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Dear _____,

As a local resident and supporter of the internationally respected *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 the United States of America - currently 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 I am encouraged to witness such positive action in the USA. 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. These efforts mark a substantial development in tackling the illegal ivory chain and one which must be replicated in the UK.

It is evident in recent years that the UK Government and Opposition have been attaching greater importance to tackling wildlife crime. Recent financial support for an Interpol project to assist East African Nations to improve their enforcement capacity and elephant protection, followed by the planned deployment of UK military personnel to assist in the training of wildlife officials is commendable. However, financial support has not kept apace and the funding crisis faced by Scotland Yard's Wildlife Crime Unit and the National Wildlife Crime Unit seems to suggest a reduction in the Government's investment in fighting wildlife crime.

I am appealing to you today to ensure the new UK Government remains committed to the global ivory ban. There is, without question, an urgent need to strengthen the global ban and the most immediate and manageable way to do this is to introduce a ban on the UK's domestic ivory sales. While it remains possible for individuals in the UK to buy and sell 'antique' ivory, which requires no certificate of authentication, there will always be significant scope for illegal ivory to enter the market.

Please make a stand by (1) destroying the UK stockpile of seized ivory to send a clear message to the world that this Government is committed to ending the illegal ivory trade; (2) introducing legislation to ban the sale of ivory and rhino horn products in the UK. The needs for a ban are plentiful and The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and other respected NGOs have at their disposal a wealth of information to justify these needs. As I write to you, US States are actively discussing legislation to ban the sales of ivory and rhino horn, they recognise the role they can play in saving iconic species, now is the time for you and the UK to do the same – we must stand United For Wildlife.

Yours sincerely,

[NAME]