

Dear members of the Environment Committee,

We are writing today in opposition to HB No. 5578. 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. No one supports killing elephants today, but many antiques (clocks, musical instruments, Georgian silver, furniture, guns, and miniature paintings) include small amounts of ivory. 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,

James Cooke
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