

Testimony Concerning HB 6955
Environment Committee, March 11, 2015 Public Hearing

John Juliano

I want to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of *HB No. 6955 - An Act Prohibiting the Sale and Trade of Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn*

Elephants are magnificent mammals with highly sentient abilities. The only first-hand experience I had was during my trip to the National Zoo in Washington, DC in December 2014. We were given a special opportunity to interact with the elephant trainers who led the elephants through a series of training exercises designed to stimulate these very intelligent animals. The elephants were respectful of their trainers and were curious about the visitors and eager to participate.

Elephants are one of the most highly evolved non-human creatures in the world. They are strongly family oriented. It's clear that they remember and experience grief and joy, fear and love from what I've seen in documentaries and what I've read.

CT is one of the six key states that can help to shut down illegal trafficking of elephant ivory in the US. NY and NJ have already taken this step and CA has a bill pending. Today elephants are more endangered than ever. Tens of thousands are massacred annually for their tusks. It makes no sense to kill these animals for ivory where profits often go to terrorists and militants. I urge you to please pass this forward thinking bill.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

John J. Juliano
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