

COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL: April 22, 2015

Re: H297 Ivory Ban Bill

We became quite sickened after getting on the Internet and finding the Federal Fish & Wildlife issues permits to many Americans to kill elephants each year, oh, but of course they are limited to 2 a year. Another permit allows them to bring their Ivory and whatever part of the elephant back to the United States. What???

And we have heard lately that The FWS does not know how they are going to tell if the small ivory line inlay in an 18th Century chest is new or old, we are told we will have to peel all the Ivory off our Grandmother's precious piano because no one wants to bother to check the serial number to find the age (a 2 minute job!!), if you hold a 17th century crucifix made of Ivory, even though the age is self-evident in the aging process, it will be rendered useless. What is going on? Our historic antique pieces are valuable, not because of this Ivory, but because of their age and workmanship. They may just happen to be embellished with some and many times, very little Ivory.

Historians, antique dealers, auctioneers, musicians, etc are being treated like criminals because we hold dear our historic antique pieces that were all legally executed, but these hunters are permitted to kill 2 elephants a year and bring the Ivory back to the States.

I would ask the FWS how they are going to tell the difference between the new hunters legal Ivory and the new poached Ivory. That might want to be their concern, rather than going after honest, law abiding citizens who care very much about the slaughter of elephants and who would be the first ones to report to the FWS if even a hint of Ivory poaching had reached the United States.

The brave little girl who testified at the FWS hearing on the 8th of this month would be brought to tears if she were to find out that this same FWS she testified to is issuing permits for Americans to kill elephants and these hunters are able to keep the Ivory.

According to Voices to Save Elephants with the National Geographic article, a poacher is not allowed to kill an elephant and ship the ivory overseas. But an American hunter has a permit from our government and is allowed to engage in the same slaughter and able to move the ivory overseas.

Several hundred sport-hunted elephant trophies have been imported into the U.S. each year during the past decade, according to FWS. Trophies consist of almost any elephant part, including the head, tusks, skull, feet, tails, belly skins, and femur bones.

11 million big-game hunting licenses are issued in the U.S. annually. About one thousand hunters received a permit to kill elephants. We assume that England issues the same permits and other countries.

This is so sad. And elephants are in danger of extinction??

It is sickening, but we should all read the article in full. The link is below:

<http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2014/05/06/controversy-swirls-around-the-recent-u-s-suspension-of-sport-hunted-elephant-trophies/>

Here is the link to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife laws on elephants as far as hunters are concerned, as far as antique dealers are concerned, etc.: (Oh my!! Is this our country?) If you have time browse the whole site.

<http://www.fws.gov/international/travel-and-trade/ivory-ban-questions-and-answers.html#3>

Here is the link to Discounted African Hunts: We never would have believed this.

<https://www.discountafricanhunts.com/hunts/category/dangerous-game-hunts/south-africa.html>

And another African Hunt Site:

<http://www.africanskyhunting.co.za/>

Please help us with protecting our antiques and protecting the elephants. Neither can be done with this bill.

Richard and Barbara Woodard

Sir Richards Antique & Fine Art Center

3487 Waterbury Stowe Road

Waterbury Center, Vt. 05677