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To: Members of the House Judiciary Committee
From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club
Date: June 4, 2015
RE: Senate Bill 913

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee: On behalf of the more than 20,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club in Oregon, I am pleased to provide this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 913A.

As an organization with a long history working on wildlife and trade issues, the Oregon Sierra Club supports efforts to reduce the trade of elephant ivory and rhino horn in our state and on the West Coast. Such trade has led to rampant poaching of these animals, with severe impacts on their populations. Indeed, rhinos and elephants could become functionally extinct in the wild if actions are not taken to protect them, and SB 913A is a good start in that direction.

SB 913A would prohibit sales of ivory and rhino horns in Oregon with certain exceptions. With Oregon's close proximity to busy ivory markets in Hawaii, California, and Asia, and Portland's designation as a "wildlife port" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, SB 913A would ensure that Oregon does not play a role in the illegal ivory and rhino horn trade. Importantly, the bill does not prohibit the possession or owning of ivory or rhino horns – only their sale.

The Sierra Club believes that Senate Bill 913A is an important step toward ending the trade of ivory and rhino horn in Oregon and we strongly encourage this Committee and the House of Representatives to see to its passage. Thank you very much for considering our comments and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance to the Committee.