

March 10, 2016

Testimony for 3/11/2016 public hearing

SUPPORT OF HB 5578 (Prohibits sale and trade of Ivory and Rhinoceros horn)

I vote and this issue is VERY important to me! I SUPPORT HB 5578

Why ban the sale of Ivory? Why save the elephants? Elephants will be extinct in our lifetime – probably within the next 20 years. The sale of ivory anywhere promotes the killing of these magnificent, intelligent animals.

Do you know that China is the leading cause of the sale of ivory and the illegal poaching of elephants? They have ships sitting on the shores of Africa waiting to smuggle the ivory out. In China, they are openly selling ivory in stores all over. China has sent its political heads over to Africa to pay off the government there to allow them to poach elephants within the preserves meant to protect them.

Ivory was banned years ago to protect elephants from being slaughtered for their ivory tusks but there were a lot of ivory tusks that were in storage facilities in Africa, before the ban happened. The problem now, is that the sale of pre-ban ivory is legal and the sale of post-ban ivory is not. How do you tell the difference? By the color of the blood on the tusks? You cannot, so any sale of pre-ban ivory just confuses the situation and promotes the killing of elephants for ivory sales. We must ban ALL ivory sales everywhere to protect the elephants.

Have you ever seen the elephants when they are massacred? The herds of elephants are all females and their babies. The adult females will form a circle and put their babies in the middle to try to protect them from the bullets. It is no use, the whole family is ruthlessly killed and the babies are left to die as orphans. If they are lucky, the babies are saved by local Africans who care for them in orphan elephant rescues, which have been created from this sad situation. They describe the babies as traumatized, because they have seen their whole family and mother wiped out in front of them.

Rhinos do not even have real horns, it is just hard, matted hair. They are killed for their horns as well, and some are tranquilized by poachers and their horns hacked off while they are under. They then wake up in pool of blood and sometimes take days to die from their injuries. Again the baby rhinos are left orphaned. As we speak, there are only 7 white Rhinos left in existence – seven away from extinction.

Connecticut must be on board to ban the sale of ivory - the town I live in Ivoryton, was built on the tusks from elephants. While I love my town, I am not in love with this fact. We must join in the fight to end the sale of all ivory everywhere to protect the elephants for the future. When the selling of ivory stops, the killing of elephants will too.

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