



**Statement of
Jo-Anne R Basile, Executive Director,
Connecticut Votes for Animals
in Support of SB-20
Joint Committee on the Environment
February 15, 2019**

Senate Chair Cohen, House Chair Demicco and Members of the Environment Committee:

Connecticut Votes for Animals represents 3,000 residents across the state and its members have expressed strong support for Connecticut's participation in saving imperiled animals from needless slaughter, including trophy hunting, poaching and wildlife trafficking. Accordingly, CVA strongly supports SB-20 An Act Prohibiting the Import, Sale and Possession of African Elephants, Lions, Leopards, Black Rhinoceros, White Rhinoceros and Giraffes.

"Trophy hunting," the type of hunting targeted by this Act, is defined as killing wild animals for body parts but not primarily for food or sustenance. The parts, or whole pieces such as heads and antlers, are mostly used for home and office display and decoration. The activity is often fueled by competitive purposes whereby awards are granted for specific and voluminous kills across the globe. In the ten years ended 2014, US based hunters imported more than 1.26 million wildlife trophies.

The USFWS considers all of the "Big Six" species (identified above) endangered or threatened except for the giraffe, which is now classed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as "vulnerable to extinction."

Additionally, arguments that trophy hunting generates revenues for remote areas are flawed, as it has been estimated that a pittance, only 3%, of expenditures, actually funds conservation or development. A lack of monitoring and enforcement in host countries, and the growing evidence that trophy hunting creates a legal market for poachers are all reasons to enact SB-20.

The proposed "Big Six" African Trophies Act, SB-20, provides Connecticut with the opportunity to do its part in protecting vulnerable species from needless slaughter. CVA thanks the Committee for the opportunity to present our position and urges the Environment Committee to favorably consider SB-20.