

BRAD HOYLMAN
27TH SENATE DISTRICT



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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CONSUMER PROTECTION
INVESTIGATIONS &
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEES:

CODES
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME &
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October 16, 2014

Ms. Wendi Weber
Office of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Northeast Regional Office Director
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9587

Dear Ms. Weber:

I am writing to request that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service consider hosting an "ivory crush" event in New York City, possibly Times Square, within my Senate District.

Your successful partnership last year with the City of Denver raised public awareness significantly about the illegal ivory trade, poaching and the potential extinction of elephants if this barbarous practice is to continue. Times Square is an appropriate location for another such an event not only because of the attention it would draw from international media, but also because New York City is a major hub of the illegal ivory trade.

As you are aware, in 2012 alone, a joint investigation by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Manhattan District Attorney's office led to the seizure of elephant ivory worth more than \$2 million from jewelers based in New York City. To help stem the illegal ivory trade here in New York, Governor Cuomo recently signed legislation that strengthened criminal and civil penalties for buyers and sellers of elephant and mammoth ivory and rhinoceros horns.



Director, National Wildlife Repository
October 7, 2014
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Thank you for your consideration of this request. I sincerely understand and appreciate that there are significant logistical concerns that such a proposal might raise. Should you need support, please consider my Senate office a resource to assist you and contact me or Max Markham of my staff at (212) 633-8052.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Hoylman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brad Hoylman
New York State Senator
27th District

cc: Mr. Ryan Tate, President, Veterans Empowered to Protect African Wildlife
(VETPAW)
Ms. Cynthia Newlin