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Re: Banning ivory and rhino horn sales

Dear Rep/Senator _____,

As a supporter of the *iworry* campaign (The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust) I would like to appeal for your help in saving the African elephant and rhino from extinction. Across Africa, one elephant is killed every 15 minutes to supply the ever increasing demand for ivory in the Far East and closer to home, with the United States being the second largest market for ivory. At this rate African elephants could be extinct in the wild by 2025.

The current poaching crisis not only constitutes an immense threat to the most iconic animals, but it is also a matter of global security, with terrorist organisations utilising ivory as a way to fund their atrocities. The illegal wildlife trade now generates an estimated \$23 billion per year and has become the fourth most lucrative illegal activity behind drugs, counterfeiting, and human trafficking. The ivory trafficking crisis is a complex problem and one which requires action on multiple levels to stem the slaughter of elephants in the wild, which is why we are encouraged to witness such positive action in the U.S.A.

The current Federal law is unclear with large loopholes, and does not manage intrastate sales, leading to consumer confusion about what is legal or illegal. However, two states New Jersey and New York have both signed legislation to ban the import and in-state sale of both ivory and rhino horn, with New Jersey imposing a full ban. These efforts mark a substantial development in tackling the illegal ivory chain. Loopholes that had previously allowed for some ivory trade in the States are now closed and I am now appealing for [STATE] to follow suit with a ban to match that in New Jersey.

State bans are a step forward in ending the elephant poaching crisis, but without nationwide efforts, other States will be utilised as laundering points. Please join us and demonstrate your commitment in the fight to save the African elephant and rhino from extinction.

Yours sincerely,

[FULLNAME]