

To Members of the Environmental Committee,

I am sure you are aware of Raised Bill 227 AN ACT CONCERNING CECIL'S LAW. This proposed law is a law of unintended consequences or perhaps not if the underwriters of this act despise freedom and property rights.

Section 1 of the proposed act is as follows: Section 1. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) For purposes of this section, "big five African species" means any specimen of any of the following members of the animal kingdom: African elephant (*loxodonta Africana*), African lion (*panthera leo*), African leopard (*panthera pardus pardus*), black rhinoceros (*diceros bicornis*) and white rhinoceros (*ceratotherium simum cottoni*), including any part, product or offspring thereof, or the dead body or parts thereof, except fossils, whether or not it is included in a manufactured product or in a food product.

Based on this proposal, there will be untold thousands of unknowing new felons in the state of Connecticut. Let us review many of the items in the possession of Connecticut citizens that are known to contain elephant ivory.

1. Guitars. Many classic high-end guitars have elephant ivory nuts and bridges.
2. Violins and bows. Many antique and modern quality violins and bows have parts made of elephant ivory
3. Pianos. How many thousands of pianos exist within this state that have elephant ivory keys. There were hundreds of sets of ivory keys that were surplus from the Ivoryton companies that supplied these to piano makers, which were sold over the years to jewelry makers and crafts people.
4. Miniatures on Ivory. During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries it was common practice for persons of some means to have portraits of their loved ones commissioned on ivory. The color and texture of the ivory gives a feel of the "softness" of human skin.
5. Numerous Other Antiques. Many canes have ivory heads, furniture frequently is found with ivory inlays, antique jewelry is often made of ivory. Letter openers, carvings etc. etc. etc. are made of ivory.
6. Historic Colt revolvers. Numerous examples of historic antique and more modern Colt revolvers exist in institutions\* and within private

- collections that have elephant ivory grips. \*(Yes the law exempts them big whup! Again separate "classes" of people, remember institutions and other non-profits are "people" according to Citizens United. So this violates the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment on its face.)
7. Silver and pewter tea sets: During the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, finials, insulators and handles were sometimes made of elephant ivory.
  8. Many Many other items not listed.

Section B includes possession of any part of any of the "big five African species"!! This means any person possessing all of the above mentioned items would be subject to arrest, confiscation of their possessions, paying a huge fine, and perhaps going to prison!! What were the authors of this bill thinking???

You cannot deprive people of their property without due process and in the case of a "taking" they must receive just compensation.

How many millions have been appropriated to build new prisons to house the tens of thousands of Connecticut citizens who refuse to give up their PROPERTY? Although the law doesn't specifically state you have to give it up, the possession of ivory is unlawful. A person or family moving into Connecticut could not bring their ivory possessions. We have already seen this with certain firearms. The abuse of Liberty is rampant!!

This bill is so wrong on so many levels. I can just see law enforcement storming an antique show taking items from dealers and slapping on handcuffs on some old lady who has a miniature painting on ivory for sale. This is the way to have people respect government? No this tyranny, plain and simple. This is the type of legislation that piles "straw on the camel's back". At some point the people will revolt because of the arrogance and pompousness of some of their "leaders".

Liberty and Freedom are dying a slow death in America and a faster one in Connecticut. Unfortunately we have members of our elected officials who think they know what is best for us, so sad.

PS Can you name one Connecticut citizen who has illegally taken one of the "big five" species, since the passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973?

Sincerely,  
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