

From: Brendan Fisher
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 12:30 PM
Subject: [External] H.99 Comments

Dear Committee,

Apologies for taking up your time, but I am appalled by the claims made by Mr. Merrill. I am not sure what his expertise is, but mine is in data science and evidence production. I have worked on poverty and conservation issues in Africa since 2006, including writing articles about Elephant Conservation in one of the world's top scientific journals (attached). My analysis is not that of an emotional plea, but rather based on the data and evidence to date. You can see from the article attached we often take an economics approach to conservation issues, and take data and analysis very seriously.

The latest elephant census to take place in Africa shows a 30% drop in savannah elephant populations. Forest dwelling elephants are harder to estimate, but there is some evidence that they have been hit harder since their protection is harder to ensure. A 30% drop in African Elephant populations! This is staggering.

I can assure you that Mr Merrill does not have data as good as this recent census. In fact, I can't believe anyone who knows anything whatsoever about what is going on globally with wildlife trade could make any statement to the contrary of clear and rapid decline of populations. I am happy to comment further, testify, answer questions regarding my comments at any time.

Thank you very much for your time.
Very Best, brendan

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