

**Testimony Concerning HB 5578**  
**Environment Committee, March 11, 2016**  
**Mandy Wieting**  
*Volunteer, Our Companions Animal Rescue*

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of **HB 5578, IVORY/RHINO HORN BAN.**

Please help stop the illegal slaughter of elephants by cutting off the market for ivory in Connecticut. Between 2010 and 2012, 100,000 elephants were killed for their ivory. These gentle giants deserve our help. Scientists estimate some populations of the African elephant will be extinct within the next few decades if poaching continues at the current rate. Black rhinos have experienced a 96% population decline since 1970 with fewer than 4,800 members of the species remaining today.

I urge you to support this bill and stop the horrific cruelty these majestic animals endure. Please give these creatures the voice they so strongly deserve.

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

Thank you,

Mandy Wieting  
Vernon, CT

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