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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIMONY OF
REPRESENTATIVE LINDA ORANGE,
48TH DISTRICT OF COLCHESTER, LEBANON, WINDHAM, MANSFIELD
Environment Committee
Public Hearing March 11, 2016

RE: HB 5578 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE AND TRADE OF IVORY AND RHINOCEROS HORN.

Good afternoon Co-Chairs, Senator Kennedy and Representative Albis, and distinguished members of the Environment Committee. Thank you for raising HB 5578, An Act Prohibiting The Sale And Trade Of Ivory And Rhinoceros Horn.

In the email I received from my constituent Mr. Liverant, he referenced Dr. Daniel Stiles from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service which is currently undergoing a review of Federal law. Dr. Stiles is the leading scholar on the global ivory market and clearly states that a ban on the sale and trade of Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn will not help the situation and may indeed make it worse. (His research has shown that a 'prohibitionist' approach is the wrong one. Prohibiting the trade in a commodity for which consumer and investor demand exists not only is NO solution it can in fact exacerbate the problem. This has certainly been the case for elephant ivory.)

I personally feel taking this approach in prohibiting the sale of ivory and rhinoceros horn is the wrong approach. I know this bill means well, but I strongly feel that instead of saving the life of the elephant and rhinoceros we will be contributing to their demise. This could ultimately put their species in danger of becoming extinct.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify and again I strongly oppose this bill.