

Bill Katz
166 Linnmoore St.
Hartford, CT 06114
bkatz321@gmail.com
860-956-2844

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Re: Support of HB 6955

Legislative Office
Environment Committee

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

I support HB 6955. We are long past the time to enact a total ban on elephant and rhino tusks. By now, this should be on the national agenda but I trust that you recognize the need to pass this much needed legislation.

On a personal note, I became a recent activist after suddenly being confronted with a set of ivory tusks. I delivered a work of art to a client on Fifth Avenue at 125TH Street last June. After the client proudly showed me his art collection, he walked me over to his mantle place where the tusks were displayed. I was so confounded as to way anyone would be so selfish to support this industry. I recall my lonely ride back on the Metro North train being puzzled at just having me one of the dark sides of man.

I co-wrote (along with my friend, Alex Forbes) a song about these horrible deeds of poaching taking place in Africa. Sometimes I communicate better in song than the spoken word and I would like each of you to open www.youtube.com and search "Where Will the Giants Roam." It is only three minutes long. There is a video that accompanies the music.

Thank you.

Bill Katz