

SB381_FAV_Alyssa Dangel.pdf

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Testimony of Alyssa Dangel

February 8, 2022

Senate Education, Health, and Environment Committee

Senate Bill 381

Natural Resources – Wildlife Trafficking Prevention

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Alyssa Dangel and I am a sixth grader at Glenwood Middle School in Howard County. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Senate Bill 381.

Wildlife trafficking is a very cruel practice that sells animal products and parts. This bill can stop this and save many animals from extinction. We also can create a status quo; to not abide wildlife trafficking, to not kill an animal so you can wear it as jewelry, or have a pretty bag, to not turn a life into a thing you wear.

Fewer than 7100 cheetahs are alive because of poaching. All seven species of sea turtles are facing extinction. There are only 68,000 giraffes left in the world. For comparison over 692,000 people live in Baltimore. This means more people live in Baltimore than there are giraffes and cheetahs left in the wild. This bill being passed can save so many animal lives. I can't imagine the world without some of these iconic species.

This is such a cruel practice, to have animals killed for something as worthless as jewelry or bags or chess sets. Animals are killed every day because of it. We need to care about the fact that in a matter of years so many iconic species could be dead. We need to care that there are more people in Baltimore than giraffes and cheetahs combined. We need to care about this bill so we can save so many lives.

Senate Bill 381 can make such a huge difference to the world. It can save so many elephants, and rhinoceroses, and tigers, lions, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, sea turtles, pangolins, and giraffes. These animals all deserve not to be wiped out to make jewelry that someone will wear once, and probably not wear again. Please pass Senate Bill 381.

SB381 Testimony.pdf

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Position: FAV

Wildlife trafficking is the fourth largest transnational crime. Potential buyers may not even realize that they are taking part in this crime when elephant skin boots, turtle shell jewelry, lion skin rugs, giraffe skin wallets and more are just a few computer clicks away or in specialty stores throughout Maryland.

The federal government has cracked down on ivory and some other animal parts, but commerce within the states is not controlled by these regulations. Maryland has no specific law restricting wildlife products, so these items continue to circulate within our state. What's more, Baltimore is one of only thirteen certified antiques ports in the U.S., which means that illegal items disguised as "antiques" flow through our port on a regular basis.

In 2019, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service processed 191,492 declared shipments of wildlife and wildlife products worth more than \$4.3 billion. That's only the declared shipments. Illegal wildlife trafficking generates \$20 billion a year for terrorists and other nefarious organizations, and conservation groups have estimated that the authorities catch only 10% of illegal ivory at U.S. borders.

In this anthropogenic age of climate change, we need to think carefully about how our choices affect our grandchildren. Bringing keystone species to extinction for exotic knick knacks cannot be condoned.

We can be part of the solution in Maryland by passing a law that will complement federal wildlife trafficking statutes. New York, New Jersey, and Washington, DC already have laws in place. We must pass a statewide law so that the Port of Baltimore does not become the new hub for illegal wildlife trafficking.

Heidi Osterman
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MD SB381 testimony from Animal Welfare Institute.p

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Position: FAV

**Animal Welfare Institute Testimony in Support of SB381,
A Bill to Restrict Wildlife Trafficking
Maryland Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Hearing Date: February 8, 2022**

**Kate Dylewsky
Senior Policy Advisor, Animal Welfare Institute**

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and honorable members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

On behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute, a national nonprofit animal advocacy organization, and our Maryland members, I want to express our support for SB381 to restrict the sale of parts and products from elephants, rhinos, tigers, giraffes, sea turtles, and other imperiled species. This bill would neither criminalize possession of items currently owned by Maryland residents, nor impede noncommercial transfer of those products. Rather, it would place commonsense limits on sales of these parts and products, thereby aiding in the preservation of these majestic species.

Current circumstances of the wildlife trade

Elephants

Worldwide illegal ivory trade has more than doubled since 2007 and tripled since 1998, resulting in the decimation of some African elephant populations. As of 2021, the global trade in ivory was worth about \$23 billion annually. A comprehensive survey of Africa's savanna elephants found that their numbers declined by 30 percent between 2007 and 2014, with the rate of decline accelerating over those seven years. As of 2016, there were approximately 400,000 savanna elephants remaining, down from an estimated 3 million in the early 19th century, and the vast majority of this decline is attributable to poaching. As a result, certain populations of African elephants are vulnerable to extinction and may not withstand these poaching thresholds much longer.

The inclusion of mammoth and mastodon in HB 52 is also vital for addressing the elephant poaching crisis. Without specialized training, mastodon and mammoth ivories are difficult to distinguish from those of elephants, which enables sellers to skirt trade restrictions and continue selling the latter under the guise of the former, duping unsuspecting customers into purchasing illicit products. Furthermore, alternatives like mammoth and mastodon ivory simply fuel desire for elephant ivory, normalize its consumption, and keep the ivory market alive.

Rhinoceroses

All five extant rhinoceros species are in tremendous danger due to the demand for their horns. The horns, made of a substance akin to human fingernails, are used in Traditional Asian Medicine to allegedly cure a variety of ailments including cancer, despite conclusive evidence that they have no

curative properties. Black rhinos populations in Africa, for instance, were decimated by poaching, declining 96% over 20 years – from around 70,000 individuals in 1970 to just 2,410 in 1995. Their population is now over 5,000 thanks to conservation efforts. South Africa, which is home to the majority of African rhinos, has seen a staggering increase in poaching numbers in recent years – from a just handful in 2007 to a peak of 1,349 killed in 2015. The dwindling rhino numbers cannot sustain ongoing poaching at this level.

Tigers

Despite a slow recent rise in population numbers, tigers continue to be endangered, with fewer than 4,000 tigers left in the wild. Juvenile mortality rates are high, and about half of all cubs do not survive past two years of age. Tigers have lost roughly 95 percent of their range, further intensifying their conflicts with humans over livestock and space. Poaching is another threat facing tigers, as their pelts are valuable on the black market and virtually all of their parts are used in various traditional medicines and remedies.

Lions

Lions are currently listed as vulnerable across most of their range by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and listed as critically endangered in West Africa. There are an estimated 20,000 left in the wild, according to a survey conducted in 2020. Habitat loss and an unsustainable bushmeat trade in large herbivores has led to a decrease in available prey, causing an increase in human-lion conflict over domesticated animals. Because of this, lions are relentlessly persecuted across Africa and are frequently killed as “problem animals.” Like tigers, lion bones and body parts are frequently illegally traded for use in traditional medicines.

Leopards

Critically endangered amur leopards have seen their last viable population shrink to an estimated 84 individuals as of 2017. They are in dire risk of extinction due primarily to being poached for their spotted fur. Meanwhile, the snow leopard has an estimated population of 3,500-7,000. They are killed by farmers for preying on livestock due to a decrease in wild prey, and they are also threatened by habitat fragmentation. Their fur, bones, and other body parts are illegally traded.

Cheetahs

Cheetah populations are in danger due to habitat loss, declines in prey, and conflicts with humans. Additionally, there is a high demand for cheetahs as pets. They are illegally captured then smuggled around the world, and only one in six cubs survives this process. Their numbers have steadily declined from tens of thousands historically to 15,000 in 1975 to fewer than 8,000 today. Humans have altered more than 90 percent of the cheetah's original habitat and they are extinct in Asia except for a small population in Iran.

Jaguars

Habitat loss and fragmentation, conflict with humans, and poaching have severely impacted jaguar populations. They have been eradicated from 40 percent of their historic range and are extinct in

Uruguay and El Salvador. Jaguars are often killed for their spotted coats, and there is also illegal demand for jaguar paws, teeth, and other products.

Sea Turtles

Six species of sea turtle are classified as vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered on the IUCN Red List due to entanglement in fishing gear, coastal development that interferes with egg-laying, plastic and other pollution, climate change, and poaching and illegal trade of their eggs, meat, and shells. Hawksbill sea turtle shells are in demand due to their beautiful gold and brown coloring, which can be used to create jewelry and other luxury items. As a result, these turtles have declined by 90 percent over the past 100 years and are now listed as critically endangered.

Pangolins

Pangolins are mammals covered in hard scales who are found in Africa and Asia. There are eight extant species: Chinese pangolin, Indian pangolin, Sunda pangolin, Philippine pangolin, tree pangolin, long-tailed pangolin, giant pangolin, and Temminck's ground pangolin. They are poached and illegally traded for their meat and their scales, which are used as ingredients in traditional Asian medicine despite being made only of keratin. More than half a million pangolins have been poached since 2016, making them the most illegally trafficked mammals in the world. Pangolin populations are in severe decline and are thought to be locally extirpated in parts of both Asia and Africa.

Sharks and Rays

There are at least 1,000 shark and ray species, and a 2014 IUCN study found that a quarter are threatened with extinction. An estimated 100 million sharks are killed by fisheries every year, for their fins (used to make an expensive Asian soup), for their meat, and by accidental entanglement in fishing gear. Meanwhile, rays are targeted for their meat and for their gill plates. Because they reproduce at a slow rate, sharks and rays are highly susceptible to overexploitation.

Giraffes

Giraffe numbers in Africa have plummeted 30 percent over the last 30 years, and there are only an estimated 111,000 giraffes remaining. In some areas of prime giraffe habitat, numbers have dropped by 95% in the same period. Three of the nine giraffe subspecies are now listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered by IUCN. The causes of this decline include habitat and fragmentation, overhunting (including for trophies), and poaching.

Hippopotamuses

The IUCN classifies hippopotamuses as vulnerable to extinction, and estimates that between 125,000 and 148,000 remain in the wild. Hippo numbers dropped during the late 1990s and early 2000s; studies found that hippo populations in the Democratic Republic of Congo declined more than 95 percent during this period as a result of intense hunting pressure. Hippos continue to face threats from habitat loss and degradation, and illegal or unregulated hunting for meat and ivory (which is found in the canine teeth).

Bonobos

There are an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 bonobos left in the wild, although an exact number is difficult to determine due to the remoteness of their habitat and local political unrest, and bonobos are classified as endangered by the IUCN. Bonobos are hunted for bushmeat, the exotic pet trade, and use in traditional medicine. Other threats include disruption from civil warfare in their range states and habitat degradation.

Chimpanzees

At the beginning of the 20th century it is estimated that there were approximately 1 million chimpanzees in the wild, but that number is down to 172,000-300,000 today. They are extinct in four of their 25 range countries in Africa. The threats facing chimpanzees include habitat loss, commercial bushmeat hunting, exotic pet trade, disease, and armed conflict in range states.

Orangutans

All three species of orangutan (Sumatran, Bornean, and Tapanuli) are listed as critically endangered by the IUCN, with an estimated total of 55,000 to 65,000 individuals in the wild. The threats to this species include loss of habitat through deforestation and palm oil plantations, as well as illegal capture for the exotic pet trade. Orangutans are also killed for bushmeat, for traditional medicine products, and so their parts can be sold as souvenirs.

Gorillas

Both Western gorillas, who live in West Africa, and Eastern gorillas, who live in central Africa, are listed as critically endangered by the IUCN. Mountain gorillas, a subspecies of Eastern gorilla, are particularly imperiled, with approximately 1,000 individuals left in the wild. The threats faced by gorillas include poaching, habitat encroachment, armed conflict in range states, and disease.

Poaching for the illegal wildlife trade is a brutal, bloody practice. Animals are shot with military-grade weapons, and tusks, horns, and other parts are harvested by mutilating the sometimes still-living animals. Tight-knit herds of social species are torn apart and babies are orphaned or even killed. The casualties are not limited to animals; more African park rangers are being killed in the line of duty than ever before, most often via ambush. On average, more than 100 rangers are killed each year because they stand between the animals and the poachers.

The harsh reality of the international wildlife trade is that there are, even as we speak, poachers slaughtering imperiled wildlife – and that some of these illegal wildlife products could ultimately end up in the Maryland marketplace masquerading as legal items.

The global poaching crisis undermines our national security

The illegal wildlife trade has implications for more than just the preservation of species. Poaching is not a small or unsophisticated operation; rather, it is intertwined with violent militias, organized crime, and government corruption. Wildlife trafficking now produces profits of upwards of \$20 billion a year,

placing it among the top five criminal markets (alongside narcotics, human trafficking, weapons, and counterfeiting). These groups use poaching as a substantial source of funding, and employ the logistics and supply chains of major container and shipping companies to move their product in a system interwoven with the networks that also enable terrorism, drugs, weapons, and human trafficking.

Several insurgent groups undermining the rule of law are either directly involved in poaching or trafficking, or are likely sharing some of the same facilitators, such as corrupt customs and border officials, money launderers, and supply chains. For instance, the Lord's Resistance Army, an extremist rebel group originally from Uganda, took part in elephant poaching operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo beginning in 2012. Al Shabaab, an Islamist insurgent group based in Somalia that has made direct threats to the U.S., has acted as middlemen in the transit of elephant ivory from Africa to Asia.

This crisis has reached such a scale that these criminal groups are a concern for the stability of some African governments. Well-funded terrorist organizations operating in developing countries can take advantage of governments that lack the capacity to regulate their country's natural assets. A region destabilized by corruption and violent conflict is not only problematic for the nations involved, but also for US security.

At the federal level, there has been broad bipartisan recognition of the risk that wildlife trafficking poses to our nation's safety. President Obama issued an executive order in 2013 that identified wildlife trafficking as a security threat, and subsequently released a National Strategy for Combatting Wildlife Trafficking in 2014. Presidents Trump and Biden both issued executive orders on transnational crime that recognized the ties between wildlife trafficking and organized criminal networks. Congress has acted as well by passing the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act in 2016 to enhance national security by providing the federal government with additional tools to curb illicit wildlife trade.

Why is this bill needed in Maryland?

State bills such as SB381 are necessary to complement federal measures and ensure that commerce in wildlife products is tightly regulated throughout US markets. Any legal market creates an opportunity for illegal products to be laundered as their legal counterparts. These bans are particularly crucial in coastal states like Maryland, due to the potential for illegal wildlife products to enter through the ports.

SB381 would establish Maryland as a leader in the fight against wildlife trafficking, alongside twelve other states (California, Illinois, Hawaii, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington) plus the District of Columbia that have enacted laws to restrict or ban the sale of certain wildlife products within their borders.

The Animal Welfare Institute urges the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to aid in the conservation of imperiled species by passing SB381, and welcomes any questions about this testimony.

Kate Dylewsky
Senior Policy Advisor, Government Affairs
Animal Welfare Institute
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MD SB 381 HSUS SUPPORT SENATE ENVIRONMENT 2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Kathryn Kullberg

Position: FAV



February 8th, 2022

Re: Support for SB 381, Wildlife Trafficking Prevention

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

The illegal wildlife trade is a multi-billion dollar global industry that affects millions of animals and communities around the world. Wild animals such as elephants and rhinos are killed in massive numbers and suffer from horrific cruelty as poachers brutally kill elephants and cut off their tusks, sometimes while the animal is still alive. Conservationists have called the shocking population decline of giraffes due to poaching a silent extinction. Criminal syndicates profit from trafficking of imperiled species products and undermine the rule of law. Market demand for wildlife products drives the killing of iconic animals and provides an incentive for wildlife trafficking.

SB 381 will stop the sale of parts and products of imperiled species within Maryland's borders and ensure that our residents do not contribute to the illegal wildlife trade. SB 381 aligns with national and international conservation measures, as local measures are a critical tool to close the gaps that international and federal authorities do not have the capacity to address. By approving SB 381, Maryland will join other jurisdictions such as the states of California, Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, New Hampshire, Illinois, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Vermont, in addition to Washington, DC, that have adopted laws to close their markets to products of imperiled species.

The United States market for illegal wildlife products is significant

The U.S. is a major contributor to the \$20 billion illegal wildlife trade worldwide that pushes many iconic animals to the brink of extinction while increasing global instability. The global community is taking action to combat this egregious trade, and as recently as June 2018, INTERPOL coordinated a global enforcement operation that resulted in the identification of 1,400 suspects and nearly 2,000 seizures of wildlife products in the U.S., Canada and dozens of other countries.¹

Wildlife trafficking has a significant impact on biodiversity worldwide

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) estimates that, overall, wildlife is being exploited at unsustainable levels and this exploitation causes population declines—even when that estimate is adjusted for the effects of habitat loss and climate change.² Many species and species groups, including African elephants, rhinos, great apes, big cats, and pangolins, are directly threatened because of the illegal wildlife trade. Additional effects from the illegal wildlife trade include a loss of ecosystem

¹ <https://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2018/N2018-058>

² UNEP (2016). Analysis of the environmental impacts of illegal trade in wildlife. Available at http://www.unep.org/about/sgb/Portals/50153/UNEA/FINAL_%20UNEA2_Inf%20doc%2028.pdf

functions that are provided by the affected species, the spread of disease, the spread of invasive species, and incidental impacts on non-target species.

Each year, as many as 15,000 elephants are killed in Africa to supply the demand for their ivory.³ A recent report⁴ found the population of savanna elephants has declined by 60%, and forest elephants by more than 86% since the 1970s, placing them a step or two away from extinction. Cheetahs have lost an estimated 91% of their historic habitat and fewer than 7,100 remain in the wild.⁵

Evidence shows that the U.S. is a significant destination market for giraffe specimens. Between 2006 and 2015, approximately 40,000 giraffe parts and products were imported into the US.⁶ All seven sea turtle species are threatened with extinction. African lion populations have declined by 43% since 1993 and are still declining.⁷ Many other species and species groups are directly threatened because of the illegal wildlife trade, and the killing of these animals by poachers is immensely cruel and threatens the economies of many nations dependent on wildlife tourism.

This situation is at a crisis point. We must enact an all-of-the-above approach to ensure the survival of these animals in the wild, and that requires that government entities, even those far removed from the places where these animals live, do whatever they can to ensure that the poaching and wildlife trafficking epidemics come to an end.

Federal law and regulations primarily focus on interstate commerce; the wildlife trafficking and poaching crises require action to disrupt *intrastate* sales of wildlife products

Allowing legal sales of endangered animal products, such as ivory, can exacerbate poaching problems, if illegal products are laundered into the legal market for these products.⁸ Thus, the legal market for these products provides a cover for illegal products to flourish because of the ease of mixing the two. Prohibiting the trade in these items here in Maryland will in fact help prevent poaching from occurring in countries far away. The market for these products is global and interconnected. Any demand for wildlife products, whether in Maryland or elsewhere, stimulates supply.

Federal laws and regulations primarily restrict the importation and interstate trade of products from endangered and threatened species, but generally do not regulate *intrastate* sales. For instance, regarding the “4(d)” rule to the Endangered Species Act concerning African elephants on strengthening federal ivory regulations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) says that this rule “... does not reach sale or offer for sale or activities in the course of a commercial activity that occur solely within the

³ <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/05/190528120331.htm>

⁴ <https://www.iucn.org/news/species/202103/african-elephant-species-now-endangered-and-critically-endangered-iucn-red-list>

⁵ Durant, Sarah M., et al. “The global decline of cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* and what it means for conservation.” Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (2016): 201611122.

⁶ https://www.hsi.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/pdfs/giraffe_esa_petition_2017.pdf

⁷ Bauer, H., Packer, C., Funston, P.F., Henschel, P. & Nowell, K. 2016. *Panthera leo*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T15951A107265605. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T15951A107265605.en>

⁸ Fischer, C., 2004. The complex interactions of markets for endangered species products. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 48, 926-953; Fischer, C., 2010. Does Trade Help or Hinder the Conservation of Natural Resources? *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*, 4(1), 103-121.

boundaries of a State.”⁹ Further, “Businesses would not be prohibited by the 4(d) rule from selling raw or worked ivory within the State in which they are located.”

The patchwork of federal laws and regulations creates the potential for loopholes that are exploited by those involved in the international and domestic ivory trade. In addition, federal implementation and enforcement are limited due to insufficient resources. State and local measures are critical to complement federal laws and regulations. Former USFWS Director Dan Ashe has said on this topic, “The ivory poaching and trafficking crisis is a complex problem that requires action on multiple levels to ensure that commercial trade doesn’t contribute to the slaughter of elephants in the wild. ... As we work to make it harder for criminals to launder illegal ivory into international and interstate commercial trade, it’s encouraging to see states taking action within their own borders.”¹⁰

Various investigations conducted in Hawaii,¹¹ California,¹² Oregon,¹³ Maryland,¹⁴ and Massachusetts¹⁵ have found many items for sale made of elephant ivory that did not appear to be antique. Most of the stores or sellers that investigators visited across the state in Maryland in 2017 did not have the documentation to prove the legality or origin of their items – making it impossible to know if the products were imported in violation of federal law. Other sellers seemed to deliberately confuse or mislead investigators.

State and local laws prohibiting the trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn are essential as a backstop against any potential rollbacks at the federal level.

Maryland should take action now

As jurisdictions take action to combat the wildlife trafficking problem within their own borders, the markets for these products inevitably move to other areas with weaker laws and regulations. 12 states and Washington DC have taken action on this issue by passing legislation to ban the sale of elephant ivory and rhino horn within their borders, and many of those state laws include a more comprehensive list of species. As Washington DC’s ivory law just went into effect, the ivory trade can easily shift to Maryland where there are no such laws in place.

Individuals will still be able to possess, and under some exemptions, sell these items

SB 381 proposes to prohibit the purchase, sale, offer for sale, or possession with intent to sell any part or product of the covered animal species with reasonable, narrow exemptions. The eleven types of covered animals are elephant, rhinoceros, tiger, lion, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, sea turtle, pangolin, hippo, giraffe, and great ape species. The extinct mammoth is also covered because it takes very little effort to

⁹ <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/2015/2015-18487.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/04/150407-ivory-trade-vermont-usfws-victor-gordon-cities-nra/>

¹¹ http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2016/03/hawaii-ivory-undercover-investigation-030316.html

¹² https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/wil_15010601a.pdf

¹³ http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2016/10/oregon-endangered-animal-products-101116.html

¹⁴ http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2017/02/investigation-finds-products-020817.html;

¹⁵ http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2017/10/investigation-raises-concerns-100217.html

pass elephant ivory off as mammoth, and as a result, elephant ivory has been found for sale under the guise of legal mammoth ivory.¹⁶

Owners of legal items can continue to possess the items, convey them to beneficiaries, or transfer them, as long as no commercial transactions are involved. Exemptions apply for some items, such as qualifying antiques and musical instruments. Zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos Aquariums will not be prevented from transferring live animals, nor their bodily fluids or hair, to other AZA facilities under this legislation per their usual business, as this bill pertains to the commercial trade of parts and products of imperiled species.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. We urge you to support SB 381 to protect wild animals from cruel poaching, wildlife trafficking, and the threat of extinction.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bevan-Dangel
Maryland State Director
The Humane Society of the United States
jbevandangel@humanesociety.org

¹⁶ <http://www.planetexperts.com/sale-of-mammoth-ivory-may-contribute-to-elephant-poaching-experts-say/>

SB381 Images.pdf

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**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Imperiled wildlife parts and products for sale in Maryland



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

In 2017 and again in 2021, the HSUS investigated the sale of elephant ivory and other wildlife products in Maryland.

We found undocumented ivory and other wildlife products for sale across the state, often sold under misleading circumstances.

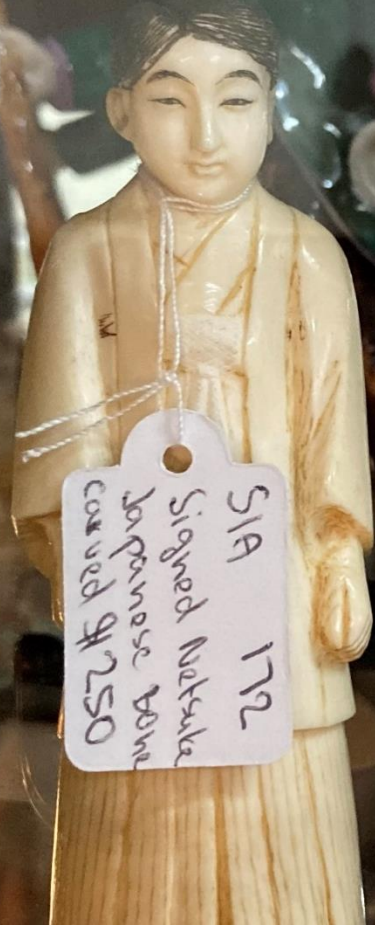
These images show just some of what HSUS found, more findings are available upon request.







SIA 171
Signed Natsuka
Japanese Bone
Carved \$250



SIA 172
Signed Natsuka
Japanese Bone
Carved \$250



SIA 171
Signed Natsuka
Japanese Bone
Carved \$250



SIA 259
Signed Arinaga
Japanese Natsuka
Bone \$250







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Carved Ivory
1200 68



Carved Ivory
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Kevin Schafer/Alamy







Paul Hilton/Paul Hilton Photography



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**Support HB52/SB381 to ban
the sale of parts and products
from imperiled species in MD**

SB381_HSVMA Support MD Wildlife Trafficking Bill 0

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**HUMANE SOCIETY
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION.**

3 February 2022

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Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice-Chair
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland Legislature
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: VETERINARY SUPPORT for HB 52/SB 381, the *Wildlife Trafficking Prevention Act*

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

We are writing on behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA) to convey our strong support for HB 52/SB 381--the *Wildlife Trafficking Prevention Act*--legislation that would prohibit the illegal trade in parts and products of imperiled species, such as elephant ivory and rhino horn, in Maryland.

HSVMA is a national association of approximately 9,000 veterinary professionals—including more than 230 Maryland members—focused on the health and welfare of all animals, including free-roaming wildlife species. To address these welfare concerns, we also support the conservation of at-risk species, preservation of habitat for these iconic animals, and healthy ecosystem balance which can only be achieved if populations of wild animals are not cruelly and arbitrarily killed for profit.

Current federal law prohibits the import, export, trade or interstate commercial transport of ivory. Absence or weakness of state laws addressing these issues affords sellers of wildlife products continued access to American markets. Thus, states still have a critical role to play regarding *intrastate* sales within their borders.

By banning the wildlife parts and products trade in Maryland, the state will help to end the cruel practice of poaching, reduce inhumane and wasteful killing of threatened and iconic wildlife species, and promote an ethic of respect for wild animals. It will also ensure that Maryland residents do not unwittingly contribute to poaching and the illegal wildlife trade.

With passage of HB 52/SB 381, Maryland will join a dozen states--California, Hawaii, Illinois, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington--and the District of Columbia, all of whom have enacted laws closing their markets to illegally acquired parts and products of imperiled species.



We strongly urge you and your colleagues in the Maryland legislature to demonstrate your humane leadership by supporting passage of HB 52/SB 381.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Nikhil Joshi, VMD

Carrie Waters, DVM, PhD, JD, DACVIM

HSVMA Maryland State Representatives

WLT SB 381 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Kathryn Kullberg

Position: FAV



**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
Program Specialist, Wildlife Land Trust
csmith@wildlifelandtrust.org

MSBA.WrittenTestimony.SB381.pdf

Uploaded by: Kimberly Fullerton

Position: FAV

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

Natural Resources - Wildlife Trafficking Preventio

Uploaded by: Lisa Radov

Position: FAV



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411
BALTIMORE, MD 21209

February 8, 2022

To: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.

Re: Natural Resources – Wildlife Trafficking Prevention – SB 381 - Support

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairman Kagan, members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before to you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our members across Maryland, I respectfully request that the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee vote favorably for Natural Resources – Wildlife Trafficking Prevention – SB 381.

This bill prohibits the sale of parts or products from endangered or threatened wildlife from a list of species including elephants, giraffes, rhinoceros, and pangolins. While Federal law already prohibits the import of these parts or products and their sale across state lines, it is still legal within our state.

With Washington, DC, New Jersey, and New York having passed legislation protecting all or some of these animals, Maryland has become a hot spot for this illegal trade. Baltimore is a certified antiques port, so with nearby states and our nation's capital banning these sales, it puts pressure on our port and our state as these illegal items are coming into in Maryland.

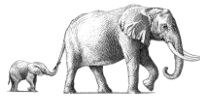
Our state is no stranger to taking a stand to protect a species from these activities. In 2013, Maryland was the first state on the East Coast to pass a law banning shark finning. In 2017 and 2018, The Maryland legislature heard bills to ban wildlife trafficking that did not pass. Senator Smith was a co-sponsor of the Senate Bill with Senator Young. It is time for Maryland to take a similar step forward, not only to protect sharks as we did in 2013, but also to protect these endangered or threatened species whose numbers have declined precipitously in the past four years, fueled in part by illegal poaching and the continued trafficking of these wildlife parts.

I want to thank Senator Smith for his sponsorship of this important bill and urge this committee for a favorable report.

Maryland SB 381 2022 letter of support SWT USA.pdf

Uploaded by: Melissa Sciacca

Position: FAV



USA
SHELDRIK
WILDLIFE TRUST

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February 8, 2022

RE: Support for Senate Bill 381

Dear Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

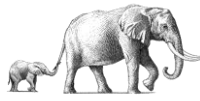
The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is writing today to express our strong support for the passage of Senate Bill 381 that would put important safeguards in place to severely limit wildlife trafficking practices, resulting in further protection at the state level for many of the world's most treasured and iconic species- specifically the elephant and rhinoceros.

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (DSWT) is best known for its work in rehabilitating and hand-raising orphaned elephants and rhinos, largely as a result of poaching. DSWT has a significant presence and following in the United States, with more than 1,000 dedicated supporters residing in Maryland who share our commitment to preserving wildlife.

Ivory tusks that have no purpose to an individual other than to be carved into a statue or trinket, are helping to drive a multi-billion dollar industry in domestic goods, resulting in a staggering 66% drop in elephant population in the last 40 years. The recent Elephant Census Survey conducted over Africa in 2016 revealed that just over 350,000 elephants remain, a far worse outcome and reality than conservationists had imagined. Elephants and rhinos are in grave danger, and we have the ability to put an end to their crisis.

SB 381 will put into place important measures that offer an added level of protection to elephants like tiny "Barsilinga" (pictured right), who at only two weeks old, was found at the side of his mother who had endured fatal gun shots to her chest and legs. Her tragic death is a grizzly reminder of the suffering attached to each piece of ivory that is sold and bought. Barsilinga continues to recover at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, however to this day carries deep emotional wounds and memories related to his mother's tragic passing.





USA
SHELDRIK
WILDLIFE TRUST

As the United States remains a top market for wildlife goods with more than 1/3 of products imported illegally, it is our duty as responsible humans, to offer protection for those that cannot protect themselves from enemies they have no chance of defeating alone. We strongly urge you to support bill SB 381 in an effort to safeguard species that have just as much right to inhabit this planet as humans.

If you have any further questions or would like more information about how SB 381 can protect little rhinos and elephants like Barsilinga, please feel free to contact me directly at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Melissa L. Sciacca
Executive Director
David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust USA
melissa@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

SB0381-753527-01.pdf

Uploaded by: William Smith

Position: FAV



SB0381/753527/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

03 FEB 22
13:40:09

BY: Senator Smith
(To be offered in the Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 381

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 3, in line 3, strike “AN” and substitute “:

(1) AN”;

and in line 5, after “SERVICE” insert “;OR

(2) A ZOO OR AQUARIUM THAT PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL OR SCIENTIFIC SERVICES AND THAT IS ACCREDITED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS”.

On page 5, in line 17, before “UNLESS” insert “**(A)**”; strike beginning with “PURCHASE” in line 18 down through “OF” in line 19 and substitute “**FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS TO SELL, BARTER, OR TRADE**”; and in line 20, after “PRODUCT” insert “:

(1) A BONA FIDE SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION; OR

(2) A SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO SELL, BARTER, OR TRADE FOR SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

(B) A LIST OF INSTITUTIONS AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST”.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 381.pdf

Uploaded by: Diane Hutchins

Position: FWA

MARYLAND ZOO

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 381

SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 8, 2022

POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee-

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore strongly supports the *intent* of Senate Bill 381.

Created by an act of the Maryland General Assembly in 1876, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is owned by the City of Baltimore. It is in year 30 of a lease between the City and the State of Maryland. The Zoo is operated on behalf of the State by the non-profit Maryland Zoological Society, Inc. (MZS) through a sub-lease between the State and the MZS.

The Zoo has provided high levels of care following the best applicable standards of animal husbandry for 146 years. Its mission is to inspire and educate people to join with us in the active support and conservation of wildlife and wild places. As an entity where the staff spends each day working to save animals from extinction, the very notion of wildlife trafficking is anathema to all who work at the Zoo. The practice is antithetical to all that the Zoo stands for and represents.

However, the bill, as introduced, has the potential to be detrimental to The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. The definition of a “bona fide scientific or educational institution” on page 3 of the bill, lines 4-6, upon first reading appears to encompass the Zoo. However, there is some question as to whether the language would do so as the tax-exempt status belongs to the MZS but the Zoo is owned by a governmental entity, the City of Baltimore.

While the Zoo has been accredited by the AZA since 1980, works hard to maintain accreditation, and does not anticipate a change in that status, zoos do lose accreditation. The Salisbury Zoological Park, known as the Salisbury Zoo, had been accredited by the AZA since 1976 and lost its accreditation in 2019. The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium which had also been accredited by AZA since 1980 (and became nationally known during the tenure of its long-time director Jack Hanna), lost its accreditation in 2021. It is possible for an institution to regain AZA

accreditation and the organization views the results of accreditation to be proprietary information. The AZA evaluates a plethora of items: animal welfare, care, and management (including living environments, social groupings, health, and nutrition), veterinary program, involvement in conservation and research, education programs, safety policies and procedures, security, physical facilities, guest services, and the quality of the institution's staff. Accreditation also evaluates each institution's finances, its governing authority, and its support organization. Because this examination is so comprehensive, it is difficult to envision how the Maryland Department of Natural Resources would be capable of evaluating and/or enforcing standards of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Thus, after discussion with the sponsor of House Bill 52-which is the cross-file of Senate bill 381-The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore supported the amendment that was offered by the sponsor in the House Environment and Transportation Committee. The Zoo has been informed that the same amendment may be offered as a sponsor amendment to Senate Bill 381. That amendment states:

On page 3, in line 4, strike “AN” and substitute “: (1) AN”; and in line 6, after “SERVICE” insert “; OR (2) A ZOO OR AQUARIUM THAT PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL OR SCIENTIFIC SERVICES AND THAT IS ACCREDITED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS”. On page 5, in line 18, before “UNLESS” insert “(A)”; strike beginning with “PURCHASE” in line 19 down through “OF” in line 20 and substitute “FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS TO SELL, BARTER, OR TRADE”; and in line 21, after “PRODUCT” insert “: (1) A BONA FIDE SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION; OR (2) A SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO SELL, BARTER, OR TRADE FOR SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. (B) A LIST OF INSTITUTIONS AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST”.

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore urges the Committee to give a Favorable With Amendments report on Senate Bill 381.

SB381- National Aquarium - Wildlife Trafficking Pr

Uploaded by: Ryan Fredriksson

Position: FWA



Date: February 8, 2022

Bill: SB 381 – Natural Resources – Wildlife Trafficking Prevention

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

The National Aquarium respectfully requests a favorable with amendments report for **Senate Bill 381 - Natural Resources – Wildlife Trafficking Prevention**, which will further protect vulnerable species, including sea turtles. We are seeking the following amendment to be introduced by the sponsor on page 3, line 6:

(B) “BONA FIDE SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION” MEANS AN INSTITUTION THAT ESTABLISHES EDUCATIONAL OR SCIENTIFIC TAX-EXEMPT STATUS THROUGH DOCUMENTATION FROM THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; OR A ZOO OR AQUARIUM THAT PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL OR SCIENTIFIC SERVICES AND THAT IS ACCREDITED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS”.

The proposed amendment expands the definition of a scientific or educational institution to include a zoo or aquarium that provides educational or scientific services and is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). This change ensures the National Aquarium is properly classified as educational institution and allows the continued use of legally obtained animal artifacts in our education programs. Additionally, this change ensures AZA institutions are still able to exchange educational resources between institutions.

Saving wildlife and habitats is one of the National Aquarium’s three strategic conservation goals, so we appreciate that this bill will prohibit the intrastate purchasing, selling, offering for sale, or possessing with the intent to sell certain parts or products of vulnerable animal species. Specifically, the bill would apply to all six endangered or threatened sea turtle species found in U.S. waters.

Since 1991, the National Aquarium has operated a sea turtle stranding response and rehabilitation program and is the only organization permitted to respond to live-stranded sea turtles in the State of Maryland. The National Aquarium is also involved in several efforts to increase support for sea turtle conservation, including AZA’s Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) Sea Turtle program. Illegal wildlife trafficking undercuts the efforts of dedicated institutions working throughout our state, country and around the world to protect species like sea turtles from extinction.

By passing SB 381, Maryland will join a growing list of states taking action in their jurisdiction to support the global effort to prevent illegal wildlife trafficking. **We urge the Committee to issue a favorable with amendments report on SB 381.**

Contact:

Ryan Fredriksson

Vice President, Government Affairs

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