

My name is David Schorsch and I am a resident of Middlebury, Connecticut. I am here representing our business, David A. Schorsch and Eileen M. Smiles American Antiques. I am a second generation antiques dealer with thirty nine years experience. My family has been involved in the antiques world since the 1950s. *in Woodbury*

In my opinion, the proposed ban on ivory in Connecticut will take a devastating economic impact on a large number of honest and knowledgeable dealers, jewelers, auctioneers, museums, educational intuitions, and private citizens throughout the state- those who reputably inherit, buy, and sell genuine ivory antiques from many cultures- ranging from furniture, boxes and silver with very small amounts of ivory, miniature paintings on paper-thin sheets of ivory, a wide array of artworks, which may include ivory elements or parts, vintage jewelry, musical instruments, antique guns, etc.

If this ban is allowed to proceed it will inflict irreparable and permanent damage to the economy, but much more importantly to the cultural patrimony of our state and our country. Billions of dollars of equity in the form of authentic and genuine ivory antiques will be instantly wiped out- ivory taken ~~from~~ from elephants

hundreds of years ago, and at a time when it was entirely legal. This retroactive ban will also cost the government untold millions of dollars in lost tax revenue to both Federal and State authorities in the form of capital gains, income tax, sales and use tax. Additionally it will also harm museums and other educational institutions, who would have received valuable and historic ivory artifacts through donation that will cease because of this ban. Zero market value equals zero donation value for tax purposes.

That the idea of eliminating a market for genuine ivory antiques will somehow save living elephant is a flawed and illogical concept and in my opinion much like the War on Drugs—very well intentioned, but ineffective. This ban as proposed will actually make things much worse, and drive all ivory sales underground. Like the Volsted act, and it the failed attempt at national prohibition of alcohol, these proposed bans on Ivory will create an unprecedented and completely unregulated black market. This will be a gift-wrapped opportunity for organized crime, and all that goes with it.

Antiques dealers, auctioneers and museum professionals are on the front lines of the ivory market and we deplore all modern ivory and the killing of elephants in the present day. We are the good

guys. Antiques should be exempted. Period. I implore you to not pursue this ban and allow legitimate antique ivory to be sold in the open market by expert dealers and auctioneers, and legally owned and possessed by private individuals and museums in the state of Connecticut.

No elephants will be saved by the senseless destruction of culturally significant and artistically important antiques and treasured family heirlooms that just happen to incorporate ivory. The concept of destroying artworks in the name of conservation is frankly barbaric, and something I associate with the likes of ISIS and the Taliban-- blowing up ancient monuments that just ~~down~~^{don't} jibe with their way of thinking.

It is unjust and wrong for our Government to literally destroy the privately held equity of honest and hardworking taxpayers through such an ill-conceived ban; Especially at a time when our fragile economy in Connecticut is just limping along. For the past century Antique dealing has been an important part of the fabric of the economy of Connecticut, bringing in much needed revenue into the state each year. Do you want to drive yet another industry out of Connecticut? Can we afford another GE? Please ask yourselves these questions. Thank you.