

Apr 6, 2015
Representative David Deen
State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5501

Dear Representative Deen,

I am writing to you as a constituent and supporter of the Wildlife Conservation Society's 96 Elephants campaign to ask that you support H.0297 to ban the sale of ivory and rhino horn in Vermont.

African elephants are being killed at an unprecedented rate as demand for ivory continues unabated. In 2012, some 35,000 African elephants, 96 per day, were killed for their ivory -- representing the worst mass slaughter of elephants since the international ivory trade was banned in 1989. African forest elephants in particular have been devastated by poaching and have declined by about 65 percent since 2002. At this rate, African forest elephants could effectively be extinct over the next decade.

The legal ivory trade in Vermont serves as a cover for the laundering of illegal ivory. While the new U.S. federal ivory ban makes it illegal to import, export and trade ivory between states with only a few exceptions, the need for state level bans remains to stop the trade at the point of retail sale within states.

The millions of dollars brought in by the slaughter and trafficking of wildlife help finance trade in illegal drugs and arms, which in turn fuels political instability, organized crime, and terrorism. A kilo of ivory can sell for \$3,000 and these prospective profits have reportedly attracted terrorist groups like the Lord's Resistance Army and the Janjaweed. By following the money trail it has become increasingly clear that ivory trafficking directly contributes to terrorism and funds atrocities against civilians.

Action needs to be taken now to stop the sale of all ivory in Vermont if we hope to save elephant populations for future generations. Please support H 0297 and make a difference today.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathy Miller
22 Pratt Rd
Putney, VT 05346-8723