

Hello Legislators,

I am writing to voice my opposition to proposed bill # 5578. However noble and righteous this bill portends to be, it should be tabled and not brought to a vote. There are already laws pertaining to the sale and importation of ivory and tusks, and I do believe that they are sufficient. A law of this nature not only would affect antique dealers and collectors, but almost all of us. Just think, if you wanted to sell your daughter's second hand piano that you had had for years and you unknowingly get slapped with a huge fine; or a string of beads that a thrift shop might be selling for 5\$; or your grandmother's tea service that happened to have a tiny ring of ivory on the handle. The possibilities are endless and somewhat frightening, and would render so many objects worthless and illegal to dispose of. Not to mention how many objects currently in museums and on exhibit that would be in violation of a law of this nature. Would museums need to destroy these items, or remove them from exhibits, or be unable to sell them if they needed to raise funds?

It is indeed sad and heartbreaking that these majestic animals were killed for their tusks to be made into trifles and ornaments; but it is a fact and these items are a part of our world's history. The effort must be made to prevent any further destruction of these animals, not to negate and destroy what has already happened, however tragic that might be. We cannot bring these animals back to life by making these objects illegal to sell and rendering them valueless. If somehow, magically, we could destroy these objects and have the elephants spring back to life, I would say "yes, by all means" but sadly the animals died a long time ago. And negating the artistic or monetary value of these objects will not bring the elephants back to life. Let us instead concentrate on their preservation and their environment in our modern world, and enforce the laws that currently exist.

Please oppose this proposed bill.

Sincerely,

Lynne Hills
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