

Dear Representative,

Recently HB 2176, "Ivory; rhinoceros horn; sales; prohibition", has been introduced in committee, which if passed, will ban the sale and barter of all ivory including *fossil mammoth ivory and teeth* in the state of Arizona.

It is obvious that the intent is to assist in ending the poaching and destruction of certain animals for their horns and tusks. But in the fervor to do this, fossil ivory has been included. It is easy to distinguish from "live" or "raw" contemporary ivory as outlined on the United States Fish & Wildlife Forensics

Laboratory web page; http://www.fws.gov/lab/ivory_natural.php . **To ban fossil ivory from extinct animals is senseless, since no animals are destroyed in the acquisition of this material.**

If this bill passes it will have a harmful effect on the Tucson and Quartzsite Gem, Mineral and Fossils shows. The Tucson show is the single largest income event for the City of Tucson. Direct spending for the 2014 show was at \$120 million. That represented a rise of 52% over the previous 7 years! An estimate would put the 2016 economic impact at 10% above this. Do you really want to dent this thriving enterprise while not doing anything to achieve the goals of the proposed legislation?

Banning the sale of *fossil mammoth ivory and teeth* will do nothing to affect the terrible slaughter of elephants and rhinoceros in Africa.

I strongly support amending HB 2176 by removing all mention of Mammoth Ivory and teeth, and exempting extinct species from the bill in order to preserve antique pianos, estate jewelry, scrimshaw art, and fossils found on private land.

Regards,