

I am appalled at the bill before our State Legislature that proposes a ban on ALL IVORY—of any kind, no matter how many years it has been in existence. This is the most ridiculous waste of taxpayer money, for our elected officials to be debating such a topic.

I agree, we must protect the senseless slaughter of animals only to use their tusks, horns, skins to adorn—to say nothing of the “trophy” hangings—but this should be a bill that STOPS such killing starting in 2016.

To submit a bill that would make people have to destroy things such as:

- The piano that four generations of family members have learned to play and provide enjoyment for not just the immediate family but others
- The rosary beads that were a gift to signify friendship and thanks for a favor done for a soldier during World War 1
- The tea service that has a small ivory heat stop
- The crucifix that was laid upon dying family members as they were given last rites
- The same crucifix that also touched a child whom we were told would never live through the night—and that same child, today is a Mother herself

How can anyone in their right minds want to destroy artifacts, reliquary, art—that has been in a family or a church or synagogue or museum for hundreds of years.

As my elected officials, in a state with horrendous problems of keeping citizens from leaving and businesses from leaving to go to a more welcoming climate—DO YOU NOT HAVE ANYTHING BETTER UPON WHICH TO CONCENTRATE YOUR EFFORTS?

Retroactive destruction of precious ivory items—you are no better than the Taliban who have systematically destroyed the antiquities.

PLEASE PLEASE—do not let this bill, as written pass. PLEASE PLEASE—do write a bill that enlightens citizens to animal rights and protections going forward—but please do not destroy sentimental and valuable items that came into this country and State legally.

If you do proceed—you will be nothing more than barbarians...

With great concern,  
Karen Wheat