

Hello Representatives,

I am writing you to urge your careful consideration of several topics regarding H.99. This bill, while having potential merit, also needs a great deal of work. In the interest of facilitating a workable bill to protect species which so urgently need it, we should be fully aware of the potential negative repercussions of the road we may pave with our good intentions. I fear that the bill as written will place this committee and our state on the wrong side of conservation if passed, and I would like an opportunity to help the committee correct some ecologically concerning provisions so that we may move forward with something workable. To further facilitate doing so I will also work with the auctioneers in seeking consensus on a timeline that helps us move a well supported bill before crossover.

In the interest of cutting straight to my point and saving time, here are several pieces which speak to the pitfalls of negatively affecting REGULATED hunting on the African continent. This is very distinct from poaching for reasons which I hope you will understand after exploring the information I provide here. I don't wish to see us on the wrong side of conservation when we have the opportunity to do this well with mindfulness.

Here is a link to a summit which was held at the European Parliament in Brussels on March 6, 2018. The thrust of the conference was that African scholars, game managers, and leaders have some real concerns that well intentioned first world interests will have a tangibly negative impact on their ability to propagate the wildlife we all care about. The conference eloquently poses the question, "Does our privilege extend so far that we believe ourselves to be somehow better equipped to determine what Africa needs than their own scholars?"

<http://www.africleads.eu/>

The following letter was submitted to SCIENCE magazine in 2019. It was propagated by several scientists with a key author who has two decades of experience in the field. This letter was submitted with 128 co-signatories from universities and conservation organizations spanning multiple nations and continents.

<https://www.conservationfrontlines.org/2019/10/trophy-hunting-bans-imperil-biodiversity/>

Here is a comprehensive list of the aforementioned signatories.

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/sci/suppl/2019/08/28/365.6456.874.DC1/Dickman-aaz0735-SM.pdf>

Finally I submit a Huffpost article about the ecological misstep of enstating import bans.

<https://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/1542148/amp>

If we are going to move this bill, let's be thoughtful and ensure that we are not exacerbating the problem we propose to address.

Thank you,

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