

Dear Environment Committee,

On Friday you will be meeting to discuss SB 227 which is a proposed CT law that will make the ownership of old antique ivory, in any form, illegal to own in your state without a permit/registration with the state government.

As a museum director of an ivory carving museum in Ohio ( [www.warther.org](http://www.warther.org) ) I wish to express that this law wrong, in many ways and on many levels, and you should only consider dismissing it as soon as possible. Ivory is an important part of our national heritage and of Connecticut heritage in particular. This has resulted in a great many family heirlooms, antiques of many descriptions, musical instruments of many kinds and many other items that are now in the hands of American and CT citizens. you will be harming their rights to private ownership of valuable personal property - a socialist ideal !

It is important to remember that the African Elephant, to this very day, has never been listed as an endangered species. To act upon this is ludicrous just given this fact alone. Would you make other non endangered items illegal such as oak or maple wood products ? Passing this bill forward out of committee on to the floor would set a dangerous precedent to do such things.

Below my signature here is a lengthy dissertation I sent to the federal Fish & Wildlife comment forum a few months ago that has additional information relevant to this particular subject.

Sincerely ,

David Warther, Director

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