

**STATEMENT OF GODFREY HARRIS,
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE
IVORY EDUCATION INSTITUTE,
BEFORE THE LOS ANGELES
CITY COUNCIL ON APRIL 1, 2015.**

15-0002-510 #23

ENHANCING
UNDERSTANDING
OF THE
HISTORIC,
PRACTICAL, AND
CULTURAL
IMPORTANCE
OF IVORY



**Ivory Education Institute
Political Action Network/
International Ivory Society**

Thank you. The Ivory Education Institute is dedicated to bringing about a better understanding of the historic, artistic, scientific, and practical uses of all ivory, not just the ivory that comes from elephants.



The resolution before Council supports a deeply flawed bill.

It effectively bans all ivory trade and movement in California. Limiting supply without reducing demand, creates scarcity. That forces the price up, enhances the profit in poaching, and actually increases the danger to elephants.

Your Rules Committee believes the Speaker's bill will help elephants, but in fact it will hurt your constituents more.

Antique shops, art dealers, appraisers, auction galleries, museums, musicians, collectors, and most of all citizens in your districts — who have legally acquired ivory in their travels, as a part of a hobby, in pursuit of their livelihood, or through gifts and inheritances — will lose their property without any compensation.

Please think today rather than doing the rote or the routine: Table this measure now and then solicit ideas for formulating a much more realistic, equitable, and effective way for the citizens of Los Angeles to do their part in protecting the vulnerable elephants of Africa. We would be happy to make suggestions toward this end.