

Dear Environment Committee,

Here are a few thoughts I have regarding CT HB 5578:

As a museum director of an ivory carving museum in Ohio (www.warther.org) I wish to express that this proposed law is wrong, in many ways and on many levels, and you should only consider dismissing it as soon as possible. Ivory is an important part of our national heritage and of CT heritage in particular. This has resulted in a great many family heirlooms, antiques of many descriptions, musical instruments of many kinds and many other items that are now in the hands of American and RI citizens. By making the sale of ivory illegal in your state you only harm your own citizens and you do not help any elephants. This law actually hurts elephants as my below dissertation conveys.

It is important to remember that the African Elephant, to this very day, has never been listed as an endangered species. To pass this law is ludicrous just given this fact alone. Would you make other non endangered items illegal such as oak or maple wood products ?

Below my signature here is a lengthy dissertation I sent to the federal Fish & Wildlife comment forum a few months ago that has additional information relevant to this particular subject.

Sincerely ,

David Warther, Director

David Warther Carvings

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