

Testimony of Alyssa Dangel

January 19, 2022

House Environment and Transportation Committee

House Bill 52

Natural Resources – Wildlife Trafficking Prevention

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 this. 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.

This bill 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 House Bill 52.