



## OREGON STATE SENATE

### SB 913 Judiciary Committee

When an elephant is hunted for its tusks, poachers rely on machine guns, machetes and poison darts. Elephants and rhinos die a cruel and often agonizing, painful. In 2014, poachers killed 30,000 in Africa.

There are about a half million African elephants left on that continent, down from five million in the 1930s and 1940s. The ivory is shipped all over the world, mostly to Asia but also in large amounts to the US.

SB 913 would ban the sale of ivory in Oregon, a state with a strong conservation spirit and a love for wildlife. It includes exemptions for antiques and educational collections.

There are already federal regulations designed to stop sales of ivory.

So, why do we need a state law? Federal laws on ivory trade are confusing and ineffective. They treat different kinds of ivory differently. Only experts can tell the difference between different species. This leads to consumer confusion and misrepresentation on the part of ivory traders.

Federal bans on ivory are difficult to enforce because they're limited to interstate and international commerce. This means law enforcement's hands are tied when it comes to trafficking within state borders. But with this bill, they would have a clear directive to investigate intrastate sales. It would also give judges more discretion in fining, sending a strong message to poachers and traders.

Another reason for a state law: it raises awareness that poaching of these great beasts continues every single day and is on the rise.

Here in Oregon, we have a long tradition of advancing animal welfare. Oregonians have supported our efforts to ban the cruel practice of horse tripping and outlawed ownership of exotic pets. Now it is time to extend the conservation spirit to the majestic creatures of Africa and Asia.

Humans can live without ivory. Elephants cannot.