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## EUGENE SYMPHONY

*Danail Rachev*  
Music Director and Conductor

*Scott Freck*  
Executive Director

May 19, 2015

TO: The Honorable Representative Jeff Barker, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Scott Freck, Executive Director, Eugene Symphony Association

RE: SB 913-A

Chair Barker and members of the Judiciary Committee –

I write in support of Senate Bill 913A, as amended by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The music community is fully committed to the goals of wildlife preservation and combatting illegal trade in ivory and other parts of protected species. We are also concerned, however, that reasonable solutions are made available to provide for the sale and re-sale of musicians' existing tools of the trade, some of which contain small amounts of ivory or other similar materials, but which were manufactured prior to January 18, 1990.

By way of background, historically small amounts of elephant ivory were used in a variety of musical instruments, including guitars, pianos, violin bows, bassoons, bagpipes, among others. Use of ivory had already essentially stopped by the time elephant ivory was listed on CITES Appendix I in 1990 and the passage of the African Elephant Conservation Act that same year. Today, there is no demand for elephant ivory in crafting new instruments.

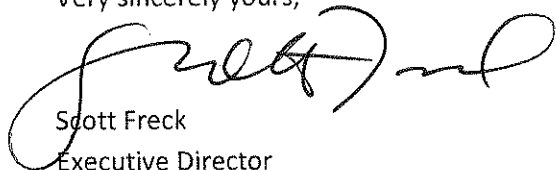
It is the existing instruments which pre-date 1990, some by centuries, about which the music community is concerned. Many instruments, and particularly bows, were manufactured in the 1600s, 1700s, 1800s, and 1900s, and are of superior quality. At the time, use of elephant ivory was regrettably legal, and it can be nearly impossible to replace that material without permanently damaging the item.

These instruments are often not just tools of musicians' trade, but investments in their future. It is not uncommon for a professional musician to invest thousands of dollars into upgrading their equipment, and to continue to advance their artistry and careers, they need to be able to sell their current instruments and purchase others. Further, without this exemption, the music community would be concerned that highly qualified musicians who own such instruments would decide not to relocate to Oregon for fear of losing their investment.

SB 913-A as currently written allows musicians the opportunity to buy and sell instruments containing less than 20% ivory or other protected material by volume, with documentation that it was manufactured before 1990. I urge you to maintain this critical exemption as you consider the bill.

On behalf of the thousands of professional musicians in Oregon who make their living by pursuing their art with the help of their valuable tools, I thank you for your attention and courtesy.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Freck", written in a cursive style.

Scott Freck  
Executive Director  
Eugene Symphony Association