

**Testimony Concerning HB 6955 - AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE AND TRADE OF
IVORY AND RHINOCEROS HORN**

Environmental Committee - Wed. March 11, 2015

From: Jane Ciarlone

I would like to thank the Environmental Committee for the opportunity to express my support of **HB 6955 - AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE AND TRADE OF IVORY AND RHINOCEROS HORN.**

African elephants are hunted down and murdered for their tusks to the tune over 30,000 deaths in 2012 alone because of poachers. Today, there are 96 elephants poached for their ivory tusks. Elephants are being wiped out. Rhinos are in the same boat.

Rhino poaching is escalating exponentially. The Western black rhino was declared extinct by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) in 2011, with the primary cause identified as poaching. All five remaining rhinos species are listed on the IUCN **Redlist** of threatened species. South Africa has the largest population of Rhinos in the world. According to data published by the South African Department of Environmental Affairs “during 2014, in South Africa alone a staggering 1,215 rhinos were killed by poachers, that’s one every eight hours.”

A Federal ban on selling new ivory objects has been in existence for decades. But new ivory can be easily rendered indistinguishable from old, legally-harvested ivory. This has allowed a thriving market for ivory goods made from recently killed elephants.

New York and New Jersey were the first states to enact strict bans on the sale of nearly all ivory products. Last year’s bi-partisan effort in both states has shut off their shipping ports and markets to illegal wildlife trade.

The California State Legislature is scheduled to address a ban this year.

Connecticut needs to do the same to discourage the movement of trafficking from one state to another, and within states. Because of Connecticut’s dense population and ports the Wildlife Conservation Society believes Connecticut is one of six key states needed to enact bans within the US.

As an animal lover, activist, and environmental sociology college educator, I am well informed on these matters and am reaching out to you to act against this attack on the world’s most beautiful and are among the most vulnerable – our animals. It is the right thing to do. These animals cannot speak for themselves; they want to live. Be their voice. Ban the sale and trade of ivory and rhino horn.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,
Jane Ciarlone, Branford, Ct. 06405
and The Ciarlone Family