

State Environmental Justice Law

Feb 20, 2020

To: Honored Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Demicco and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

From: Jamila Viandier

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **IN SUPPORT of HB 5103**, An Act Requiring an Evaluation of the State's Environmental Justice Law.

As it stands, Connecticut has started to recognize environmental justice based on the 2008 law but more needs to be done. HB 5103 remedies some oversights in the original 2008 law by strengthening its language and widening the purview of the law to offer more opportunity for public participation. It requires instead of suggests that developers engage the public by written notices of intent and, if a developer fails to do so, their application automatically gets denied.

HB 5103 also proposes other means of making environmental justice more equal by offering wellness clinics, air monitoring, traffic studies and more. With disproportionate numbers of low income people affected by environmental injustice, we need stronger laws to make everyone safer from environmental toxins and polluters. One community should not bear the brunt of everyone's pollution. By raising poor and low income communities to a healthier level, we all benefit, since pollution knows no bounds.

Feb 20, 2020

Prohibition of the import, sale and possession of elephant, lion, leopard, rhinoceros and giraffe body parts

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT of HB 5104** to prohibit the import, sale and possession of African Elephants, Lions, Leopards, Black Rhinoceros, White Rhinoceros, and Giraffes.

With the U.S. being the biggest offender in the world of trophy hunting (80% of trophy hunters are from the U.S.), we, as individual states, need to stand up and end this. Trophy hunting is killing off endangered species and is a reprehensible "sport." A mere fraction of the fees go to conservation and mostly these are in countries where corruption is rampant and little to no environmental or animal laws or oversight exist. Trophy hunting is decimating species and along with that is fueling illegal poaching. Illegal poachers use trophy hunters to sell their goods and services to, even if the trophy hunters initially travel overseas to take part in "legal" hunts. This barbaric practice is terrible for animals, the environment (since it unbalances ecosystems), the countries that participate in it and us. We should not be seen as the country that kills endangered species. Connecticut is a problem since over a hundred permits have been issued from 2005-2016 to hunt and bring back trophies from these animals. I do hope Connecticut will put a stop to this self-absorbed and incredibly destructive "sport" that has been tolerated for far too long.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of these bills.

Jamila Viandier

12 Old Springfield Rd.

Stafford, CT