



November 2, 2023

Chairman Daniel Cahill
Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
24 Beacon Street Room 473F
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Cahill,

The Massachusetts Conservation Alliance represents the sportsmen and sportswomen of the Commonwealth. We write in opposition to H.849 and S.590. These bills seek to ban the sale of fur products.

We oppose these bills because they represent an unwarranted attack on the culture and traditions of the sporting community. These bills exempt indigenous peoples. Indigenous people are not the only people whose culture and traditions deserve respect and protection. Trapping is part of the heritage of the sporting community of the Commonwealth. Our traditions should be respected, honored and protected.

The underlying rationale for this bill is a misguided, irrational belief that trapping, and fur products exploit resources and are cruel. Modern trapping methods meet the Agreement on International Humane Trapping. Modern fur farming is similarly regulated and has nothing whatsoever to do with animal cruelty.

The reality of wildlife management in a rural and suburban environment requires tools like recreational hunting and trapping to effectively control populations. Fur bearing species like Coyote, Fisher, Beaver and Muskrat present unique challenges in these environments. Trapping has been successfully used in piping Plover restoration efforts to control predator species. Banning the sale of fur products will result in the waste of valuable renewable resources. A fur ban will not eliminate the need to control growing populations of problem animals. This bill will negatively impact professional wildlife management without providing any tangible benefit to society.

Sincerely,

Wayne Adams





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Chairman Rebecca Rausch
Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
24 Beacon Street Room 473F
Boston, MA 02133

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Sincerely,

Wayne Adams





Email to committee

JointCommittee.Environment@malegislature.gov

