

Glenn Hillman
PO Box 539
179 North Street
Litchfield , CT 06759

Chairman
Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: HB 6955 An Act Prohibiting the Sale and Trade of Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn.

Dear MR/MS Chairman:

My name is Glenn Hillman and I am a resident of Litchfield, Connecticut. I will be unable to attend the public hearing set for Wednesday March 11th 2015 to discuss HB 6955, "*An Act Prohibiting The Sale and Trade of Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn*", so I am submitting this letter for your review and consideration. I formally request my letter be read aloud at the public hearing for the benefit of the Environment Committee members and the attending public.

I have been a collector of antiques and Americana for over 23 years and have previously served on the Collections Committee for the Litchfield Historical Society. I am also a supporter of environmental legislation so I hope I provide some balanced insight into this issue.

Let me first state that the killing of elephants and rhinos is abhorrent and any legislative act banning the contemporary trade of ivory is an important means to help stop the illegal trade and help assist in the protection of endangered species. However, I am extremely troubled after reading the specific language of proposed bill HB 6955 that there is no provision allowing the sale of 'Antique' ivory. When I call a piece of ivory 'Antique' I define it as artifacts that are a hundred years in age or older.

As currently written the proposed legislation would ban the sale of all ivory objects 'Antique' or otherwise. This would make the sale of innumerable 'Antique' objects and works of art that incorporate elements of ivory as illegal. Ivory has been used as a medium for carving, painting, and inlaying for millennia. Not only would this do irreparable harm to the antiques business, but to museums and collectors alike. To make the Committee aware of the scale of items that would be affected I have attached to this letter a list of historical items that often possess ivory in their design. (see Attachment A).

The proposed legislation HB 6955 as currently written would make the sale of many of the 'Antique' objects in dealer's inventories illegal and would systematically make anything possessing ivory worthless. Antiques dealers would also be banned from the future acquisition of countless 'Antiques' to refresh their inventories depriving them of income. Depending on a dealer's specialty, it could completely put them out of business. Antique dealers who deal in portrait miniatures or specialize in scrimshaw would be shut down according to the current language of the proposed bill.

Museums and Historical societies would also be adversely affected. Again they would be unable to acquire or sell many historical objects under the current proposed legislation. This would limit their ability to continue to acquire and protect the artistic and cultural heritage of our nation and our state. The Litchfield Historical Society for example has in the last several years through purchase and donation acquired several early nineteenth century portrait miniatures of prominent Litchfield citizens by the artist Anson Dickinson, himself originally a local resident. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, miniatures were painted on thin slivers of ivory. Under the current language in HB 6955 this acquisition by the museum would be deemed completely illegal. As a former Collections Committee member for the Litchfield Historical Society I also know Museums would be limited in the 'Antique' deaccessioning process. Most museums use the sale of objects to replenish their acquisitions fund. Under the current proposal any 'Antique' containing ivory would be illegal to sell, thus limiting a museum's ability to acquire other objects that may more suitably fit their respective mission statement.

As a collector of antiques this proposed legislation would render eighteen objects in my collection un-sellable and make them worthless. These items include a wall box, cane, eighteenth century portrait miniatures, and my collection of scrimshaw. Not only would I unjustly be deprived of my initial investment in these 'Antiques' and works of art, but I would be completely deprived of any investment potential these object may accrue over the years.

There is one very simple and practical way to protect these endangered species but not destroy the sale and ownership of 'Antiques' with ivory. I ask this Committee to consider an 'Antique' (100 year) exemption for the proposed bill No 6955, "*An Act Prohibiting the sale and trade of Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn*". An 'Antiques' exemption clause would still preserve the ban on the sale of contemporary ivory, but would keep legal the sale and trade of antiques containing or made from ivory.

Not a single elephant will be saved by banning the sale of 'Antiques' containing ivory, nor will a single elephant be killed by providing an exemption, for the historic and artistic material culture of our state and nation. Does anyone really want to see the sale of an 'Antique' portrait miniature of George Washington made illegal in our state? Is it a good thing to have a nineteenth century ivory handled revolver made right here in Hartford by the inventor and gunsmith Samuel Colt banned from sale?

There is a way to both save elephants, rhinos, whales, and walrus and to simultaneously protect our nation's cultural, artistic, and decorative arts heritage. It is through practical,

responsible, carefully worded legislation that protects the 'Antique' business, but bans the illicit and illegal contemporary ivory trade.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Respectfully,

Glenn Forrester Hillman

Attachment A

Categories of Antiques that during different historical time periods may possess Ivory design elements or made entirely of ivory.

Miniatures	Chests of drawers
Boxes	Clocks
Tea caddies	Firearms
Swords	Canes
Corkscrews	Cutlery
All historical periods of Sculpture	Buggy whips
Wall boxes	Snuff boxes
Silver	Jewelry
Netsuke	Asian art & sculpture
Indian art & sculpture	Indian furniture
Persian Art & sculpture	African art and sculpture
Swagger sticks	Knife boxes,
Religious sculpture	Miniature furniture,
Bobkins	Thimbles
Knitting needles	Perfume bottle tops
Desk sets	Desks
Dressing articles	Mirrors
Magnifying glasses	Pens
Picture frames	Barometers
Scientific instruments	Globes
Rulers	Measuring sticks
Nautical antiques	Prisoner of War articles,
Ship models	Musical instruments
Chess pieces	Checkers
Dominoes	Book covers,
Buttons on clothing	Collar stays
Ladies folding fans	Corset stays
Razors	Shaving equipment
Scrimshaw	Watch hatches