

Brenna Galdenzi ~ Protect Our Wildlife  
Ivory Bill Testimony H.297  
April 8, 2015

Over the past 5 years of doing outreach and education on animal protection related matters in Vermont, two things stand out in my mind: the majority of random people I meet care about wildlife protection AND tourists expect Vermont to do right by animals.

A few years back, I hosted an outreach event in Burlington where I spoke with a lot of people here visiting from CT, NY, Montreal, and when I informed them that Vermont had allowed a show featuring performing tigers at one of our fairs, they were appalled. They hold Vermont to a higher standard – they expect us to be the trailblazers to do what is right. I heard countless people say: “I can’t believe Vermont allows this!”

While many may say, “who cares about out-of-state people” – we should all care because they are the ones who visit our small towns, support local businesses, and help our economy thrive.

If this Bill is not passed, people are going to ask me, “why?” It would be a shame for Vermont to place its interest in ivory trinkets over the impending extinction of one of our most beloved species, while simultaneously supporting terrorism. Our reputation is at stake here.