

[Address]

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Ban intrastate ivory trade

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 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. 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 USA.

In June 2016, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) published a final rule (the “Rule”) revising section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act 1973 (“ESA”). The Rule is described as a ‘near-complete ban on trade in elephant ivory’.

Despite the federal change in the law, each state will also enact legislation to ban trade. New York, New Jersey and California, where the domestic trade of ivory is reported to be most rigorous, have legislated to ban the trade of all ivory acquired after 1990, meaning only the trade of antique ivory will be permitted.

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, New York and California.

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

Yours sincerely,

[FULLNAME]