

March 23, 2015

Dear Judiciary Chair and Committee Members,

My name is David Boone and along with my wife Mariann Leone we operate Boone Trading Company in Washington state, a 40 year old small business that resells vintage pre ban African elephant (1989) ivory as well as other types of ivory. We buy this ivory with documentation (signed affidavits minimum) from the owners/inheritors. We buy from and sell to Oregon residents and are submitting testimony on behalf of ourselves and the thousands of legal ivory owners and crafts people that would be adversely affected by this bill in Oregon that don't know about this proposed bill yet.

There are billions of dollars of beautiful antique and vintage elephant ivories here and across the U.S. that were legally imported for centuries. There is an over supply as collectors die and ivory returns to market to find fewer new collectors, we have a huge legal supply and a small market in the U.S. unlike other parts of the world, this does not encourage smuggling.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the venerable World Wildlife Fund and C. I. T. E. S the world regulators of endangered animals and plants have all stated that the United States is not a significant destination for poached ivory. Greed and government corruption in Africa and Asia is why elephants and Rhinos are being poached in Africa, to supply the newly wealthy Asian market, not because of demand in the U.S.

The U. S. has the most comprehensive and best enforced federal ivory laws in the world covering all species of ivory bearing animal, there is no need to over ride these at the cost of native state wildlife protection and at taxpayers expense. Legally imported pre ban (1989) African elephant ivory is legal to ship interstate for commercial purposes in the U.S. under federal law in contrast to what bill proponents allude to.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a booklet "Identification Guide for Ivory and Ivory Substitutes" used world wide at ports of entry. Elephant, walrus, mammoth, hippo, whale and narwhal are all easily distinguishable with the naked eye from each other due to unique grain patterns. Please remove all these other ivories from SB913 they are unrelated to elephants and rhinos.

Last year the number of elephants an American could shoot went from 1 elephant every other year to 2 elephants a year. Why can these elephants be killed for ivory and Oregonians not be allowed to sell there legal pre 1989 vintage and antique ivory? The truth is elephants are not nearing extinction, poaching has actually decreased over the past few years, check the C.I.T.E.S. web site for the true facts.

Prehistoric mammoth ivory freely crosses all borders of the world because it is absolutely distinguishable from elephant ivory with the naked eye. It is collected by Alaskan natives when exposed by erosion, no archeological sites are robbed and the ivory quickly deteriorates and is ruined if not collected, the only way to protect it is to collect it so it can be bought, sold and used. This is a critical source of income for impoverished Alaskan communities and much of that ivory is purchased and used in Oregon by crafts people. Please remove mammoth ivory from this bill.

There are two strategies to fight poaching. One is to fight poaching. We can send money for training and technology to Africa to enhance their ability to protect wild life, increase the benefits to local residents to protect elephants and fight poaching where the elephants live. We can send our technology to break up smuggling operations. The second is to play politics, penalize those with legal old ivory in a country where there are no

elephants or significant illegal ivory trade. The argument for this bill is just ban it all and the market will collapse , poaching will stop and elephants will flourish. That is nonsense, a ban here will have no effect in Africa. No Africa governments or African national parks are asking for a ban here or there, the trade is legal in Africa it should remain legal here.

No elephants will be saved by passing state legislation like SB913 even the bill advocates state this (HB1131 testimony in Washington state). Why should citizens be deprived of legally owned property rights (if you can't sell it you don't own it) afforded under the Constitution. Please do not allow this poorly thought out "sounds good, does bad" bill to leave the committee, let it die as it is in a growing number of states (Washington, Virginia and Maryland so far). Thank you so much for your wisdom in making your decision on and for taking the time to investigate the facts on this issue and not just succumbing groundless emotional pleas. If you have any questions that someone knowledgeable about ivory and the ivory trade could answer please call or email.

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