

Dear Co-Chair Kennedy, Co-Chair Albis, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

Please accept this as my testimony in SUPPORT of HB 5578, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE AND TRADE OF IVORY AND RHINOCEROUS HORN.

I vote, and this issue is important to me because I am a pianist.

*Imagine* your child laying their small hands upon the ivory keys of an old upright piano.

Now, *imagine* trying to explain to them *where those ivory keys came from*. It wasn't right then and it isn't right now.

As a professional pianist for over 40 years, I am appalled by the idea of making beautiful music on an instrument whose very keys were the product of horrific suffering.

As a published songwriter, USO performer, and world touring musician I fully support HB 5578

*Because no musical instrument in my world should be an instrument of destruction.*

Thank you,

Lori Nicholson

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