

Dear Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

Please accept this as my testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 5578**, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE AND TRADE OF IVORY AND RHINOCEROUS HORN.

**This issue is extremely important to me.**

I support HB 5578 because I am horrified over the global poaching crisis, fueled in part by the U.S. market for ivory. Elephants and Rhino's face massive slaughter at alarming rates and could be extinct in a few years.

I've learned this is a national security issue as extremist groups and terrorist organizations use the money from wildlife trafficking to fund their operations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service believes state bans are important, with Director Dan Ashe stating: "The ivory poaching and trafficking crisis is a complex problem that requires action on multiple levels to ensure that commercial trade doesn't contribute to the slaughter of elephants in the wild. As we work to make it harder for criminals to launder illegal ivory into international and interstate commercial trade, it's encouraging to see states taking actions within their own borders."

I applaud the Committee's leadership in raising this bill and urge its passage. Connecticut should do all it can to reduce this horrific crisis.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Anne Hulick

Cromwell, CT