



March 10, 2015

To whom it may concern:

I are writing you regarding HB 6955 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE AND TRADE OF IVORY AND RHINOCEROS HORN and its potential negative impact to Connecticut residents who own pianos with ivory keys.

I am piano technician with over 25 years experience servicing pianos in Fairfield and New Haven Counties. I service many pianos with ivory key tops. Some of these pianos are over 100 years old and have been the client's family for as long.

From the late 1800's thru the late 1980's, piano keys were made with a thin ivory veneer and are owned by many piano enthusiasts, students, teachers, religious organizations and schools. Pianos with ivory keys can have a significant monetary and or sentimental value. It would significantly devalue these instruments, if prior to sale, keys would have to be replaced with plastic or if they could not be sold or moved to a new owner.

While everyone supports elephant conservation and a ban on the sale of illegal ivory. This bill in its present form would be more harm to the residents of Connecticut without saving one elephant.

My specific concerns are: Pianos with ivory keys will not be able to be legally resold, repaired, serviced or transported once the bill is passed.

Please consider adding a blanket exemption on musical instruments.

Sincerely,

*Gina Bonfietti*

Gina Bonfietti  
Piano Technician  
434 Herbert Street  
Milford, CT 06461