

From: Michele Lincoln [<mailto:lincolnmichele@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 12:26 PM
To: Reiley Mike
Subject: Ivory SB913

Thank you for sharing this information with any Senator or Representative that is voting on this issue. I appreciate your kind consideration!

Aloha from Maui. We recently had legislation introduced, in Hawaii, by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). On investigation of this organization I have come to find that they are not part of the local Humane Society that truly takes care of animals. HSUS has been convicted under the RICO Act. I beg you to consider who has introduced the notion to the State legislatures that ivory in the United States should be criminalized. How will this reflect on the senators and representatives that vote in favor of legislation that is being promoted by a felonious organization?

Instead I beseech you to consider the bill introduced that protects Americans and elephants.

http://donyoung.house.gov/uploadedfiles/2.4.15_africa_elephant_conservation_act.pdf

The law only affects law abiding citizens. American citizens dealing in the legal ivory trade will go out of business. Collectors will lose the investment value of their portfolios. Grandma's jewelry and Grandpa's pocket knife and carvings and scrimshaw that they inherited or collected over their lifetime will become contraband.

China is the greatest offender in black market ivory yet we are choosing to punish tax paying Americans. North America is not on the list of black market ivory as listed by CITES.

We all agree that those trading in the black market do not obey the laws. The black market ivory will become more valuable and make poaching elephants more lucrative. This legislation gives people a sense of complacency that they have made an impact to save elephants when in reality they have done nothing. To think that individual State legislation will protect elephants is simplistic and dangerous because it gives people a false sense that they have made a difference.

SB 913 serves to further the agenda of any extremist groups that poach elephants by having us assist them with the annihilation of important artifacts and Americana that represent our great Country. It contributes to more economic hardships for American families. It will promote higher prices of black market ivory and ultimately put more elephants in harm's way.

It criminalizes an indigenous American art form of scrimshaw that was started by the American whalers. It is unconscionable what it will do to Alaskan tribes that depend on carving walrus ivory or selling fossil walrus and mammoth ivory. It is our Native American's heritage and source of income.

Walrus and whales are protected and are not at risk. Mammoth are extinct like the dinosaur. It is ludicrous to think that banning fossil material is going to affect the elephant ivory trade.

If law enforcement agencies are currently unable to identify various ivories and ivory like materials, then this indiscriminate, encompassing statutory material is not the best solution. How will they tell the differences between bone, resin, tagua nuts (vegetable ivory), ivorine (plastic fake ivory) and anything else that resembles ivory?

The United States and all of North America is not on the list of offenders of black market ivory. CITES ([Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species](#)) is an international convention that is currently addressing the elephant poaching issue and resolutions are expected in 2016.

We all agree that something must be done to save endangered species. SB 913 will do more damage than good for the protection of elephants by diminishing supplies of legal ivory and fossilized ivories thus raising the value in the black market elephant ivory.

The eminent harm is greater to the American citizens! The drastic, individual State, ivory legislation ultimately will not protect elephants. The meeting of CITES calls for action from the offending Countries of black market ivory and measures are being explored that will truly protect these amazing animals.

I implore you to defeat SB913. The negative ramifications will be far reaching affecting many people that depend on you to protect them.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Lincoln :)

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