

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Raised Bill No. 5578 **AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE AND TRADE OF IVORY AND RHINOCEROS HORN.**

Again we see a bill with a misleading title. The ugly head of overreaching overbearing tyrannical government is at work disguised in sheep's clothing. The true nature of the bill is subversive demeaning and destructive to freedom and liberty.

Raised Bill No. 5578 is a blatant violation of property rights under the guise that it protects endangered species and they have more rights than do citizens of the United States of America.

This proposed bill amounts to a Constitutional taking with no means to compensate citizens for the loss of the value/use of their property.

The entirety of the Constitution deals with the rights of the people and how the government is to work. The Fifth Amendment deals with this specifically. "No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, **or property, without due process of law** (italics mine); nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."

Horne v. Department of Agriculture: The Hornes challenged the government's scheme as a violation of the Fifth Amendment Takings Clause, which prohibits the government from taking "private property for a public use" "without just compensation." Writing for a majority of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice John Roberts found that the Takings Clause applies to

personal property (i.e., raisins) as well as real property (i.e., the family farm). He concluded, "The Government has a categorical duty to pay just compensation when it takes your car, just as when it takes your home."

Taking of the value of one's property by banning the selling of that property deprives the owner/s of their basic human rights and is a taking for governmental purposes. For instance someone, who owns a "raw" whales tooth could no longer sell it, barter or trade it. Etc. They have lost the value of their possession. This is a "taking". Further what is the purpose of banning this? Could you please name for me the last time an American illegally harvested a sperm whale (one of the only whales with teeth)? You can't. This is another law designed to make the Animal Rights crowd feel like they are doing something, which in fact they are not. This proposed bill punishes American Citizens for the transgressions of others. Typical of Bills proposed by Democrats!!

Further the punishments in this bill are excessive. Persons who commit burglaries receive less time and no fines. The 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment states there shall be no excessive fines or punishments. The States are forced via the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to adhere to this. Really Jail time for selling a whale's tooth, you have got to be kidding!!!

Raised Bill 227 tried to make felons out of unsuspecting citizens. Now this bill 5578, again in typical Democrat Party fashion, requires citizens to prove their innocence by providing "proof" that an item predates a certain date. How in God's Name does someone do this?

This is again an onerous bill doing nothing to protect "ENDANGERED" animals. The illegal trade in animal body parts goes on in the rest of the world and American politicians punish Americans for the transgressions of others. Talk about misplaced anger!

Representative Miller (my representative) keeps on stating that "There is a lot of new ivory on the eastern seaboard that is expertly made to look old, and it fools a lot of experts. For some to claim that there is no new ivory here is ridiculous." However, he has yet to provide any factual evidence to me to prove this other than his statement to the same. He also stated there is a "Large Black Market in illegal Ivory". Again, he did not offer one iota of proof. He mentioned that someone he knew had their ivory collection

stolen. I told him, "those who took it committed a crime. Any subsequent sale would be dealing in stolen property, not illegal ivory."

I am so sick and tired of my Liberty and the Liberty of the Citizens of the State of Connecticut being treated with such callousness !!! Apparently there are members of the Connecticut Legislature and Senate who do not live up to their oath to Protect and Defend the Constitution of the United States. We are doomed.

Sincerely,

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