

Dear Co-Chair Kennedy, Co-Chair Albis, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

As a voter and concerned citizen, I am writing in strong support for passage of HB 5578 – a bill to Prohibit the Sale/Trade of Ivory and Rhino Horn in CT. Having read extensively about the state of elephant and rhino poaching in Kenya and other African countries, it is essential that the CT Legislature pass legislation to ban the sale and trade of ivory and horn in this State. Existing Federal law is necessary but insufficient to shut down this trade and sale in individual states. Each state must pass it's own law prohibiting the sale and trade of ivory and Rhino horn. Elephants and Rhinos are being decimated, usually in cruel and inhumane ways, by poachers because their tusks and horns bring substantial profit through sales in this country –especially the Northeast – and in China. It is a crisis in species extinction of global significance which we can play a significant role in ameliorating by passage of HB 5578. You should be aware that a number of antique dealers who trade in ivory are spreading specious misinformation about the consequences of this bill. The bill applies to commercial sale and trade, not individual ownership of ivory products. It also bans all sale and trade because it is impossible to distinguish between newly sourced and antique ivory without using highly specialized equipment. This issue is a perfect example of thinking globally and acting locally.

Please act favorably on HB 5578 in Committee and advocate with your colleagues in the full assembly to pass HB 5578 in this Session.

Thank you so very much.

Elizabeth Anne Foss  
75 Prattling Pond Road  
Farmington, CT 06032