

To: Connecticut General Assembly

Re: SB 227

There is no reason today to allow any use or sale of new ivory whatsoever. However, before the advent of plastics, craftsmen used ivory as a functional component in musical instruments because of its strength and durability. For example, many sets of bagpipes manufactured in Scotland used small amounts of ivory as anti-moisture and binding segments of the wooden parts. Many other instruments historically also used ivory as durable functional component materials, such as piano keys and inlays on guitar frets.

This ivory was never part of trophies or decorative pieces; it comprises functional portions of non-decorative artifacts. Such functioning objects have intrinsic cultural and artistic values that have nothing to do with the current state of ivory and trophy trafficking.

Such instruments will remain useful for centuries, and must be allowed to be passed on to future generations either by sale or gift.

While I wholeheartedly support the purpose of the bill: "To prohibit the import, sale and trade of big-game hunting trophies from overseas", retroactively banning and criminalizing the possession of such historical artifacts containing small portions of functional ivory will do absolutely nothing to further these aims.

I urge you to make provision in the bill to add items, such as described above, to the exceptions section.

Respectfully

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