

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: June 20, 2016

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations and
Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *KEY*
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 15-0002-S186
Assignment No: 16-06-0493

SUBJECT: Resolution (Koretz-Krekorian-O'Farrell) to OPPOSE HR 2406 (Wittman).

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Koretz-Krekorian-O'Farrell) to include in the City's 2015-2016 Federal Legislative Program, OPPOSITION to HR 2406 (Wittman), which would loosen restrictions on lead ammunition and worsen the illegal African ivory trade.

SUMMARY

Resolution (Koretz-Krekorian-O'Farrell), introduced on June 3, 2016, suggests opposing HR 2406, the SHARE Act of 2015, because it allows for lead ammunition to be used in a wider array of locations, additional ivory to be imported and exported from the United States, and guns to be carried in various water conservation areas. According to the Resolution, reputable groups such as the Center for Biological Diversity, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and the National Parks Conservation Association have expressed displeasure and urged opposition to HR 2406 because lead ammunition not only poisons the environment, but also it can have serious negative consequences for scavenger animals that consume animals killed with lead bullets. Furthermore, African ivory is an illegal commodity that has grown exponentially in value over the past 10 years, and its high demand has been shown to stimulate political violence and terrorism in Africa and other regions where elephants are present. The Resolution therefore requests that the City oppose HR 2406.

BACKGROUND

The City of Los Angeles has long been an advocate for environmental protection and common-sense gun reform measures. Resolution (Koretz – Zine, C.F. 13-0002-S43) expressed support for AB 711 in the City's 2013-14 State Legislative Program, which would have banned the use of lead ammunition in California. The reasons to support AB 711 in 2013 are the same as today; lead damages the environment and is dangerous for scavenger animals that consume its residual contents. Furthermore, sport fishing equipment and its components (such as lead sinkers) are exempted from regulations of chemical substances under the Toxic Substances Control Act.

The National Geographic Society has published a report entitled, "How Killing Elephants Finances Terror in Africa," that evaluated the methods armed terrorist groups use to smuggle elephant ivory because of its high street value.

HR 2406 also is opposed by numerous environmental organizations because it allows for the carrying of firearms in additional locations such as water conservation areas, and increases the amount of land states may use for public target ranges.

BILL STATUS

03/01/2016 Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources



Henry Flatt
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Resolution (Koretz-Krekorian-O'Farrell)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the use of lead ammunition by hunters in California and Los Angeles is contaminating the environment with lead toxins and leading to the death of various species of wildlife, particularly scavengers that feed on the animal remains left from hunters; and

WHEREAS, lead is a neurotoxin and a lingering source of pollution in the environment that has compromised the efforts of various environmental organizations to restore endangered wildlife in the City, including bald eagles and turkey vultures; and

WHEREAS, currently pending before the United States Senate is a bill, HR2406, which would diminish the authority of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture to regulate the use of ammunition based on its lead content; and

WHEREAS, HR2406 also loosens restrictions on the importation of select African ivory, which has proven to be a determinant of political violence and terrorism; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Biological Diversity, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and the National Parks Conservation Association have recommended opposition to HR2406; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-2016 Federal Legislative Program opposition to HR2406, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015, which perpetuates the illegal African ivory trade and loosens restrictions on lead ammunition.

PRESENTED BY _____
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY _____

JUN 03 2016