

To whom it may concern,

It is with open mind I'm writing to express my concern over the state of Connecticut's proposed ban on sale and trade of legally imported, pre-ban elephant ivory.

The CITES Ban of 1989 addressed any and all concerns regarding the harvest of, and import of, legal elephant ivory.

It was addressed and further stated that import should cease, but current stock of legally held pre-ban elephant ivory may remain traded and sold within the United States.

To implement and restrict domestic trade of already held surplus and stock would detrimentally effect the citizens of Connecticut whom trade in such. Tax dollars would ultimately flood into other states not seeking to restrict such trade.

Our citizenry, comprised of individual states, cannot bear another burden of restricted trade and loss of income. With jobs going overseas and industry vanishing such a move would be yet another nail in the coffin of the working man and woman.

Jobs will be impacted! A ban on legally traded elephant ivory will absolutely do nothing for the state of Connecticut; it will in fact impact local business in a negative way; no 'feel good measure' can or will address this.

Thank you for reading of my opposition to HB 5578 and considering my strong opinion; I trust that the state will vote accordingly, and vote to protect its citizens and its economy.

Oppose HB 5578!

Eric Westphal
Regional Director
Poolwatch