



**HUMANE SOCIETY
WILDLIFE LAND TRUST**

February 3rd, 2022

Re: Support for SB 381, Wildlife Trafficking Prevention

Dear Chairman Pinsky and members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs committee,

On behalf of the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust and our supporters who live in Maryland, we urge you to support SB 381, a bill to end wildlife trafficking in Maryland.

Elephants, giraffes, and cheetahs are just a few majestic species facing the threat of extinction due to the global trade of their parts and products. With SB 381, Maryland has the chance to restrict the commercial sale of products and parts made from many imperiled species, such as elephant ivory, sea turtle shell, and giraffe skin. With passage of this bill, Maryland residents can rest assured that they are not unwittingly contributing to the illegal wildlife trade.

Formed in 1993, the Wildlife Land Trust is an affiliate of the Humane Society of the United States. We are a national land conservation organization, protecting over 21,000 acres in 32 states, including over 184 acres in Maryland.

Evidence suggests that wildlife trafficking is one of the leading international crimes. As other states act on this issue with their own laws, the markets for these products move to other states with weaker laws and regulations. This is exactly why we need to ensure this bill passes so Maryland doesn't become a hub for illegal wildlife trafficking and to complement federal laws.

Key provisions of the bill:

- A person shall not purchase, sell, offer for sale, or possess with intent to sell any covered animal species part or product.
- Owners of legal items can continue to possess the items, pass them down to heirs or transfer them as long as no commercial transactions are involved.
- Prohibitions do not apply when the covered animal species part or product is part of an antique, or is a fixed component of a musical instrument, provided that the item is not made wholly or primarily of the covered animal part and the total weight of the covered animal species part or product is less than 200 grams.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. The HSUS Wildlife Land Trust urges you to support SB 381 to protect wild animals from cruel poaching, wildlife trafficking, and the threat of extinction.

Sincerely,

Cary Smith
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