



Kevin O'Neill
Senior Legislative Director, Western Region
kevin.oneill@aspca.org
916.214.0476

March 23, 2015

Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: SB 913 – Ivory/Rhino Horn – Support

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

On behalf of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the nation's first humane organization, we are happy to offer our support for SB 913.

Ivory and rhino horn trafficking has created a conservation crisis. An average of 96 elephants are killed every day in pursuit of ivory – a rate that will see African elephants extinct within 10 years. Rhinoceroses are not fairing any better as their numbers dwindle as result of this demand.

Furthermore, the revenue generated by ivory/horn trafficking – estimated to be between \$7 and \$10 billion – is the fourth largest illicit transactional activity in the world. The illicit trade and high ivory prices has attracted terrorist organizations like al-Qaeda and al-Shabaab.

Federal law restricts the import and interstate sale of ivory and rhino horn, but Oregon law does not adequately protect against the sale of ivory within the state. With other states like New York and New Jersey already enacting enhanced bans, and California and Hawaii currently considering similar bans, Oregon is well-positioned to further protect elephant and rhino populations.

Again, the ASPCA supports SB 913. If you have any questions, please contact me by email at Kevin.oneill@aspca.org or by phone at 916.214.0476.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin O'Neill', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kevin O'Neill
Senior Legislative Director, Western Region