

As a Director of the American Clock and Watch Museum, Bristol, CT and President of CT Chapter 148, National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, I urge you to vote NO on Bill 5578 at tomorrow's hearing.

This bill would be extremely damaging to the many Connecticut residents and museums who own historical items that contain a piece of ivory, whether it be a keyhole escutcheon on an antique clock, a piece of decorative ivory on a musical instrument or furniture, etc. This act would devalue the item(s) in one's collection, rendering it almost impossible to sell, especially if the bill is further enhanced to require a state permit to sell an antique with a piece of ivory in it. Many seniors, beyond their love of antiques (including myself) consider their antiques assets in their financial portfolio.

We strongly urge you to vote NO when this bill comes up in the committee and it not be passed on to the full legislature for a vote. Placing onerous restrictions on such items of antiquity will not and does not stop the killing of elephants or other endangered animals and only harms those who intent is to preserve our heritage.

Al Comen
Stratford, CT