

MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION ANIMAL LAW SECTION

February 4, 2022

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, *Chair*
Senator William Smith
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Maryland State Bar Association Animal Law Section:
Written Testimony in Support of SB 381

Dear Senator Pinsky, Senator Smith, and Committee Members:

The Maryland State Bar Association Animal Law Section (the “Section”) is in support of SB 381, a bill which establishes provisions related to wildlife trafficking and prohibits the sale of certain parts or products of specific wildlife species.

I. WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IS A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY

The illegal wildlife trade has far reaching consequences for people, animals, and our shared sense of security. Wildlife trafficking is a catalyst to the extinction of iconic species, decline of biodiversity, destabilization of government, and funding of terrorist organizations.

The illegal wildlife trade produces annual profits of \$10 billion and is driven by an untraceable currency. Wildlife trafficking has evolved into a global network of criminal syndicates which rely on the same supply chains, trade routes, and violent characteristics that are identified in other areas of organized crime. Criminal entities engaged in wildlife trafficking have been linked to terrorist organizations and the trafficking of weapons, drugs, and human beings.

II. INTRASTATE REGULATION OF WILDLIFE PRODUCTS WILL PROMOTE A COHESIVE NATIONAL STRATEGY

Maryland should prohibit the intrastate trading of iconic species sourced through the wildlife trade. State legislation is necessary to complement federal law to more fully eliminate Maryland’s role in the supply chain of the wildlife trade.

The global consequences of wildlife trafficking contribute to our shared financial, environmental, and political decline. Given the scale of these interconnected priorities, collaboration in policy making and enforcement is critically important. We must apply a “whole of government” approach. Success and security are best achieved through cohesive legislation both across, and within, borders.

The Maryland State Bar Association Animal Law Section is grateful to the members of this committee for their time and attention to this issue, and requests a vote in favor of SB 70.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

Kimberly Fullerton

Immediate Past Chair

Maryland State Bar Association Animal Law Section