



HONG KONG IVORY BAN

Felice Shekar to: panel_ea

Cc: march4elesandrinos

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To all concerned,

My name is Felice Shekar. I live in Fort Collins, Colorado, US. I have been very fortunate to have had many great travel adventures around the world. I've actually been to 6 of the 7 continents. All except Australia. I have seen many wonders, both great and small. Huge cities to tiny villages. All fascinating in their own diverse ways. I've been to Hong Kong and visited Panda's in Chengdu China. I visited Asian elephants in Thailand, visited elephants in Botswana Africa, along with Penguins in Antarctica. What a wonderful world we live in! One of the most important things I've learned is that people are all basically the same. We all want the same things in life. Safety & Security, love & acceptance, and better for our children than we had. A world without Elephants would be tragic and hopelessly devastating. How can we possibly explain to the next generation that there are no more Elephants because people wanted a Carved Elephant Tusk as an ornament or because an "old wife's tale" said that it was a remedy for an ailment???

I love all wildlife, but Elephants have held a special place in my heart since I was a young child. As an 8 year old, I cried when my parents took me to the circus and I saw trained elephants. I cried at the Miami Zoo when I saw a lone elephant in a small area rocking side to side and was told he was mentally disturbed from loneliness. It broke my heart, even at the young age. Of course I was too young to understand that these majestic animals were being slaughtered to make the keys on the piano I practiced on everyday of my young life. Nor was I aware of the slaughter of Elephants for "art" or "medicine".

I have learned so much about Elephants since I was an 8 year old. Their family structure, their matriarchal society, the love for their babies, that they mourn their dead, just as we do, and of course, their intelligence. I could go on and on about what I've learned about Elephants....

I write this testimony with the purpose of ending the slaughter of Elephants for their tusks. We as a society must value life, both human and animal. The slaughter of Elephants serves no purpose. I personally finance and lend support to organizations that protect elephants, rear orphaned elephants, track and catch poachers of elephants and others. I would gladly support organizations that would help retrain poachers and other along the chain that now profit from the slaughter of Elephants.

I implore your organization to do whatever is humanly possible to **STOP THE NEEDLESS SLAUGHTER OF ELEPHANTS!**

Writing this testimony is but one small act I can do to convince you to save

Elephants. Financially supporting organizations that do the same is also a small act. What more can I, a citizen of the world, just as you are do to save these majestic animals from extinction? Tell me and I will do it. But, you have the power and ability to do more than I to stop the import of Elephant tusks to Hong Kong China.

With great sincerity,
Felice Shekar

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