

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.

It is very important that Connecticut crack down on the illegal wildlife trade. Not only does this trade directly contribute to the extinction facing these imperiled animals, it also threatens our national security. At \$8 to \$10 billion per year, the illegal wildlife trade ranks as the fourth most lucrative international criminal activity, behind only narcotics, counterfeiting, and human trafficking. There is expert evidence that much of this illegal criminal activity ends up benefiting terrorists.

The illegal wildlife trade does not create jobs, feed the hungry, or educate our children. Instead it supports crime. I suspect that the majority of Connecticut residents prefer our leaders do all they can to promote the former and block the latter.

Pass this bill so Connecticut residents can proudly proclaim that we, and our leaders, believe in leaving this world a better place for our children by stopping illegal and criminal activity like the ivory trade.

Yours truly,

Cynthia Mulhearn

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