

From: Office of the Governor Site Support
Sent: 8/15/2015 1:11:51 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: State Ivory Bans Persecute Innocent People, Violate Federal Law

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Message:
James Greene
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August 15, 2015

1205 Pendleton Street
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Dear Governor Haley,

I, like all Americans, find the out-of-control poaching of African elephants appalling. Unfortunately, instead of going after poachers, smugglers and traders of illicit ivory, Ivory Bans only attack innocent citizens by passing a draconian law that will not save a single living elephant.

Stop State Level Ivory ban persecute innocent people violate Federal Law

This ban would irreparably harm owners of antiques, collectibles containing ivory ranging from jewelry, pool cues, custom knives and firearms, chess sets and religious artifacts. These items were made or legally imported into this country decades ago, but this ban would strip their value - a taking of millions of dollars from law-abiding citizens of this state. The ban would criminalize legitimate business owners and cause immediate ruinous financial loss for them. It will cost the state millions of dollars in lost sales tax revenue and not save a single elephant! Adding insult to injury, the ban goes against U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' longstanding position that virtually all ivory in the U.S. was legally imported before elephants were listed as endangered species and its sale in the U.S. has no impact on poaching in Africa. This bill also includes 10,000-year-old Mammoth Ivory, which just goes to show how absurd it is. Tons of Mammoth Ivory is collected every year by Native Americans in Alaskan along the riverbanks and on the beaches, where the tusks fall out of the banks due to erosion. This Mammoth Ivory is one of their few sources of income. In addition, gold miners find tusks in their pursuit of gold. No archeological sites are disturbed or "robbed." This natural material becomes exposed by nature and mining and if it is not collected it cracks, deteriorates and crumbles into gravel and soil within a few years and is lost forever. The only way to preserve this

precious prehistoric material is to allow it to be collected, bought and sold. Properly trained law enforcement officials can easily distinguish mammoth from elephant ivory, and mammoth is legal to ship all over the world.

This outrageous and draconian bill also represents an unconstitutional "taking" of protected private property, violating the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. While lawsuits challenging this law, if enacted, wend their way through the courts, untold hundreds or thousands of ivory owners will be arrested and prosecuted under this absurd law.

This bill will not save a single elephant! This is "feel good - do bad" legislation at its worst!

Please do not allow this ill-conceived and economically devastating bill that won't save a single elephant to become law. Please oppose the Ivory Ban.

Sincerely,
James Greene