

January 31, 2019

Senator Jason Lewis  
Massachusetts State House  
24 Beacon Street  
Room 511-B  
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Lori Ehrlich  
Massachusetts State House  
24 Beacon Street  
Room 167  
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Letter of Support from Born Free USA on Senate Docket 60

Dear Senator Lewis and Representative Ehrlich,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support of Massachusetts Senate Docket 60. My name is Julie Kluck, and I am a Campaigns Associate at Born Free USA, a non-profit organization that seeks to end the suffering of wild animals in captivity, rescue individual animals in need, and protect wildlife in their natural habitats – by keeping wildlife in the wild and encouraging compassionate conservation globally. Born Free is a leader in the anti-wildlife trafficking movement, having devoted years to advocating for major reform in wildlife trade, both in the United States and internationally.

On behalf of Born Free and its Massachusetts supporters, we would like to support the proposed Senate Docket 60, An Act Relative to Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn Trafficking. Born Free supports passage of this bill, which would prohibit any person from selling, purchasing, or possessing with the intent to sell, any ivory or rhinoceros horn. As with similar bills passed in other states, S.D. 60 has appropriate exceptions and contains criminal penalties for violations. Not only is this bill a compassionate solution to real problems of poaching and potential extinction of some of the worlds most cherished species, but it is needed now more than ever, with the federal government's policies on importing wildlife trophies and parts from international hunts in limbo.

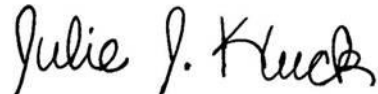
As you are no doubt aware, poaching and hunting have decimated the most iconic species. For example, as few as 20,000 lions remain in the wild and tens of thousands of elephants are poached for their ivory each year. Wild rhino numbers in Africa are around 25,000, and more than 1,000 per year lose their lives to illegal killing in South Africa alone. Leopards have disappeared from most of their historic range due to habitat loss, and they face additional threats from demand for their pelts or other body parts. Sadly, the list goes on.

Unfortunately, the United States is a major destination for many of these parts and products, so there is a real need for legislative solutions, and particularly so at the state level. By passing S.D. 60, the legislature can help manage the global poaching crisis and send a strong message that Massachusetts will not tolerate illegal wildlife trafficking.

Due to Born Free's extensive knowledge of the consequences of illegal trade in wildlife parts and products, we respectfully request that you pass Senate Docket 60.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie J. Kluck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Kluck  
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