

Dear Sir/Madam,

The trafficking of ivory and Rhino horn funds terrorism, threatens our national security, our wildlife, and our people. (IFAW, 2013). There is no legislation banning these products in Connecticut. We must act to ensure that our state is not inadvertently contributing to terror, threats to our safety, and the extinction of species.

President Barack Obama issued an Executive Order banning ivory in 2014 but the United States continues to be the largest consumer of these products behind China, as the order fails to close the import, in-state, and Internet sale loopholes. (USFWS, 2014)

With 96 Elephants killed daily for their tusks and 1200 Rhino killed annually in South Africa alone, it is predicted that these keystone species will become extinct in less than 10 years. (Howard, 2014)

To understand the brutality of the killing, one must be aware of the methods; AK47's, poisoned watermelons, cyanide dumped in watering holes thereby killing entire ecosystems in the process, hacking off tusks or horns while the animal is still alive, paralysis darts so the species cannot move yet is fully cognizant of machetes slicing into its skulls, and poisoned darts leading to weeks and weeks of extreme suffering before a long, unspeakable death. (McAvey, 2015)

Thank you so much for your attention to this important matter, and for acting for the benefit, and on behalf, of people and animals around the world.

Your Constituent,

Jessica Hindlian

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