

My name is Kathleen Cremonesi. I am a constituent from Elmira, OR, who is here to urge you to support SB 913.

I have had a deep connection to elephants for nearly 30 years, beginning in my 20s when I joined an Italian circus by chance while traveling Europe. I fell in love with the elephant caretaker, my future husband, while there, and I had the honor of working and living in close proximity to elephants for almost 3 years.

A circus is a horrible place to keep elephants, and I do not condone any animals being kept in those conditions. Although I never personally witnessed physical abuse toward those elephants, I feel very strongly that keeping an 8000 pound animal chained to a 6-foot-by10-foot wooden slab for over 23 hours a day is in itself serious abuse.

I feel even more strongly about the ivory trade and how it is decimating the elephant population. One elephant is slaughtered every 15 minutes for its tusks. 96 each day. Over 33 thousand per year. If this continues, elephants will be extinct in the wild in 10 years.

Ivory trafficking is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest illegal trade in the world, and it supports terrorist organizations such as al Shaabab, the terrorists who assaulted Kenya's Westgate mall, which earns \$600,000 per month from Ivory sales. It doesn't stop there. Al Qaeda. The Lord's Resistance Military. Janjaweed Militia. Boko Haram. These names strike fear in our minds, and they all use money from illegal poaching to finance horrific attacks. Even terrorists will abide by the rules of supply and demand. If fewer people buy ivory, fewer elephants will be butchered.

Illegal ivory flows into First World markets camouflaged as legal ivory. It is our duty as citizens of Oregon and citizens of the world to make every effort possible to stop black market ivory trading in our state. Oregon is a small drop in a very large bucket, but we've been on the forefront of many important causes in the past. What happens now with the ivory trade will affect Oregonians and the world for generations to come.

Elephants around the world are under attack from deforestation, tourism, circuses, and the ivory-related slaughter. They are evolved, intelligent, majestic, beautiful, sentient beings, one of only 8 species, including us, who are known to have the self-awareness to recognize their own image in a mirror. Ringling's decision to phase elephants out of their circus performances is a huge stride forward, and it could help make 2015 a great year for elephants, but we need to keep that momentum going if we are truly going to make a difference.

Please do not hesitate to take action on ivory now. Help make 2015 The Year of the Elephant and recommend a Do Pass to your colleagues on SB 913.

Thank you for your time and consideration.