



**IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS**

**TESTIMONY SUPPORTING CT HB 6955**

**TO: ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**FROM: Toni Frohoff, Ph.D., Elephant Scientist, In Defense of Animals, [toni@idausa.org](mailto:toni@idausa.org)**

**DATE: March 9, 2015**

**In Defense of Animals, a non-profit organization based in California with 200,000 supporters internationally, enthusiastically urges your support for AB 6955**, that would *finally* prohibit the sale and trade of ivory and rhinoceros horn - and products made of such ivory and rhinoceros horn in order to limit the market for such items and reduce the killing of elephants and rhinoceros for their ivory and horns. Support of this bill is crucial for protecting, rather than continuing to participate in the complete decimation of, elephant and rhino populations worldwide.

As a key consumer state, and also a densely populated state with ports, Connecticut can set much-needed precedent for other states. At one time, New York had the clear lead in illegal ivory trade in the U.S., but along with New Jersey, has since passed important legislation to protect elephants and rhinos. Other U.S. states are now looking to see what Connecticut does with respect to ivory legislation. We earnestly hope that Connecticut will join New York, New Jersey and other states that have supported similar measures.

AB 6955 would close the loophole in the existing state law and help put a stop to the irreversibly horrific trade that is threatening the global existence of African elephants and rhinos. What you do with AB 6955 will have global ramifications. We urge you to please support this most important bill to the fullest extent possible - for the respect of your constituents who do not want their state to further contribute to the potential extinction of African elephants and rhinos.

In Defense of Animals is grateful for the opportunity to strongly support AB 6955. Thank you.

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**Fighting Apathy, Building Empathy**



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