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CUMBRIAN MP HEADS SEAL TRADE PETITION

Published on 31/05/2007



ERIC MARBLEW

PETITIONS with more than 46,000 signatures calling for an end to the UK trade in seal products has been handed to the Commons by a Cumbrian MP.

Carlisle MP Eric Martlew, who has a track record of fighting on animal welfare issues, handed over the 46,203 strong-list of names condemning Canada's "cruel" commercial seal hunt.

It follows a meeting with Trade Minister Ian McCartney to discuss a ban on the import of seal products.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare the RSPCA, Respect for Animals and LAWS also attended the round-the-table discussion with the trade minister, and presented a further petition of 144,343 signatures signed by IFAW supporters calling for a ban.

Mr Martlew said: "These petitions show the UK public feel strongly that this unacceptably cruel hunt must end, and that the UK must play its part by ending the unnecessary trade in seal products.

"There is international opposition to this annual slaughter. I have received messages from Canadians urging us in the UK to do what we can."

The signatures have been collected as part of the IFAW and Respect for Animal's ongoing campaign to end Canada's commercial seal hunt — the biggest in the world.

Mr Martlew, who chairs the associate parliamentary group on animal welfare, said during the 2006 hunt, more than 350,000 seals were clubbed or shot, with 98 per cent of them pups under three months old.

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I'm glad to hear of MP Martlew speaking out in support of banning seal fur and other seal products in the UK. In the USA, the trade in all marine mammal products has been banned since 1973. There's no reason to kill marine mammals, which are especially sensitive to environmental changes like global warming, for luxury products like fur coats.

Andrea , New England
6/4/2007 9:01:19 PM

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