

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**. In August 2014, the Humane Society of the United States led efforts in New York and New Jersey to enact laws to prohibit sale, trade, and possession with intent to sell ivory and rhino horns, becoming the first states to shut down the ivory and rhino horn trade within their borders. This year, up to a dozen U.S. states are considering similar legislation, including California, Illinois, Hawaii, and Massachusetts, which are the top markets for ivory in the nation. These states are taking robust measures to crack down on the illegal wildlife trade out of a shared concern about the threat of extinction facing these imperiled animals as well as the threat wildlife trafficking poses on 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.

I ask that you please strongly SUPPORT HB 6955. I do not wish to live in a state that has the opportunity to ban such an immoral industry and instead chooses to do nothing. Do not let the great state of Connecticut be left behind!

Sincerely,

Katie Haggerty
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