American farmers (that are regulated by government agencies and certified) and are sold to my customer base in NYC, Greece, Korea and Hong Kong.

For the last 38 years I've been positive tax payer personally and corporately and so have my employees.

We will need to move out of our loft and storefront adding to more empty stores on our block.

I am not Amazon but if the ban goes into effect this will force me to divest myself from all my interests NYC and in the state of New York.

Please let market conditions dictate the fate of a USA LEGAL industry not personal feelings through unwarranted legislation.

Please keep the jobs in NYC!

Sincerely,

Christopher Soukas

west 30th Street NY. NY 10001

Do what is best for NYC!

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and you are in charge of protecting me and my family as your constituent. If this passes and I lose my job I want you to know it is your fault. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Norman siopis
takoulisgi@gmail.com
31 29 35th street

Astoria, NY 11106 Constituent

Please don't irreparably damage our economy

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
michael mccollom
michaelmccollom@aol.com
riverside drive #mf New York, NY 10032

Constituent

Keep industry here in New York!

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Shoshannah Gross

Sincerely,
Shoshannah Gross
ettelgross@gmail.com

12TH AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11219 Constituent

Save 150 family businesses!

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and protecting me and my family. If this passes and I lose my job I will not be able to find a new one – this is all the training I know how to do. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for New York City and your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Kelly Kahumoku
kellytkahumoku@gmail.com

Carmichael Road
Montgomery, AL 36106

Keep industry here in New York!

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Harlam Rofriguez
harlam4@yahoo.com
Amsterdam Ave

New York, NY 10031 Constituent

Keep industry here in New York!

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am an Hat manufacturer and this ban kill my business. My business supports many other businesses including suppliers, graphic designers, other milliners, etc. This broad stroke initiative will affect many industries and put many craft people out of work just for your political gain on a hot button issue. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely
Dina Pisani

Sincerely,
Dina Pisani
chachashouse@gmail.com

Grand Street
New York, NY 10002
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Emily Burnett
emily@burnettnewyork.com
west 27th street 1102

New York, NY 10001
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Ninfa Manosalvas
beneverde18@hotmail.com
Claflin Ave

Bronx, NY 10468
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Courtney Adams
courtney@courtneyadams.com
Maiden Lane

new York, NY 10038
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Tina Becker
denis187@optonline.net
Arrow Lane

Hicksville, NY 11801
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Peter Costalos
costalosp@gmail.com
90 Street

Brooklyn, NY 11209
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Lester Wasserman
lwasser579@mac.com
West 72nd Street

New York, NY 10023
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
A Perkins
alerocorp@yahoo.com

P. O. Box 486
Tarrytown, NY 10591
Constituent

Save 7,500 Jobs!

Dear NYC Council,

I am urging you to drop support of the bill to ban the manufacturing and selling of fur, sheepskin, shearling, and related products. As a physician and mother, I can tell you that nothing compares to natural sheepskin - for comforting babies or for protecting against pressure ulcers (of note, artificial sheepskins actually worsen pressure ulcers). As a consumer, I love the warmth and softness of natural fur, and prefer the use of natural fibers compared with artificial facsimiles made with petrochemicals. I am vehement about using vintage and cruelty-free furs (such as those certified by SAGA). I consider myself an animal lover (with three dogs and a horse) and an environmentalist. I believe that the proposed ban is misguided and fails to achieve the true aim, which is a respect, protection, and minimization of trauma of animals. Efforts would be better served in effective regulation of the industry and providing the reputable alternatives from American-made and regulated furs to avoid the natural offset into imported Chinese and other fur products where there is less focus and concern on the animals' wellbeing. Please reconsider.

Sincerely,
Shannon Tierney, MD, MS, FACS
sntierney@gmail.com

Warren Ave N
Seattle, WA 98109

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Peter Varty
wpvarty@gmail.com

PO Box 15543
Sarasota, FL 34277

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Carla Lott
calott301@gmail.com

Halcyon Blvd
Montgomery, AL 36117

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Kristen Bridges
ads@henigfurs.com

Carmichael Rd.
Montgomery, AL 36106

Dear NYC Council,

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Sincerely,
Cierra Hester-Barnes
cierrajbarnes@gmail.com

Sussex Road
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

- After one year of the proposed ban, NYC would lose \$76 million in tax revenue.
- NYC would miss out on \$850 million in total revenue in just one year.
- 7,500 jobs would be lost
- More than 150 businesses would be forced to close or move out of the city, almost all of which are family- and immigrant-owned.

NYC cannot afford to lose more revenue. The tax revenue from our businesses could completely offset this year's federal budget cut to public housing, or contribute necessary funds to another of the city's programs that millions of people depend on. It feels like this is just another time the City Council is solely listening to the loud minority of people. A ban would increase gentrification by hurting working class and middle class New Yorkers like me, which is already underway, and hurt New Yorkers who have been in NYC for generations, through good times and bad.

This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and protecting me and my family. If this passes and I lose my job I will not be able to find a new one – this is all the training I know how to do. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for New York City and your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Gregory Hancock
itsmybirthday60@gmail.com

Fremont street
Las vegas, NV 89104

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and my father would lose his job. My parents came to this country in the late 1970s with \$100 in their pocket. As immigrants from Greece, they came to New York hoping to find work in order to provide for their family. The first job they both found was a job within the fur industry. My mother worked in the fur industry for over 20 years; and my father has been working in the fur industry for over 40 years. My parents were able to put my brother, my sister, and myself through college and graduate school because of the fur industry. My brother is an engineer, my sister is a teacher, and I am a lawyer. My siblings and I wouldn't have been able to accomplish our dreams without the fur industry, and the hard work of my parents.

It is a shame that a few council members are trying to take jobs away from small business owners and hard working people. Everyday liberties are slowly being taken away from us NYC residents and employees. These regulations are being created with no fair reasoning. I was born and raised in Queens, and still am a Queens resident. I am truly embarrassed and ashamed of where this beautiful city of ours is headed. MTA and tax hikes, congestion pricing, a ban on fur - what's next?

You have no right to take away my father's livelihood. He raised his family by working hard within the fur industry. He is a model citizen. I am truly embarrassed to call myself a New Yorker after what the City Council is doing to its residents.

Sincerely,
Christos Hilas
chrishilas@yahoo.com

Underhill Ave
Flushing, NY 11365
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

- After one year of the proposed ban, NYC would lose \$76 million in tax revenue.
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NYC cannot afford to lose more revenue. The tax revenue from our businesses could completely offset this year's federal budget cut to public housing, or contribute necessary funds to another of the city's programs that millions of people depend on. It feels like this is just another time the City Council is solely listening to the loud minority of people. A ban would increase gentrification by hurting working class and middle class New Yorkers like me, which is already underway, and hurt New Yorkers who have been in NYC for generations, through good times and bad.

This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and protecting me and my family. If this passes and I lose my job I will not be able to find a new one – this is all the training I know how to do. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for New York City and your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Eve Hayes
allabouteve38@gmail.com

W Second Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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NYC cannot afford to lose more revenue. The tax revenue from our businesses could completely offset this year's federal budget cut to public housing, or contribute necessary funds to another of the city's programs that millions of people depend on. It feels like this is just another time the City Council is solely listening to the loud minority of people. A ban would increase gentrification by hurting working class and middle class New Yorkers like me, which is already underway, and hurt New Yorkers who have been in NYC for generations, through good times and bad.

This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and protecting me and my family. If this passes and I lose my job I will not be able to find a new one – this is all the training I know how to do. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for New York City and your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Warren W O'Leary
wleary717@aol.com

Jennifer Drive
Little Rock, AR 72212

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent who does not want to see anyone lose their job. I am proud of the work that furriers do, that they have trained for many years to do. It is because of jobs like theirs that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of whom are immigrants. The fur industry is a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city -- something that elected officials have said they want to reverse -- but this would just make things worse. This ban would, in effect, shut down the fur industry and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs and small businesses:

- After one year of the proposed ban, NYC would lose \$76 million in tax revenue.
- NYC would miss out on \$850 million in total revenue in just one year.
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- More than 150 businesses would be forced to close or move out of the city, almost all of which are family- and immigrant-owned.

New York City cannot afford to lose more revenue. The tax revenue from these businesses could completely offset this year's federal budget cut to public housing, or contribute necessary funds to other City programs on which millions of people depend. It feels like this is just another time the City Council is solely listening to the loud minority of people. Such a ban could very likely increase income inequality by squeezing out working class and middle class New Yorkers like me and hurt New Yorkers who have been in NYC for generations, through good times and bad.

Mayor DeBlasio already disdains the fashion industry (as evidenced by his avoidance of all fashion events and his strident efforts to move the remaining stalwarts of the fashion industry from Manhattan's Garment District to the boondocks of Brooklyn). This fur ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy, and you are in charge of protecting me as your constituent. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to stand up for what is best for your constituents, not merely indulging your personal feelings, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Maryellen Nugent
m_nugentlee@hotmail.com

Cathedral Pkwy
New York, NY 10025
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and you are in charge of protecting me and my family as your constituent. If this passes and I lose my job I want you to know it is your fault. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Lisa Malin
malinlisa@icloud.com
w 30th St

New York, NY 10001
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and you are in charge of protecting me and my family as your constituent. If this passes and I lose my job I want you to know it is your fault. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Isaiah Johnson
isaiahjohnson96@gmail.com

Quincy St, BA
Brooklyn, NY 11238
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and you are in charge of protecting me and my family as your constituent. If this passes and I lose my job I want you to know it is your fault. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Ginger Russack
grussack@mac.com

East 23rd Street
New York, NY 10010
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and protecting me and my family. If this passes and I lose my job I will not be able to find a new one – this is all the training I know how to do. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for New York City and your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Brenda Carleton
rdcarleton45@msn.com

Glenwood Lane
Redmond, OK 73034

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote NO, against the proposed fur ban in City Council. How can a city council just "decide" to essentially close Mom and Pop businesses that are selling something that is completely legal in the US and worldwide? The fur business is one of the greenest businesses I can think of! Fur comes from the earth, is worn for GENERATIONS and when it has been loved for years, goes back to the earth and biodegrades. Faux fur is plastic and oil! It is terrible for the environment and takes thousands of years to biodegrade. Besides, if you are going to ban fur, why don't you go ahead and ban leather (no shoes, purses, furniture, belts, interiors of cars), eating meat, and wearing wool and silk. The concept is completely ridiculous and a slippery slope to ban many other things that 99% of the world knows is normal. The fur business is built on small business and are mostly Mom and Pop shops and immigrants or children of immigrants. It is because of jobs like those in NY that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut them down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The rest of the country is looking at your vote in New York and we all believe your city council have lost both your minds and your compass for good business sense. Don't you have much more important things to do rather than ban good business? You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for New York City and your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Ashlie C Atkinson
genosfurs@msn.com

N May Ave
Oklahoma City, OK 73120

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and you are in charge of protecting me and my family as your constituent. If this passes and I lose my job I want you to know it is your fault. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Donald R Youngner
mrdon123@gmail.com

Engelke Ave
HUNTINGTON STATION, NY 11746
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Roya zaey
royazeay@gmail.com

west123rd street
New York, NY 10027
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Shanice Brown
shanicemarie4@me.com
West 101st Street

New York, NY 10025
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Elizabeth Kyrrou
emoysidis@gmail.com
197th street

Fresh meadows, NY 11366
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and you are in charge of protecting me and my family as your constituent. If this passes and I lose my job I want you to know it is your fault. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Gina Levy
gingin403@gmail.com
e 8th street

brooklyn, NY 11230
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Jacky clyman
jacky@cockpitusa.com
Park avenue

NY, NY 10028
Constituent
Honorable Councilmembers and Speaker Johnson

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Seena Addeo
seena@metricknits.com
West Pine st

Long Beach, NY 11561
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
LEO LEWIN
lewinleo2@gmail.com
ave. R

Brooklyn, NY 11234
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
susan romano
romanomiklakos19@gmail.com
James street

pelham, NY 10803
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

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Sincerely,
Carrie Butterworth
cbutterworth31@gmail.com
Kiwans Dr

Wayne, NJ 07470

NYC Councilmen,

My name is Stacey Panaretos and I never thought I would be writing to you to allow me to keep my job and my livelihood.

I am 41 years old and I started my company, Steve's Original Outerwear, Inc. just only 7 months ago. It is in Speaker Corey Johnson's district at 345 Seventh Avenue. I worked for my uncle for 20 years and I acquired his 50-year company with the utmost appreciation and energy to continue from what my uncle established and taught me. He, himself, followed the footsteps of what my great aunt started 75 years ago, who immigrated here from Europe for a better life.

I am a small business owner and a manufacturer in the United States. I have responsibilities and obligations not only for myself, but to my factory and my 10 employees. My 10 employees are only skilled in the fur industry and many of them are middle aged. How will they get jobs that will pay them good wages if this ban is passed?

I am very proud to be a woman business owner within the fur industry. It was a very easy decision to continue this because I always thought we lived in a city that stands behind jobs, especially manufacturing jobs, and especially women and minority owned businesses.

Now, I am being told I will have to close my new and well-established business and tell my 10 employees they will lose their jobs because certain individuals in this city do not like or appreciate what we do. For the most part, I don't think they understand how we work and what we actually do to allow us to be where we are today.

This is just heartbreaking and unbelievable. So, please do not make a life changing decision for me, my 10 employees and our families that will force us into economic ruin. This is who we are, and it is what we do. Please save our jobs.

Sincerely,
Stacey Panaretos

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
SKYE GOODE
skyeskyegoode@gmail.com

Poertner Road
Neillsville, WI 54456

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
CONRAD LANHAM
conrad_lanham7@yahoo.com

Brown Avenue
SHELBYVILLE, KY 40065

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Daniel vargas
fdaniel92@live.com
leduc drive

Toronto, CA-ON M9v1A7

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Daisy Flores
daisysnflores@aol.com
Astor ave

Bronx, NY 10469
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Jason Simon
jasonsimon127@gmail.com
West 88th Street

New York, NY 10024
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Jayshika shaw
shikamarie@me.com
barone ave

atlanta, GA 30329

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Lisa Ouellette
lisaouellette_ca@yahoo.com
Cabot Cres

Sault Ste Marie, CA-ON P6C 5X1

Dear NYC Council,

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The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and you are in charge of protecting me and my family as your constituent. If this passes and I lose my job I want you to know it is your fault. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Sheila Kamerman
skamerman@verizon.net
Sutton Place

New York, NY 10022
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Tatianna Batalla
tbatalla@csumb.edu
Market St

San Diego, CA 92101

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
STEVEN M MARTELL
mesteven1365@aol.com
59th Ave

FLUSHING, NY 11355
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Barry Jay Feinberg
bfeinbe@aol.com
Sapphire Dr.

Encino, CA 91436

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Janice Levy
runninged@aol.com
East 79th St.

New York, NY 10021
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,

Cody Ali

coydali@gmail.com

Wall St, New York, NY 10005

New York, NY 10005

Constituent

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Sincerely,
Carolyn Santana
santanacarol317@gmail.com
timberline trail

Pawling, NY 12564
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

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Sincerely,
Nisaa Walcott
nisaa33@icloud.com
E 99th Street

New York, NY 10029
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

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Sincerely,
Shirley Chen
shirleychn93@gmail.com
east 54th street

New York City, NY 10022
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

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Sincerely,
Errika Dimitrakis
endslp@yahoo.com
Winthrop dr

Dix Hills, NY 11746
Constituent

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Sincerely,
Jacob Heath

memorialhairart@gmail.com

scherer lane
severna park, MD 21146

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Sarah Edwards
edwards325@gmail.com
West 19th Street

New York, NY 10011
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Kali Rains
kali.rains@icloud.com
95th Street

Lubbock, TX 79424

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Sasha Delgado
sleo0910@gmail.com
Booth St.

Rego Park, NY 11374
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

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The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and protecting me and my family. If this passes and I lose my job I will not be able to find a new one – this is all the training I know how to do. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for New York City and your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Nancy Loglisci
nrloglisci@yahoo.com
N Newland Ave

Norridge, IL 60706

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Joseph Goewey
josephgoewey@gmail.com
58th Lane

Woodside, NY 11377
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

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Sincerely,
Dahlia Fletcher
shefl1999@aol.com
111th Avenue

Queens, NY 11429
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Shari Cleveland
sharicleveland@gmail.com
Quail Bend

Sealy, TX 77474

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Sincerely,
susan sklarin
sklarin@gmail.com
west end ave

new york, NY 10024
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Alma belgrave
almacameron@aol.com
83rd ave

New york, NY 11415
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Steven Harf
steveharf1@sbcglobal.net
GARDEN LANE

SAINT LOUIS, MO 63122-2636

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council.

I am a regular NYC resident and as so, I want my city to prosper. This ban would shut fur industry down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue (think about big sales tax fur buyers pay!!!), jobs, and small businesses. We have more than enough closed stores already, already people have no choice but to close their businesses. Why eliminate the whole industry, why put numerous workers out of their jobs?

I am also a customer and I shop for most of the cloth here, in NYC. I and all people I know (my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors) shop fur whenever we can afford it. It can be trim on a coat's hood, collar, hat - not necessary fur coat. Fur keep you warm in winter, it's long lasting, organic (YES, it's natural and biodegradable!). If you ban it in NYC, people will simply shop for fur outside of NYC. Nothing will force me to buy artificial fur.

It feels like this is just another time the City Council is solely listening to the loud minority of people. Come on, if they do not want to wear fur, they free to do so. What's next? Ban on selling meat in NYC, forcing us all to obey vegan diet? O-o-o how horrible to kill innocent animals: cows, pigs, sheep for their meat!!!! Meanwhile: fur comes to us from special animal farms (rising minks and rabbits, raccoons and lamas, even sables) like meat comes from chicken, cow, pig farms.

This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs. Those who want to buy fur will go somewhere else.

You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
TATIANA AGREST
tagrest@hotmail.com
65th ST

BROOKLYN, NY 11220-4959
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Leonidas Sitolides
lsitolides@yahoo.com

decker av
Merrick, NY 11566
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council .This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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A vote for this ban is a vote for against freedom of choice and the pursuit of happiness. Haven't we had enough of this kind of moralizing? New York will lose business that will be eagerly scooped up by other states and cities.

Sincerely,

Helene Eisenberg

Sincerely,
Helene Eisenberg
helene.eisenberg.nyc@gmail.com

W 89th St
New York, NY 10024
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Blake Zaretsky
bfzaretsky@gmail.com

west End Avenue
New York, NY 10024
Constituent

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Sincerely,
Diane Ramos
dianeramos@maximilian.com

Morris Turnpike
Short Hills, NJ 07078

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Keila Tennent
ktstep@aol.com

E Prospect Ave
Mount Vernon, NY 10553
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Svetlana Baranovsky
adamia88@yahoo.com
Dutchess Ave

Staten Island, NY 10304
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Astrid Vivas
astridvivas13@gmail.com
218th Street

Queens Village, NY 11428
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

- After one year of the proposed ban, NYC would lose \$76 million in tax revenue.
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NYC cannot afford to lose more revenue. The tax revenue from our businesses could completely offset this year's federal budget cut to public housing, or contribute necessary funds to another of the city's programs that millions of people depend on. It feels like this is just another time the City Council is solely listening to the loud minority of people. A ban would increase gentrification by hurting working class and middle class New Yorkers like me, which is already underway, and hurt New Yorkers who have been in NYC for generations, through good times and bad.

This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and protecting me and my family. If this passes and I lose my job I will not be able to find a new one – this is all the training I know how to do. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for New York City and your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Christine Graziano
tineg007@ail.com
amawalk road

Amawalk, NY 10501
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Naomi Nedd
pokeypyppy611@aol.com
97th Street

East Elmhurst, NY 11369
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
John Ciambrano
johnnyisdabomb_77@yahoo.com
E.77th Street

New York, NY 10075
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

Really, don't you have better things to worry about at the City Council? The proposed fur ban is ridiculous. I don't wear fur because I don't like it. I have no problem if other people wear it. How about expanding energy on greater oversight on failing City agencies? Don't take more jobs away from hard working people. The current administration is failing New Yorkers. The soul is being sucked out of this City.

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Karen Fisher

Sincerely,

Karen Fisher

kfisherny@hotmail.com

East 88th Street

New York, NY 10128-0522

Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Brittney Johnson
bmlj18@juno.com
Jefferson street

New York, NY 10002
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and believe this is a step so far for the government of this city. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Ashton Theodore Randle

Sincerely,
Ashton-Theodore Randle
atrandle@gmail.com
424 West 46th Street, 1D

New York, NY 10036 Constituent

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I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Michael White
sawmillcreekbaitandlures@gmail.com
Sawmill Run Rd

Little Valley, NY 14755
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

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Sincerely,
Rosemarie Silverman
roetony@aol.com

E Camino Real
Boca Raton, FL 33432

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Sincerely,
Maria Forbes
mariaforbes168@yahoo.com

Clay Ave Bronx, NY 10456
Constituent

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Sincerely,
Christian Berbos
christianberbos@gmail.com

E Shore Dr.
Aberdeen, SD 57401

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Sincerely,
Jenifer E Tenenbaum
jtenenbaum78@aol.com
Willow Road

Woodmere, NY 11598
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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Sincerely,
Kimberly Quinde
kim.quinde@gmail.com
31 ave

East Elmhurst, NY 11369
Constituent

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Sincerely

Valerie Zimbal

Sincerely,
Valerie Zimbal
valeriez@zimbalmink.com
6437 Abraham Ct

Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

Dear NYC Council,

Good Day,

As a New Yorker who happens to own and wear furs and knows residents who work in the industry, I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because it should be my personal preference as to what I choose to wear. How would you like someone to tell you that you can't wear leather shoes; or you can't wear your favorite color because they don't like it. Yet it is quite RIDICULOUS!!!

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Best Regards,
Phyllis Knight-Whetstone

Sincerely,
PHYLLIS KNIGHT-WHETSTONE
pkwhetstone@gmail.com

230TH STREET
Laurelton, NY 11413
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

- After one year of the proposed ban, NYC would lose \$76 million in tax revenue.
- NYC would miss out on \$850 million in total revenue in just one year.
- 7,500 jobs would be lost
- More than 150 businesses would be forced to close or move out of the city, almost all of which are family- and immigrant-owned.

NYC cannot afford to lose more revenue. The tax revenue from our businesses could completely offset this year's federal budget cut to public housing, or contribute necessary funds to another of the city's programs that millions of people depend on. It feels like this is just another time the City Council is solely listening to the loud minority of people. A ban would increase gentrification by hurting working class and middle class New Yorkers like me, which is already underway, and hurt New Yorkers who have been in NYC for generations, through good times and bad.

This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and protecting me and my family. If this passes and I lose my job I will not be able to find a new one – this is all the training I know how to do. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for New York City and your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Felix Skolnik
felixskolnik@gmail.com

Governor Trumbull Way
Trumbull, CT 06611

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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This ban would mean the end of a historic industry in NYC, even as lawmakers have committed to preserve garment manufacturing. A vote for this ban is a vote for shuttered storefronts and lost jobs.

The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and you are in charge of protecting me and my family as your constituent. If this passes and I lose my job I want you to know it is your fault. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
Sashon Robinson
samorobinson@outlook.com
132 Ave

Jamaica, NY 11434
Constituent

Dear NYC Council,

I am reaching out to ask you to vote against the proposed fur ban in City Council because I am a constituent and I will lose my job. I and my family need this job and it is one I am proud to do, that I have trained to do. It is because of jobs like mine that other middle-class working people get to make a living wage, many of who are immigrants. I am part of a proud, lasting tradition here in the City, and as someone whose livelihood depends on it, I urge you to vote against the ban. This industry continues to thrive even as fashion manufacturing has declined in the city, something that elected officials have said they want to reverse, but this would just make things worse. This ban would shut us down and irreparably damage the city's economy with a loss of revenue, jobs, and small businesses:

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The City Council is in charge of protecting our businesses and strengthening our economy and you are in charge of protecting me and my family as your constituent. If this passes and I lose my job I want you to know it is your fault. I want you to know who it is affecting in your district. I can promise you, not just myself, but every single one of my coworkers, friends, family, neighbors, and every member of the industry will hold you accountable. You have the opportunity to do your job and stand up for what is best for your constituents, by voting NO on the fur ban.

Sincerely,
GIANNOUSIS stergios
stergios2009@gmail.com

broadway
woodmere, NY 11598
Constituent

SUPPORTER OF INTRO 1476.

FOR THE RECORD

MY NAME IS LINDA OBUCHOSKA

I AM A PHOTOGRAPHER + PHOTOJOURNALIST

BORN AND LIVING IN NYC (DISTRICT 1)

COMMON SENSE LEADS ME TO
~~THE~~ THE BIGG PICTURE.

BELIEVES THAT VIOLENCE EQUALS MORE
VIOLENCE.

HUMAN TO ANIMALS, ~~LEADS~~ LEADS TO
VIOLENCE TOWARDS
HUMAN TO HUMAN.

TO BE REAL, IF WE WANT.

WORLD PEACE WE MUST START BY
giving Mercy to the Littlest and
Defenseless of Sentient BEINGS.

~~THE~~ PROTECTING ANIMALS

IS THE Beginning Seed For
A GROWING WORLD PEACE.

! ! ! ! ! ! ! !

MAKE NYC A LEADER, OTHER CITIES
AND COUNTRIES WILL LOOK UP TO AS
BEING COMPASSIONATE, LEADING
ALL TO A HEALTHIER PLANET & TOTAL
WORLD PEACE.

I SUPPORT INTRO 1476.

Proposed Fur Ban——Against

I LOVE FUR Apparel! Please Stop the fur ban!

Howard Wu

ascot ridge road ny ny 11201

May 15, 2019

Good afternoon. My name is Carolina Prieto and I am a constituent of District 37 in Brooklyn. I am also a Columbian immigrant, a small business owner, and I support the ban of fur sales in NYC.

As a small business owner myself, I can understand the fear of having legislation like this impact my sales. However, I believe that businesses need to adapt with the times, with the markets, and with the general consciousness of their customers and potential customers. And the bottom line is that there is no excuse to torture and kill animals for their fur when there are warm, luxurious alternatives. Fur belongs on animals, not on people.

Thank you to Corey Johnson and all the council members who sponsored this bill. I strongly support Intro 1476 to ban the sales of fur apparel in NYC.

Carolina

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1470 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shelby Harvey

Address: 461 E 107th St, Apt. 11, NY, NY 10025

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dawnie Bratos

Address: 224-27 Manor Rd Bellerose

I represent: Keep District 23 Manor 11427

Address: Keep A. Wilson DASHAWAS INC. Little

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ELIZABETH ARGIBAY

Address: 21 38 31st Astoria NY 11105

I represent: TOTAL LIBERATION NEW YORK

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ramon Contreras

Address: 2300 5th ave

I represent: Youth over guns

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Pablo NAVARRETE

Address: 2940 West 31st Street Apt. 13-E

I represent: Sharnelle Furs

Address: 151 W 28th St. N.Y. N.Y. 10001.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5-13-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jabari Brisport

Address: 286 Prospect Place Brooklyn NY 11238

I represent: Voters for Animal Rights

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5-15-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: George Bournaris

Address: 410 East Lake Street Highland Park N.Y.

I represent: B.C.I.

Address: 920 Valley Road Totowa NJ

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: STAMATIS LILIKAKIS

Address: 38 92nd St BELLEVILLE

I represent: AFC FIRE APPARATUS

Address: 208 W. 29th ST

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mrs. CAUL + D. P. TUCKER

Address: 114th St at 2nd Ave NYC

I represent: Democrat Party

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jeffrey Morge

Address: 2750 Jerome L #3A Bx NY

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Edo P. War

Address: 64-49 232nd Street

I represent: American Fur Center

Address: 208 W 29th Street NY 10001

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ritalyn Forman

Address: 11020 71st Rd #614

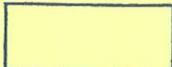
I represent: Humane Education Committee

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 05/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Eliane Goukharian

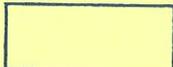
Address: 2155 82nd St Brooklyn NY

I represent: NFL International

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Greg Mcbunagle

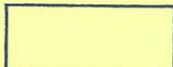
Address: 1044 77th St #2F

I represent: Myself

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shirley Harvey

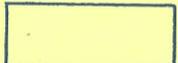
Address: 401 E 62nd St Apt 4B NY, NY 10022

I represent: myself

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9-15-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christina Garino

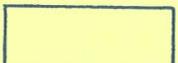
Address: 519 42nd ROAD LIC, NY 11101

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. 1476

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Felicia Greenfield

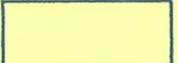
Address: 167 E61

I represent: my family

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Gindy L Kaplan

Address: 2140 E 66th ST Brooklyn NY 11234

I represent: The VOICELESS INNOCENTS

Address: Planet Earth

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5-15-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ms. Denise Walsh

Address: 220-55 46th Ave. Apt 8P

I represent: Bayside NY 11361

Address: District 19

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/13/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Marilyn Zuckerman

Address: 702 Durham Road

I represent: 1476

Address: 702 Durham Road, E Meadow NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1476

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Louisa Columbus

Address: 36-12 38th St. C.I.S., N.Y. 11101

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 05/15/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michelle Cubero

Address: 6755 13rd Place

I represent: Middle Village NY 11379

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/11/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Thomas Lax

Address: 1303 GUY RICHARDSON AVE RIVER

I represent: DELTA FORS LTD

Address: 1303 GUY RICHARDSON AVE

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rachel E. Smont

Address: 245-06 91 AVE Bellerose, NYC 11

I represent: International Anti-Fur Coalition

Address: ?

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KATHY NIZZARI

Address: 410 W 25 ST 5A NYC 10005

I represent: SOLID WASTE ADVISORY BOARD

Address: c/o GALE BREWER'S OFFICE

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MAN TAX

Address: 70 Exeter St

I represent: Klondike Fair

Address: 218 W 30th St.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Steven Walsh

Address: 25 Cleary Rd. Lk. Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

I represent: Self

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ERICA DIBERMAN

Address: 50 N. 5th ST BROOKLYN, NY

I represent: LOOMIS POLICE UNITS

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CORY BEE

Address: 58 WEST 129th ST NYC

I represent: ~~58 West 129th St~~ myself

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15, 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mac Smucker
Address: 1721 10th Ave bkn, ny 11215
I represent: myself
Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nicole Damon
Address: 423 Humboldt St #2, Brooklyn, NY 11211
I represent: myself
Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mary Ann Persad
Address: 40 Brighton 1st Rd. Apt 11G, Brooklyn, NY 11235
I represent: _____
Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kirsten Berger

Address: 45-32 171 Place, Flushing NY 11358

I represent: myself

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 14710 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kathlyn Zafonte

Address: 272 W. 115th St. #2C NY, NY 10026

I represent: myself

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 5/16/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: James ...

Address: 436 E 7th St YC NY, NY 10003

I represent: Myself + ...

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: NATHAN SEMMEL

Address: 775 COLUMBUS AVE, NY, NY 10025

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dereidith Schover

Address: 775 COLUMBUS AVE, NY, NY 10025

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5-15-2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PETER AVAZTS

Address: 7 WOODLAND RD NEW VERMONT VT 05776

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15, 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rockwell Schwartz

Address: 44A Eldert St., Brooklyn 11207

I represent: myself

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Farah Sulman

Address: 81 Grand St FL 5 NY 10013

I represent: myself

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: MAY 15, 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SYLVIA HEISEL

Address: 20 ORCHARD ST, NY NY 10002

I represent: MYSELF

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476-A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/13/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: TED POTRIKVS

Address: RETAIL COUNCIL OF NYS

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Priscilla Jeral

Address: _____

I represent: Friends of Animals, Inc.

Address: 777 Post Rd., Danien, CT

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mitchell Adelman

Address: 345 East 73rd St

I represent: _____

Address: _____



Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dolores Ferraro

Address: 110-50 71st Road, #5L Forest Hills NY 11375

I represent: _____

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: HON. THOMAS COHEN

Address: 216 W 30TH ST NYC NY 10001

I represent: ELVIS + FOUNDATION FOR INDUSTRY CITY OF NY

Address: SAME

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476²⁰¹⁹ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15, 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Peter Lickos

Address: 214-16 Water Edge Dr. Bayside NY 11360

I represent: Dimitrius Furs NYC

Address: 150 West 30th Street NYC 10001

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Laurin Cabralissa

Address: 295 Central Park West, NY NY 10024

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5-15-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARCO CZARNIAK

Address: 240 E 71ST

I represent: SHARNEIK FLES

Address: 151 W 25TH ST NYC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. ~~1476~~ 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PRATIKSHYA PATIL, DVM

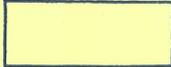
Address: 222 23 RD ST, APT C, BROOKLYN 11232

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Delling

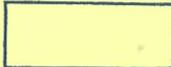
Address: 364 Douglas St BK NY

I represent: Tamerlane Sanctuary

Address: 178 Duane St

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Donny Moss

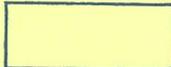
Address: 31 W. 11th St. #612 NYC

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: YUKI ENDO

Address: 93-05 37th Av GA Jackson Heights NY 11372

I represent: Korean K9 Rescue

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Louise Hazle

Address: 98-07 71st Avenue, Queens

I represent: Karen Koslowitz / myself

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Allie Feldman Taylor

Address: 786 Jefferson Ave BK NY 11221

I represent: Voters For Animal Rights

Address: 786 Jefferson Ave BK NY 11221

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 05/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mark Goodman

Address: _____

I represent: Myself

Address: 304 W 105th St NYC

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476-2019 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Maria Reich

Address: 530 N. Broadway

I represent: Reich Furs

Address: 224 W. 30th St. 1101 NY, NY 10001

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476-2019 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Samantha Ortiz

Address: 30-60 29th St, apt F4 Queens, NY 11102

I represent: Reich Furs

Address: 224 W 30th St, 1101 NY NY 10001

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joyce Friedman

Address: 67-10 108 St Forest Hills NY 11375

I represent: Votes for Animal Rights

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 3/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Edita Birnkrant

Address: Queens

I represent: NYCLASS

Address: Manhattan

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nora Constance Marino

Address: Queens, NYC

I represent: Animal Cruelty Exposure Fund

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: BRIAN SHAPIRO

Address: 200 W 57 ST.

I represent: HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE US

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 05/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kristen Kern

Address: _____

I represent: American Apparel and Footwear Association

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Elizabeth Corrado

Address: 518A Halsey St Brooklyn

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOHN GEORGIADIS

Address: 17 PINKWOODS LANE OLD BROOKVILLE N.Y. 11777

I represent: STATION INC

Address: 36-20 24th Street LONG ISLAND CITY N.Y. 11106

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rebecca Wolf

Address: 522 Halsey St Brooklyn

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: FRANK Siller + Justin Siller

Address: _____

I represent: Staten Island Furriers

Address: 2361 Hylan Blvd SI NY 10306

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 05/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Leonardo Arguiano

Address: 2240 61st Street Brooklyn, NY 11204

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Cynthia King (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 201 E 7th St Bklyn 11218

I represent: Myself + NYC HipHop is Green

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5-15-19

Name: Laura Leopardo (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 157 St Marks Ave

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: RODNEY KING (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 201 E. 7 ST. BKLYN, NY 11218

I represent: MYSELF

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1472 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SHARON DISCORFANO

Address: 375 RIVERSIDE DR NY 10025

I represent: ANIMAL LAW COMMITTEE, NYC BAR

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476-A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Vincent A. Sireci Esq.

Address: 3 Antioch Court, Stony Pt, NY 10980

I represent: The Echo Design Group, Inc

Address: 10 East 40th St., N.Y., NY 10016

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1477 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ELIZABETH ARSIBAY

Address: 212 31st St

I represent: FUR + P-C NYC

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Elsa Lebowitz (a child)

Address: 157 St. Marks Ave

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. 1

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Teresa Russo

Address: 378 O'Garra Ave, Staten Island

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rynn Hart

Address: 1691 51st St

I represent: Foot Industry N/A

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5-16-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Fredesick Gelb

Address: 708 Holly Lane NY

I represent: Sidney Donald Ltd

Address: 345 79 Ave ENVIRONMENTS

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sherry Knisley

Address: 252 W. 73rd St. 10 NYC

I represent: WEAR

Address: NYC

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DESMOND CADOGAN

Address: 1425 AMSTERDAM AVENUE NYC

I represent: PETA

Address: HARLEM NY

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Vanessa Soldano (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 7 Navy Pier Court, S.I., NY

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: MAY 15, 2019

Name: TIM GUNN (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 203 WEST 90th STREET

I represent: MYSELF NY, NY 10024

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15

Name: Ariel Collis (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 1200 15th Street NW Washington DC 20036

I represent: Capital Trade Inc.

Address: 1200 15th St NW Washington DC 20036

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5-15-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: NICHOLAS SEKAS

Address: 116 97th St. Bklyn, NY

I represent: SEKAS INT'L LTD. MFG.

Address: 345 7th Ave. NYC.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476-2019 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15, 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: NORMA McDONALD

Address: 7155 Five Mile Road, Cincinnati, OH

I represent: OWS, Inc.

Address: Dok Noord 5, Gent, Belgium

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476-2019 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Laura Taylor

Address: 13335 Bloomingdale Rd. AKron NY 14001

I represent: myself

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15, 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dan Mathews

Address: ~~501 Front St~~ West Village

I represent: PETA

Address: 501 Front St Norfolk VA 23510

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 15/5-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tine Struc

Address: Buesenvej 4 1400 Roskilde, Denmark

I represent: Kopenhagen Fur

Address: Langagervej 74, 2600 Glostrup

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476-209 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15, 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: FD Hanley

Address: 17 Lakes Dr, Tickerins, CA

I represent: DSS Management Consultants Inc

Address: 1886 Rowlett St, Berkeley, CA

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. 2019
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Robert Cahill

Address: 65 Skyway Avenue, Toronto

I represent: North American Fur Auctions

Address: 65 Skyway Avenue, Toronto

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: May 15, 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Margaret Lee

Address: 28 Bond St

I represent: Voters for Animal Rights

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. 2019
 in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Matt Peek

Address: 1813 Rd X

I represent: Assoc of Fish + Wildlife Agencies

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5.15.19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kim Salvo

Address: 165 E 32ND ST 11A 10016

I represent: The Fur Industry

Address: 247 W 30th St 4R NYC 10001

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. 2019

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15, 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael O'Brien

Address: Wolfeville Nova Scotia

I represent: Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Address: Washington, DC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 4276-2019 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SUSAN ROMANO

Address: 643 James St. Pelham NY

I represent: Madison Ave Furs

Address: 118 W 27th NYC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Eric H. Anderson

Address: 11 M. Ave, Jr. Apt 4C, N.Y.C.

I represent: Geo A. Fabrick Co

Address: 733 7th Ave NYC 10019

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. 2019

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nick Pologeorgis

Address: 143 W 29th St NY NY

I represent: Pologeorgis

Address: 143 W 29th St

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kathryn Casey

Address: 350 East 52nd Street, #4K

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Frederica Fuller

Address: 412 E 55 St 8th NYC

I represent: _____

Address: Ⓢ

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DONALD LEVY

Address: 1333 BROADWAY

I represent: THE LEVY GROUP

Address: 1333 BROADWAY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15th, 19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Farah Farouq

Address: 40 East 75th

I represent: Tzomi

Address: 265 West 37th Street NYC 10018

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CHARLES NEOCLEOUS

Address: 146-41-26th AVE

I represent: NO FUR BAN.

Address: FLUSHING NY 11354

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JACOB ROBERGE

Address: 224 W 13th ST

I represent: REICH FURS

Address: 224 W 30th ST

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: MAY 15 1976

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Gia Poli

Address: 1650

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition of the fur ban

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Clayton Beckstead

Address: _____

I represent: Fur Commission

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: YOUJIN SEO

Address: 405 E 87th ST NY NY

I represent: ER fur trading

Address: 224 W 30th ST NY NY

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARC BOWER

Address: 95 HORATIO ST SA NYC

I represent: FASHION DESIGNER - FUR FREE

Address: MARC BOWER 141 FULTON ST

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms NYC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOHN PETKANAS

Address: 56-39 OCEANIA ST. BAYSIDE NY

I represent: JONEVON FURS LTD

Address: 231 W 29 ST. NY NY 10001

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PETER SPAIN

Address: 43-61 22ND ST. LIC NY 11101

I represent: FASHION ACCESSORIES

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Stewart Mitchell

Address: 339 Gates ave Brooklyn NY

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sarah Shmulevitz

Address: 205 West End

I represent: For Fur Ban

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alexandros Politidis 38-33 222nd St.

Address: ~~205 West End St. New York, NY~~ 38-33 222nd St. New York, NY

I represent: Ponds Fur

Address: 249 West 25th St. New York, NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jill Lauri

Address: Rochaway Bch, NY

I represent: The Animals

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Harry Panarellos

Address: 345 7th Ave, New York NY

I represent: Stearns Original Artwear

Address: 345 7th Ave NY, NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tom Grant

Address: 270 212 WEST 30th STREET, N.Y.

I represent: F4NYC 10011

Address: 222 WEST 30th STREET, 10001

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: BLAIR MARSHALL

Address: 4332 Kissena Blvd

I represent: Peter Roo

Address: FLUSHING NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ashley Byrne

Address: 408 Union Avenue, Brooklyn 11211

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jeffrey Geters

Address: 2433 97th Street

I represent: Myself And Pro Choice

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrea Katz

Address: 111 Fulton St NYC NY 10038

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joshua Katchar

Address: 292 Graham Ave Bk NY 11211

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Elinor Malbergott

Address: _____

I represent: Humane Society of N.Y.

Address: 306 East 59th Street, NY NY 10022

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michelle Villagomez

Address: 570 8th Ave. NY NY 10010

I represent: ASPCA

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Robert Englander

Address: 345 7th Ave NYC

I represent: the Fur Industry

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5-15-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Isyana Sisbarro

Address: 627th St NY NY 10001

I represent: Animal Legal Defense Fund

Address: Headquarters = Cotati, CA

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15, 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Linda Mann

Address: 600 West 5th Ave

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ellen Reznick

Address: 300 Mercer St.

I represent: ban fur

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/17/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jen Othonos

Address: 49-09 Ditmars Blvd East Elmhurst NY

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ALEXI LUBOMIRSKA

Address: 122 E 10th St NYC NY 10003

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15, 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: John Bartlett II

Address: 470 W 24th

I represent: John Bartlett

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARVIN WIND

Address: 519-85 Ave

I represent: ADRIENNE LONDON

Address: 519-85 Ave

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Adrienne London

Address: 519 8th Ave NY NY

I represent: Adrienne London

Address: 518 8th Ave NY NY

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5-15-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KARAW GIBERSON

Address: 224 West 30th Suite 201 NY 10001

I represent: w/ ARTHUR GOLDSTEIN ACCESSORIES COUNCIL

Address: ACCESSORIES COUNCIL

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JACKY PLYMAN

Address: 15 W 39

I represent: COCKPIT USA (ACCESSORIES COUNCIL)

Address: 15 W 39 NYC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Leigh Ann Barnes

Address: 264 West 40th St, NY, NY 10018

I represent: Leigh Ann Barnes Handbags + Accessories

Address: 264 W. 40th St, NY, NY + Athens, GA

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Accession
Council

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CARLA DAWN DEARLE

Address: 303 5th AVENUE # 1616

I represent: FASHION INDUSTRY BUSINESS

Address: 303 5th AVENUE # 1616

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 15th May 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ANNABEL BRUNOIS GAUARD

Address: 15/17 rue de la Paix PARIS

I represent: ECOPEL Faux FUR

Address: 56 rue du Faubourg Poissonniere PARIS

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Erica R Sheinart

Address: 626 2nd St Brooklyn NY 11215

I represent: Voters for Animal Rights For the

Address: Brooklyn, New York Fur ban

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Leanne Hilgart

Address: 30 Orient Ave Bklyn 11211

I represent: _____

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/1/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: All About Rabbits Keene

Address: 110-11 Q Blvd

I represent: _____

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15th

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: FISCHER'S NICOLE

Address: 400 East 52nd NY 10022

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 05.15.2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ALICIA GEORGE

Address: 729 WOODLAND STATES DR. BARTONNY

I represent: G. MENDEL

Address: 3620 34th St. L.I.C. N.Y. 11

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JACK COHEN

Address: 1619 3rd ave.

I represent: STALLION

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Angelina Poli

Address: 1650 CARLTON Avenue Siny 10309

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ANNA TAGLIABUE / FASHION DESIGNER

Address: 128 E. 70TH STR. #5A

I represent: PELUSH - LUXURY FAUX FUR

Address: SAME

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/2019.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SUGANDH GOEL AGRAWAL

Address: 4630 CENTER BLVD. #1005, LIC. NY 11109

I represent: QUNAS NEW YORK.

Address: -

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DR. FLEEN JEFFERSON

Address: P.O. BOX 826, STONE RIDGE, NY 12484

I represent: HUMANE SOCIETY VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOC

Address: P.O. BOX 826, STONE RIDGE, NY 12484

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Norman Ambrose

Address: 71 Broadway #10F NY NY 10006

I represent: Norman Ambrose LLC

Address: Same as above

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michele Poli

Address: 1650 CARLTON Avenue SIMY 10309

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: FOR STEVAN COWIT

Address: 101 WOODBINE AVE MANHATTAN NY

I represent: FLEWY COWIT, INC

Address: 118 W 27 NYC NY 10001

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LINDA OBUCHOSKA

Address: 58 Kenmare St NYC 10012

I represent: Self + ANIMALS

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ANDREW KAPLAN

Address: 27 W 72nd St NY 10023

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 3/13/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MATTHEW SCHWARTZ

Address: 4545 Center Blvd Long Island City

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

Accessories Council

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Virginia BURRIS O'HARA

Address: 53 Woodbine Street 1A 11221

I represent: My Small business - HATS

Address: 87 East Broadway AB 10002

Accessories Council

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: TIMOTHY OHARA

Address: 1095 BUSHWICK AVENUE #1A

I represent: SMALL BUSINESS

Address: 87 EAST BROADWAY FL 3

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

ACC
COUNCIL

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 05/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: AUROPA JAMES

Address: 71 FRANKLIN ST, BROOKLYN 11222

I represent: BROTHER VELLIES

Address: _____



Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jason Rogowsky

Address: 85 1 7th Avenue New York NY 10019

I represent: Shoe Parlor

Address: " "

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Garry Zeltser

Address: 2546 E. 13 St Apt. C7 Brooklyn, NY 11235

I represent: Orthodox Judaism

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Bezalel Stern

Address: 3050 K St NW Suite 400, Washington DC

I represent: IFF, FICA, CCV

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Steven Humphreys

Address: One Jefferson Rd., Parsippany, NJ

I represent: International Fur Federation, etc.

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lester Wasserman

Address: 15 West 72nd St NY, NY 10023

I represent: Tip Top Shoes

Address: 155 West 72nd St NY, NY 10023

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476-A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

seeking sheepskin exemption Date: May 15 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tom Garcia

Address: 250 CORUMAR DR. GOLETA, CA 93117

I represent: DECKERS BRANDS

Address: 250 CORUMAR DR. GOLETA CA 93117

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

NYC, NY
Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Stacy Lopez

Address: 158 Waverly Place NYC NY 10014

I represent: For Industry

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lenny Kahn

Address: _____

I represent: Wink Mart

Address: NYC, NY 10001

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Richard Top

Address: 218 W. 30th St, NY/NY

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Florence Anthony

Address: 449 W. 153rd St #1

I represent: Blacks For Fur

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 05/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rina Baccus

Address: 159 ORCHARD ST

I represent: Danish BAKED

Address: 159 ORCHARD ST NYC 1002

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: FR JOHNN V. ALIUS

Address: 337 E 74th ST NYC

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: MAY 15, 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: NADEEM WAHEDI

Address: 159 ORCHARD ST NEW YORK NY

I represent: DANIELS LEATHER

Address: 159 ORCHARD ST

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LOU ROSSY

Address: 4750 BEDFORD AVE

I represent: DANIELS LEATHER

Address: 159 ORCHARD ST

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1470 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Katerina Trabazo

Address: 85-10 34 Avenue, apt 620

I represent: Brooklyn - Queens Animal Save

Address: 8

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kirk Miller

Address: 266 W 132nd St New York NY

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ROBERTO BONELLI

Address: 5620 Woodside Avenue Apt 4

I represent: THE ANIMALS' BATTALION

Address: 56-20 Woodside Avenue Woodside NY 11377

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kristina Detmer

Address: 245 E. 72nd St 310

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1474 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nicole Hall

Address: 139 Palisades Ave. #13A NYC 10034

I represent: Morris Park Animal Hosp.

Address: 1135 Morris Park Ave Bronx, Ny.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Eva Dina

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nina Jackel

Address: 12405 Venice Blvd. 390 LA, CA 90066

I represent: Lady Freethinker

Address: 12405 Venice Blvd. 390 LA, CA 90066

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Maureen Medina

Address: 4202 5th Ave. #15 Brooklyn, NY 11232

I represent: District 38

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christina View

Address: 2015 Shore Parkway

I represent: District 43

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Fix Ban Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Harriet Nathan

Address: 445 E 80th St Apt 3F NY 10075

I represent: Peter Nathan Inc

Address: 210 W 30th St NY NY 10001

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 05.15.19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Viktoria Tsapouris

Address: 208 West 30th Street

I represent: U.S. & You

Address: same

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARK OATEN

Address: _____

I represent: CEO International for Federate

Address: London UK

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Heather Greenhouse

Address: 786 Jefferson Ave BK, NY 11221

I represent: Voters For Animal Rights

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 05-15-2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PAULINA VALLS-SANCHEZ

Address: 287 EIGHTH AVENUE 11A NY 10011

I represent: BROOKLYN GREENS INC

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JILL CARNEGIE

Address: 449 W 44th ST NYC

I represent: NUMU VEGAN GROUP LLC

Address: 44 WASHINGTON AVE

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: John DiLeonardo

Address: 97 Lexington Ave, Malverne, NY 11565

I represent: Long Island Orchestrating for Nature (LION)

Address: 97 Lexington Ave, Malverne, NY 11565

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: FRENE GAUDY

Address: 160 Bleeker St

I represent: BLACKS FOR FUR / Broadway

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 002706 Res. No. 1476
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DIMITRIS FILIPPIDIS
Address: 2251 76th East Gluhurst 11370, NY
I represent: NO FUR BAN
Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Paul Chris JAP
Address: 218 W. 30th St, NY, NY
I represent: _____
Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 05/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LIA Amanatidis
Address: 49-14 21st Avenue
I represent: NO FUR BAN
Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. ~~1476~~ Res. No. 1476

in favor in opposition

Date: May 15 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rebecca Milvich

Address: 246 E 10th St Apt 6

I represent: _____

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1476 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5.15.19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOHN KRISTOFIK

Address: 50 EAST 235th ST BX. NY. 10470

I represent: _____

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ERIC ROUSKAS

Address: 3654 IVX DRIVE BOHPASS NY 11714

I represent: FANTASTIC FURS INC

Address: 2529 4th ST L.L.C NY 11103

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: G. V. DEBRA ASPROU

Address: 42 Grove Street, Glenwood Landing

I represent: BBC International Group Inc

Address: 122 W. 10th St., Toledo, NJ 07912

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: TINA DUSEY

Address: 238 DECATUR ST

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 5/15/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ANGELO ANASTASIOU

Address: 66 ANDERSON AVE ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS NY

I represent: ANAMODA INC

Address: 247 W 30 Street NY NY

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LICIA SILVA

Address: 100 Front St Manhattan

I represent: not for bar

Address: 231 West NY

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀