

**From:** Protect Our Wildlife VT <info@protectourwildlifevt.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 18, 2020 9:32 AM  
**Subject:** [External] Quick comment on H.99

I am writing on behalf of Protect Our Wildlife's 2500 members from across the state in response to the opposition's latest argument: colonialism, which rings both insincere and worse, disrespectful.

I'd be happy to refresh the opponents' history lessons. Ivory trade and trophy hunting were developed DURING the height of European colonialism in Africa. Before the Europeans arrived in Africa, there was NO massive killing of elephants for their ivory nor was there killing wild animals for trophies. In fact, the ivory trade is built LITERALLY on the back of African slaves. Many of them were enslaved to manually carry the elephant tusks and walked thousands of miles to unload the tusks for their European colonizers onto ships bound for Europe, UK and the US. Upon arrival, many of these slaves carried the tusks off the ships before the tusks were processed in Connecticut and elsewhere in the U.S. If anything, elephant ivory products are remnants of western colonialism and slavery.

The amount of compelling testimony and evidence supporting this legislation over the past 6 years should give each of you confidence to move swiftly in passing this bill.

Respectfully,  
Brenna

Brenna Galdenzi  
*President*  
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