

Members of the committee  
thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion on this bill.  
I strongly oppose bill #227 and #HB5578

I encourage members to consider the financial effects of this proposed bill.  
Many Connecticut residents and businesses pay taxes on income generated by the sale and trade of items effected by this bill, for example, items containing legally imported ivory that have been brought into this country and state decades ago.

Many items effected by this bill , such as, antique furniture, musical instruments, art, collectibles, firearms, and hunting trophies, are bought and sold many times as they are passed from collector to collector, each changing of hands equals tax dollars for our state.  
Please consider the many residents of our state that presently own items that would be made worthless by this bill, many have collected for a life time and have counted on the sale of these items to supplement them financially in their later years.

This bill will force these residents and business to move to other states taking not just their tax dollars but all the other everyday monies spent by residents and employees.  
All these lost dollars will do nothing to affect the situation in Africa, but will negatively effect our states already serious budget problems.

I urge members to support federal bills # HR697 and # S1769 as they focus on efforts to stop poaching in Africa and do not criminalize US citizens.

Thank you for your time

Tyler Cusson  
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