

March 10, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to HB No. 5578 and SB No. 227. As a citizen, I am stunned that such a flawed piece of legislation would be considered. As I understand it, merely possessing an antique that is made of or contains ivory from the "big five African species" may be considered a felony punishable by fines up to \$10,000 and up to two years in prison. Imagine the state government passing a law that would make ordinary law abiding citizens into criminals because they own an antique ivory mahjong game, or an ivory pair of cuff links. Is the state intending to put handcuffs on a person for owning a Nantucket Basket, an old walking cane or a piano with ivory keys? Has all common sense gone out the window?

Households and antique shops throughout our state contain countless items that are made of or contain ivory. Some of these items are very valuable or have great sentimental or historical value. Surely the state does not intend to confiscate these items.

While I know of no one who does not favor protecting these endangered animals, this bill will do nothing to further that objective.

With all the problems facing our State, please don't make things worse by passing this bill and embarrassing yourselves.

Respectfully,

Steven J. Greco

East Hampton, CT