



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – March 11, 2016  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee

**House Bill No. 5578 (Raised) – AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE AND TRADE OF IVORY AND RHINOCEROS HORN.**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **Raised House Bill No. 5578 – AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE AND TRADE OF IVORY AND RHINOCEROS HORN.** The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

We support the Committee's interest in advancing the conservation of rare and imperiled wildlife, including those beyond our borders. We have concerns, however, that DEEP lacks the expertise to independently fulfill the enforcement requirements of this proposal. Any such enforcement would need to be done collaboratively with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service staff and, as such, would be dependent on the availability of federal resources.

DEEP is also concerned that the agency lacks sufficient resources to effectively enforce this proposal. We ask the Committee to consider that our environmental conservation police are working diligently at meeting their current responsibilities in providing enforcement and public safety services in state parks and enforcement in the areas of fisheries and wildlife, boating, commercial fishing and shellfishing. As such, enforcement of additional ivory laws would need to be done as time allows. Response to other calls for service and proactive patrolling would be impacted.

In summary, while DEEP supports measures to advance the conservation of rare and imperiled species, this proposal is likely to exceed our current enforcement capacity, and therefore we believe this issue is more effectively addressed through CITES and federal law.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov) or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or [Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov).