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Dear Co-chair Kennedy, Co-chair Albis, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee

**Re: SUPPORT of HB 6955, a bill that would shut down market demand for elephant ivory and rhinoceros horns in Connecticut**

Please accept this testimony in SUPPORT of HB 6955.

There is a significant threat of extinction facing elephants while poachers and traffickers continue their slaughter and despicable activities unabated. The time for a prohibition on the U.S. domestic ivory markets is now and Connecticut can contribute to the federal, national, and global conservation efforts by closing Connecticut's markets to ivory and rhino horns.

- Elephants are being gunned down and poisoned in unprecedented numbers—reaching nearly 100 killed per day—all for their ivory tusks. Approximately 100,000 elephants in Africa were killed between 2010 and 2012. In 2014, more than 1,000 rhinos were killed in South Africa alone out of a remaining 29,000 left in the wild.

- Poachers kill entire elephant families, including its youngest members as long as they have tusks. Elephant babies, who do not have tusks that have emerged, are left as orphans unable to fend for themselves and often die if not rescued by humans in time.

Please, therefore, support HB6955 before it is too late.

Thank you.

Pat Harmon