



**NO COMPENSATION for Ivory Traders**

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To: Mr. Kenneth Leung, Chairman of the Bill Committee on Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants

Regrading: (Amendment) Bill 2017

Dear Mr. Leung,

I am writing to you to request that you ensure ivory and rhino horn sales are illegal in Hong Kong. I have a 7-year-old daughter and we live in the United States. We don't have the luxury of seeing elephants and rhinos in the wild. I will be taking my first trip next month to Africa to see these majestic animals. I am afraid that by the time my daughter is an adult she will not have the same opportunity, as the current rate of poaching will cause the extinction of these animals by the time she turns 25. This is a tragic statistic.

I understand that there are cultural reasons for the ivory trade. For many years people's livelihood was dependent on carving and selling of these trinkets. However, as a society we grow and become more intelligent about the world around us. The US had a long history of slavery, but thankfully this was abolished as people understood how wrong and terrible this was. This is the same for ivory and rhino trade. Endangered elephants are killed for trinkets. Rhinos are killed for medicinal uses that aren't actually medicinal at all. It's been proven that rhino horn consumption do not benefit humans in any way. Currently rhino horns are valued more than gold. What happens when there are no more rhino horns and ivory to sell?

Africa's largest LEGAL form of revenue is tourism. What do you think will happen when there are no more elephants and rhinos to see? Tourism will drop drastically and your country will no longer have anything to import. It's a lose-lose situation, but the biggest losers are the animals. These animals have done nothing wrong but be born.

I can speak for myself and many Americans in that we have quite a distaste for the Chinese. We see our jobs being shipped overseas, the world's oceans being fished to exhaustion, pollution constantly bellowing from your country, and the wiping out of animals because of culture and folklore. Please take a stand and show the world that China is taking a stand against ivory and rhino horn sales and will help save these amazing animals.

Sincerely,  
Sheri Gann