



30th August 2017

Hon Kenneth Leung

Room 918, Legislative Council Complex

1 Legislative Council Road

Central, Hong Kong

Dear Hon Kenneth Leung,

Public Hearing on September 6th 2017: Cap 586 Amendment Bill

I am Yuanchao Xu and have been in HK for almost 2 years . I am writing to express my support for the Hong Kong Government's proposed Cap 586 Amendment Bill because elephants are facing a risk of extinction currently. I was touched by the documentary the Ivory Game and hope those illegal trades can be banned completely.

I fully support the government's three-step plan to ban the Hong Kong ivory trade; and its proposals to increase maximum penalties under the Protection of Endangered Species Ordinance (Cap 586). However, I do not support any proposition to compensate traders or buy out their stocks. My reasons are as stated:-

- Providing any form of compensation will signal that Hong Kong is 'buying' ivory, likely triggering a surge of poaching in Africa.
- Compensation would establish a dangerous global precedent for other countries working to ban the trade.
- The Hong Kong Government is not depriving ivory owners of all use of property.
- Traders and others who have speculated on ivory have done so, knowing the risks of a shrinking legal market.
- The heritage value and traditional skills of carvers are not a reason to continue the trade.
- Carvers and traders have had over two decades since the international ban, to diversify and/or switch trades. Most have done so.

Sincerely Yours,
Yuanchao Xu

Virus-free. www.avast.com