

Written comments sent to Rep. McCullough via email

RE: H.297

April 3, 2015

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I am writing to you as the Vice Chair of the Fish,, Wildlife & Water Resources Committee, regarding House bill 297. My wife, Marie, is the President of the Vermont Music Teachers Association, a group primarily of piano teachers in Vermont. From what I understand, H 297 proposes a total ban of ivory sales in Vermont. It is also my understanding that H 297 is modelled after a bill passed in NJ last summer. NYS passed a similar bill but with exemptions for instruments built before 1975. My concern is that teachers who have older pianos will not be able to sell them.

If H 297 moves forward, I would suggest an amendment allowing musical instruments to be sold that were constructed prior to 1975.

Please acknowledge receipt and advise on the status of the bill. If you need someone from the Vermont Music Teachers Association to testify, please let me know.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Dave Johnson