

My name is Tyler Cusson  
Members of the committee  
I strongly oppose bill HB5578

I encourage members to consider the financial effects of this proposed bill.  
Many Connecticut residents and businesses pay taxes on income generated by the sale of items effected by HB 5578 for example, items containing legally imported ivory that have been brought into this country and state decades ago.

Many items effected by this bill , such as, antique furniture, musical instruments, art, collectibles, firearms, and hunting trophies, are bought and sold over and over as they are passed from collector to collector, each changing of hands equals tax dollars for our state.  
Please also consider the many residents of our state that presently own items that would be made worthless by HB5578, many have collected for a life time and have counted on the sale of these items to supplement them financially in their later years.

This bill will force these residents and business to move to other states taking not just their tax dollars but all the other everyday monies spent by residents and employees.  
All these lost dollars will do nothing to positively effect the situation in Africa, but will instead negatively effect our states already serious budget problems.

I urge members to support federal bills # HR697 and # S1769 as they focus on efforts to stop poaching in Africa and do not hurt US citizens.

In closing I ask this committee to realize that HB5578 if passed, stands to destroy many parts of our rich and diverse heritage, devalue millions of dollars of historical artifacts, turn artisans into unwitting criminals, and end many hardworking Connecticut Taxpayers livelihoods.  
All for false hopes of saving animals that would have instead greatly benefited from support and policy change in their native lands.

Thank you