

Dear Co-Chair Kennedy, Co-Chair 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.

Poaching is responsible for the massacre of nearly 100 elephants each day, with the US fueling demand. Rhinos are being threatened with extinction.

This is a particularly cruel practice. The tusks and horns are taken by cutting off the faces of the animals, sometimes while they are still living. To avoid capture, rhino poachers sometimes use a quiet tranquilizer gun. The rhino wakes up with its face cut off, only to die a slow and agonizing death.

The useless slaughter of elephants and rhinos should not be supported in Connecticut. Please join New York and New Jersey in abolishing this cruel practice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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HSUS State Council Member