

Received via email: March 31, 2015

Good afternoon. I am writing to ask for careful consideration in the bill H297. I am a musician and pianist. I have watched this bill in NJ and NY. I was surprised that this bill came to committee so quickly. I plan to come to the meeting next week but as the bill is introduced into committee today, I want to stand in written support of amending the bill with exemptions for musical instruments built prior to 1975 and other exemptions similar to the well written bill in New York state.

The older instruments were designed with ivory in a very different time. The use of ivory at that time has little to do with the poaching and horror of the current climate. They are historical treasures and a basis of our strong musical and cultural heritage. They are to be respected and not desecrated. They should remain available to the historical and musical community.

A friend and technician said it well when he asked "how many times can you kill an elephant?" For all of the sacrifice in the past of these elegant creatures, I urge you to respect what is in place. I cannot imagine someone selling an instrument for the small amount of ivory that they may contain.

The federal ban had to be amended after the fact as it created tremendous hardship for traveling musicians. Please consider these situations carefully as you review and present this bill.

Respectfully,

Susan Nicholas

Waterbury Center, VT