

From: ashley prout

Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7:37 PM

Subject: [External] Thank you most sincerely for your careful consideration on Wednesday at 10am and final plea to pass H.99.

Dear Chair Sheldon, Vice Chair Lefebvre and Esteemed Representatives,

I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for hearing the pleas from thousands of Vermonters, many of you, for years and years now, to pass H.99. Vermont must do its part to join the now 11 (New Mexico is a Governor's signature away) states to do their part in stopping extinction and taking the 4th largest illegal trafficking in the world head-on. I am deeply grateful for the care you have taken and ask you to please pass H.99 out of Committee at 10am on Wednesday. I have copied/pasted my rebuttal to opposition, below, in case it merits another look. In addition, I and any of my team members are also available any time to field any questions by any one with scientific and fact-driven answers at any time. We are ready to arm you with any answers you may seek from any colleagues or constituents, at any time, and I reiterate that many, including Sen. Raymond Lesniak of NJ, stand ready to deliver any further real-life testimonials to any/all if needed.

I also wanted to share that with the change to an 18 month delayed enactment period, Vermont would in fact be granting the longest delayed enactment period of any state-- this is a considerable concession to those still looking to take part in the trade of imperiled wildlife parts-- in addition to the already existing exemptions for all musical instruments, and antiques in line with other states.

Last, I wish to commend this Committee for adding Primates. Hawaii, which passed years ago, also included Great Apes-- so while we won't be the first to do so, it gives me tremendous pride in this Committee that you saw to it that Vermont added them-- which will no doubt start a trend in future state actions. This will be your legacy. I was at the hearing where Representative Bates made this incredibly sage suggestion-- and I am grateful.

Thank you, all, again, and thank you for hearing my final plea to pass H.99 without delay. You truly are a voice for the voiceless-- and thousands of Vermonters are standing by to thank you for taking action. Ranger Johnny "Mad Dog", below, is hoping Vermont does the right thing, too. For his fellow rangers, for the priceless creatures they are risking their *lives* to protect, and for *all* of our future.

Thank you.

Ashley P. McAvey

