



To Hon Tanya Chan, Chairman of the LegCo Environmental Affairs Panel.  
Re: Ivory Ban  
Ele F to: panel\_ea

03/06/2017 11:02

Dear Chairman,

It is the duty of every local lawmaker to support measures to protect the environment, act in the best interest of Hong Kong (as opposed to a handful of vested interests) and defend Hong Kong from moves that could harm its international reputation. We applaud you for your past efforts in those directions. My family and I are now urging you to fully fulfil your fiduciary duty once again by supporting the government's proposed ban on ivory trade and opposing any suggestion of compensation for traders.

Elephants have been driven to the brink of extinction by poachers who have supplied ivory traders in Hong Kong and across the world with ivory from recently poached elephants (in contravention of the law) for many years. It's time to put a COMPLETE stop to this trade! Traders have been forewarned for over a quarter of a century and they have had and still have plenty of time to sell their "old" stock. As taxpayers and voters, my family and I VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE spending any penny to compensate traders for having engaged in such an unconscionable trade in the first place. Our hard earned cash should be spent on protecting the planet, not paying off blood ivory traders! No other country has provided compensation and the Central Government will not do so when the ban comes into force on the mainland at the end of this year. The reason is simple: Compensation will only do MORE HARM to elephants as poachers will use the window between now and when the law comes into effect in 2021 to kill as many elephants as possible before they run out of business! Any compensation will defeat the purpose of the bill - to protect elephants from extinction!

Ivory traders represent only an insignificant segment of Hong Kong (despite their far-reaching impact on elephants), and their interest is purely monetary! They have had and still have plenty of time to sell their existing stock! Over the years, they have already profited a lot from what many in the international community consider as an immoral trade and played a pivotal role in driving a sentient species to the brink of extinction! The causes at stake far transcend the selfish motives of a tiny group of money minded businessmen! Hong Kong needs to join the rest of the world to ban the ivory trade and stop anyone from profiting from it in any way! There will be little, if any at all, backlash in ignoring the

demand, which is unreasonable to start with, from these invested interests in the interest of the common good! The cost of entertaining their greed is great and goes beyond financial!

We expect that as a legislator, you will act as our conscience and make responsible decisions that will protect the environment for generations to come. We don't want our city to stand on the side of poachers and traders of any products made from endangered wildlife/species or to be seen as doing so in the international community! Any move that derails or delays the bill or provides compensation to traders will no doubt turn Hong Kong from a world city to a pariah city and make the Hong Kong legislature (of which you are an integral part) and government the laughingstock of the world! No wise legislators will do that! Simply say yes to the ban on ivory and no to any demand for compensation! The future of elephants and our city's international reputation is in your hands!

In the last twenty years or so, my family have always cast their votes for legislators who voted in the best interest of Hong Kong and our future. We count on you now to vote yes for the ban and no to compensation!

Your sincerely,

Sue Yip