[TITLE] [LAST NAME]  
[JOB TITLE}  
[ADDRESS 1]  
[ADDRESS 2]  
[ADDRESS 3]

November 2013

**End the USA’s domestic trade in ivory**

Dear [FIRST NAME] [LAST NAME],

Elephant poaching in Africa has reached crisis point. In 2012, an estimated 36,000 African elephants were killed for their tusks, equating to one elephant being killed every 15 minutes.

Not only is this illegal trade risking wild elephant population numbers, it also has serious environmental, economic and political security repercussions. Over 1,000 wildlife rangers have been killed in the last decade by poachers\*; this battle is fuelling corruption and severely affecting economies in African countries. The illegal ivory trade alone is estimated to be worth $10bn with growing evidence to suggest that these international criminal networks are being driven by militant groups namely Al-Shabaab and the Lord Resistance Army. The illegal wildlife trade is now amongst the top five transnational organized crimes alongside human and drug trafficking.

I am among thousands of US citizens taking action for the protection of elephants and I urge the United States government to do the same. You have the power to support enhanced efforts to stop the continued and unjustified killings of elephants, to crack down on networks fuelling the trade and support demand reduction initiatives in the US and China.

On November 14th, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be destroying the United States’ six-ton stockpile of seized illegal ivory sending a strong symbolic message to poachers and traders – the US will not tolerate poaching. With the US being the second largest market for ivory, it is encouraging to see a leadership role being taken by the Administration but still much more needs to be done. To save the elephant species from extinction, the US Government must heighten law enforcement operations and close existing loopholes. A ban on the US domestic ivory trade must be imposed as a matter of urgency; we can lead the way and encourage other Nations to follow, including China, the largest market for ivory

Today I ask for your help. Please stand up and take a leading role to protect the wild elephants of Africa and support a ban on the US domestic ivory trade, which is pushing this magnificent species to extinction. Over the past 10 years elephant populations have plummeted - a clear sign the insatiable demand for ivory continues.

Elephants have 12 years left in the wild if we do not see change now. Please enact a ban on domestic ivory trade in the US and support efforts to stop the killing, stop the trafficking and stop the demand.

Yours sincerely,

[FIRST NAME] [LAST NAME]