

March 4, 2016
Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

Testimony in OPPOSITION to S.B. No. 227 (An Act Concerning Cecil's Law)

Dear Members of the Environment Committee,

I wish to express my OPPOSITION to Proposed Bill S.B. No. 227 which seeks to extremely limit and outright ban the possession of currently existing ivory.

The lower Connecticut River Valley was a major hub for the ivory trade back in the 19th century. Ivoryton CT was the home of many businesses that made keys for pianos and other items from ivory.

I'm sure there are many residents of this town, and surrounding towns, whose grandparents and great grandparents worked at this trade. I'm sure their cherished family heirlooms are on display or stored in boxes in attics and garages with items that contain ivory jewelry, combs, letter openers, handles, grips, etc...

This proposed legislation would basically make presently legally owned ivory products illegal. Descendants would be forced to register possession of these items with the State if they wish to keep them if they are aware of this. Further, if they were un-aware of the composition of these items and displayed them or offered them in a tag-sale or other venues, they could become felons, fined, and go to jail.

Furthermore, what would be the cost and benefit of maintaining a database of people who possess these existing items?

This is overreaching and I urge you to vote NO on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Roy Downey
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