

March 9, 2016

RE: Opposition to H.B. No. 5578R

Dear Members of the Environment Committee,

I am in opposition to H.B. No. 5578, An Act Prohibiting the Trade and Sale of Elephant Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn." I urge you to reject this proposed Bill as harmful to both the endangered elephants and rhinoceros in Africa, and the legal trade of genuine antiques in Connecticut.

While the plight of elephants and endangered species in Africa is of great concern, the research of the noted scholar, Dr. Daniel Stiles, clearly states that laws banning ivory do not help and may indeed contribute to illegal poaching in Africa.

The measures included in this bill to criminalize and devalue historic items, including the numerous genuine antiques that contain ivory, go far beyond any sensible attempt to protect today's endangered species. Connecticut's distinguished historic artifacts and cultural heritage must be protected and preserved.

Please do not support this legislation, it is harmful to both the citizens of Connecticut and the endangered species in Africa.

Sincerely,

Corinne Bowie

Bloomfield, CT