

Testimony, HB 5578 An Act Prohibiting the Sale and Trade of Ivory and  
Rhinoceros Horn  
Environment Committee 3/11/16  
Karen Laski, Board member, CT Votes for Animals

Hi,

You've heard from the experts who have been dealing for years with the assault on elephants, rhinos and other endangered animals. Aside from the horror these animals go through from having their faces ripped off and left to die, which often takes days, this cruel activity funds terrorist organizations. Connecticut's role in this devastation is past, present and hopefully not in the future.

For decades, Connecticut profited from the slaughter of elephants in Africa and used people as slaves, shackled together to transport the ivory to shipping ports as much as 1000 miles away. On the average, five people died for every tusk carried.

Presently, 96 elephants are dying every day and rangers and volunteers are giving their lives to protect them. You have heard proof from the experts how illegal ivory is mixing with legal ivory and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife has the stats and arrests to document this. Since New York and New Jersey have passed laws banning ivory and Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont are in the process, we must stand up with the global community to end the killing forever. We need elephants and rhinos. These animals have families and they all work to improve the environment for other species. We will lose them if we don't act. History will remember our decision and our children will too. Thank you for taking this on and thank you for passing a brighter legacy.

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