



Support for the ban of Hong Kong Ivory Trade - Cap 586 Amendment Bill

Kenneth Wong to: bc_06_16@legco.gov.hk

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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

My name is Kenneth Wong and I am a permanent resident of Hong Kong.

I am writing to express my support for the Hong Kong Government's proposed Cap 586 Amendment Bill. Tens of thousands of Elephants are killed each year all over the globe each year simply because of their tusks, which to me is totally preposterous and heartbreaking. I am truly concerned for the welfare of the Elephants, of which is coming to a point of endangerment.

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,

Kenneth Wong

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