

Testimony Concerning HB 5578

Environment Committee, March 11, 2016

Katie Scott

Humane Society of the United States, Food Policy Coordinator (New England)

Connecticut Votes for Animals, Volunteer

Stratford Animal Rescue Society, Volunteer

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5578, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE AND TRADE OF IVORY AND RHINOCEROS HORN.

I care deeply about all animals and believe that they deserve the utmost protection under our justice system.

In addition to working for The Humane Society of the United States, I also volunteer with Connecticut Votes for Animals, where I have attended various events that speak to the deplorable nature of the sale and trade of ivory. These animals suffer unnecessarily as a result of profit. There is simply no place for this type of consumerism in Connecticut.

The fact that 96 elephants are killed every day in Africa for the sale of their ivory means that if Connecticut continues to take part it will ultimately be a responsible party in the disastrous damage to the conservation of such animals. We were once a global hub for this product; now is the time to reverse our course and become a leader against the sale and trade of ivory. There has already been a compromise with antiques dealers and museums, thus removing all obstacles to passing this bill.

This is not justice. More has to be done to speak up for the animals who cannot speak for themselves.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Best,

Katie Scott, Milford