

**Testimony Concerning HB 6955
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, March 11, 2015
Elizabeth Chambers**

I would like to thank the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE for the opportunity to express my support of HB 6955, An Act Prohibiting the Sale and Trade of Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn.

Wildlife experts estimate that nearly 100 ELEPHANTS are SLAUGHTERED EVERY DAY for their ivory.

During 2014, ONE RHINO was SLAUGHTERED EVERY 8 HOURS according to the South African Department of Environmental Affairs.

Hundreds of thousands of innocent wild animals killed and poached for the ILLEGAL sale ivory. With the federal ban on the sale and trade of ivory and rhino horn leaving loopholes, and the ability of traffickers to make new ivory indistinguishable from antique, it is up to the states to stop the killing. We can help stop the slaughter.

New York and New Jersey have already enacted their own legislation to prohibit the sale of ivory. It is time for Connecticut to join them. Let's not be an open port for traffickers. Connecticut needs this bill now.

I hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Chambers
Hamden, CT