

Dear Co-Chair Kennedy, Co-chair Albis, and Honorable members of the Environment Committee,

Please accept this testimony in SUPPORT (with amendments) of SB 227, AAC Cecil's Law.

This issue is very important to me. This bill would oppose trophy hunting. Like most people, I disapprove strongly of trophy hunting.

Trophy hunters highly covet the “Africa Big Five” species, imported to the U.S. in staggering numbers between 2005 and 2014: 5,600 African lions, 4,600 African elephants, 4,500 African leopards, 330 southern white rhinos, and 17,200 African buffalo. All but the buffalo are considered endangered or threatened with extinction. Ensuring that no person imports, possesses, sells, offers for sale or transports in Connecticut any big five African species, will end Connecticut's role in the global slaughter of these magnificent species.

Businesses have begun saying NO to trophy hunting. Forty-five airlines have stopped transporting some or all types of hunting trophies, especially that of the Africa Big Five.

Trophy hunting is not conservation. Many animals are killed in countries with widespread corruption that prevents money raised from trophy hunting from benefiting conservation efforts. In 2014 and 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prohibited imports of African elephant trophies from Tanzania and Zimbabwe, citing questionable management practices, a lack of effective law enforcement, and weak governance. Further, South Africa recently banned exports of African leopard trophies for 2016, citing mismanagement of trophy hunting due to a lack of data on both population and carrying capacity.

Like in other types of hunting, trophy hunters prefer to kill the largest and the strongest animals, usually males with the most impressive manes, tusks, horns, etc. But animals are endowed with the best genes for survival and once killed, their strong genes are lost to future generations.

For Cecil's sake, please support SB 227—please see testimony by The Humane Society of the United States for suggested changes to current language that would strengthen this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely.

**Sue Kautz, RN
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