

# IVORY JACK'S TRADING CO.

May 19, 2015

Statement against SB913

Only since 1989 has the importation of elephant ivory been banned.

Prior to that time there were millions of pounds of elephant ivory and millions of objects de arte & jewelry made of elephant ivory imported into the USA legally. Let me reiterate this *fact*... the government of the United States of America sanctioned the importation & purchase of Elephant ivory since the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1776 to present! To unilaterally conclude that all the elephant ivory in the United State of America & Oregon is illegal poached ivory is self serving, deceptive propaganda pushed by HSUS as fact! In a paper issued in Sept. 2012 by The US Fish & Wildlife Service it is stated, "...we do not believe that there is a significant *illegal* ivory trade into this country."

This, people, is a basic question of property rights. The hundreds of millions of dollars worth of legally obtained and legally held elephant ivory investments in the United States of America and in Oregon are property with (high) value. To strip the value from property held by honest, law abiding, tax paying, American Citizens is *wrong*. Who is going to compensate our citizens for the legally held elephant ivory that is already owned in our Country that you propose to render worthless, the Oregon Legislature?

Poached elephant ivory fetches \$1,200.00 per kilo in China, Legal pre-act elephant ivory sells for \$200.00 per pound or less in the USA.

The illegal elephant ivory trade in America is relatively non-existent! To punish law abiding Americans with this specious bill is not right. Vote No on SB913!

Banning *Prehistoric* Mammoth Ivory is over reaching and again, proof of the misinformation perpetrated by the HSUS.

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