

March 11, 2015,

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

Please accept this testimony in SUPPORT of HB 6955, a bill that would shut down market demand for elephant ivory and rhinoceros horns in Connecticut.

The illegal wildlife trade ranks as the fourth most lucrative international criminal activity, (at \$8 to 10 billion per year) behind only narcotics counterfeiting, and human trafficking. The threat of extinction facing elephants grows daily 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.

Respectfully,

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