

Bill #227 is scheduled to be voted on tomorrow. While I am totally in favor of protecting all species of animals, especially those that are protected, in all parts of the world, I have a strong concern for this bill.

I have played the bagpipes for 54 years. The reason I moved to Connecticut 34 years ago was expressly to play with the Manchester Pipe Band. I own 3 sets of bagpipes – all embellished with Ivory, most likely elephant ivory. Two sets are approximately 70 years old. The other was made in the 1890's. I think that it is unfair to punish those who own artifacts that contain ivory from an animal that was previously killed, especially so long ago. The bagpipe "industry" has basically stopped the manufacturing of bagpipes embellished with ivory and has made great strides in finding suitable replacements for the ivory.

To outlaw the possession of an instrument that was made previous to the creation of this law is wrong and persecutes bagpipers in particular. The concentration should be on stopping the killing and illegal trade of new animal parts, not outlawing those that were made and handed down generation to generation through the years. Please rethink the scope of this bill.

Thank you.

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