

March 3, 2016

Re: S.B. No. 227, An Act Concerning Cecil's Law

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing with regard to pending state and Federal legislation regarding the transport, possession and sale of ivory (elephant, walrus, and whale). The broad goal of these bills is unimpeachable and I fully support the protection of these species.

The problem is that many of these bills do not distinguish between antique ivory collected and used in the 18th and 19th centuries and the ivory obtained by illegally killing these animals today.

As an antiquarian, I treasure our country's rich maritime heritage and the artifacts that are in many museums and private collections. As written, many of these bills would prohibit the sale, transport and even possession of hundreds of thousands of valuable antique objects, including pianos, vintage guns, furniture, scrimshaw, chess sets, walking canes and a long list of other objects.

Please refer to comments provided to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service by Dr. Daniel Stiles, the world's leading scholar in the global ivory market. Dr. Stiles states in no uncertain terms that his research has found a ban in the United States would not help the situation and may actually make the situation worse.

Please consider the focus on protecting the elephant not on destroying antique ivory.

Sincerely,
David A. Schorsch
Dealer, American Folk Art