

Testimony Concerning HB 6955
Environment Committee, March 11, 2015
Ruth M. Treat

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 6955, an act prohibiting the sale and trade of ivory and rhinoceros horns.

Although I've never had the opportunity to visit and see these magnificent animals in the wild, I have seen films and videos and photos from friends who have visited these places where the elephants and rhinoceros's are still able to live. However, the poaching and killing of these animals is constantly a problem. This is one way the locals can earn a living. The reason for this is because there is a market for the horns and ivory worldwide.

I currently live on a farm in Connecticut and in my lifetime I have seen the return of wild animals to our land: beavers, deer, turkeys, eagles, bear and even moose are being spotted in areas in Connecticut. This is only because people have acted in ways that discourage mismanagement of our natural environment and encourage good habitat for these creatures.

Each of us has the responsibility to outlaw the sale of ivory and rhinoceros horns so that it is no longer a lucrative business. Every market avenue that is closed means less demand. I urge you to join New Jersey, New York and hopefully California to ban the sale of these items.

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

Thank you,

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