

March 11, 2015

RE: **Support of HB 6955**, a bill that would shut down market demand for elephant ivory and rhinoceros horns in Connecticut

Dear Co-chair Kennedy, Co-chair Albis, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee.

Please accept this testimony in SUPPORT of HB 6955.

Elephants and rhinos will soon face extinction because of illegal poaching to support the ivory and rhino horn trade.

Close to 100 elephants are killed each day for the ivory trade. Poachers kill entire elephant families for their tusks, leaving the baby orphan elephants alone to die.

Rhinoceros poachers use tranquilizer darts instead of guns to avoid making noise and being detected. The horn is then hacked off while the rhino is still unconscious. The rhinoceros wakes up with his face hacked off and suffers a cruel and agonizing death.

This type of illegal poaching is cruel, wasteful, and unnecessary.

We do not support illegal poaching in Connecticut. We should not support illegal poaching elsewhere.

Please SUPPORT HB 6955.

Thank you.

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