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Testimony of Brian Posewitz on Behalf of Humane Oregon
Senate Bill 913 - House Committee on Judiciary

May 20, 2015

Chair Barker and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Brian Posewitz. I am here today representing Humane Oregon. Humane Oregon is a new organization, formed last year, to help promote humane treatment of animals through participation in Oregon's political process and elections.

Humane Oregon supports Senate Bill 913. Elephants and rhinos are being driven to extinction by poachers supplying markets for ivory and rhino horns, including markets in the United States. Federal law already bans trade in elephant ivory and rhino horns to some extent, but the federal bans are complicated, easily exploited and difficult to enforce. (See testimony of Iris Ho.) State bans are needed to complement the federal laws and to close gaps in the federal regulatory and enforcement schemes. Oregon should join other states in doing this.

The exemptions in SB 913 should not be expanded beyond those in the A-Engrossed version. One of the biggest problems with regulation of ivory is that the exceptions swallow the rule by making enforcement too difficult. Oregon should therefore pass an effective ban with few if any exceptions.

Thank you again for considering my comments and I would be happy to answer any questions.