

Testimony regarding HB6955 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE AND TRADE OF IVORY AND RHINOCEROS HORN. Environment Committee, March 11, 2015

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Like others whose families have been in Connecticut for centuries, my ancestors owned ivory trinkets that have been passed down to me. Surely they were produced by the booming ivory business in Deep River that supported the ruthless slaughter of **thousands** of elephants for their precious tusks.

Although the ivory necklace, picks, and the cane handle I own bear the blood of majestic animals, they also allow me to tell the story of Ivoryton and Deep River so that current and future generations understand our history. With that knowledge we can make absolutely sure that **such slaughter for human gain never happens again.**

As a lifelong Connecticut resident with deep roots here, I feel a special responsibility to make amends for the atrocities of the past in this state. **We can't turn back the clock or deny our state's past, but we in Connecticut, have a special responsibility to save elephants today!** HB6955 will help reverse the rapid decline of the majestic African elephant.

Thank you for raising this bill and I ask you to favorably report the bill out of committee. Instead of hanging our heads in shame, Connecticut **can proudly become the next state to stop the sale of ivory and give** innocent elephants and rhinos today the protection they deserve.