



Animal Welfare Institute

900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003
awionline.org phone: (202) 337-2332 fax: (202) 446-2131

March 8, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

Thank you for your strong statements opposing the importation of certain sport-hunted trophies of African elephants and other imperiled species into the United States. I wish to follow up on my November 21, 2017, letter (attached) to again respectfully request, on behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute, that you permanently ban the importation of trophies from elephants, lions, and other threatened and endangered species in African nations.

I strongly agree with your statement that trophy hunting of imperiled species is a "horror show" that does not help achieve conservation goals. Furthermore, I am encouraged by your comment that the US Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to reverse the import ban was "terrible," and that you "didn't want elephants killed and stuffed and have the tusks brought back into this [country]." Trophy hunting of imperiled species is inhumane, nonsensical, and does not enhance species survival. It should not be elevated above approaches that have proven more valuable and effective for wildlife conservation and economic development.

I admire your principled stance on this issue, but am dismayed that Secretary Zinke is disregarding your concerns and, as of March 1, will decide whether to allow trophy imports on a "case-by-case basis." I urge you to direct Secretary Zinke to end the agency's political games with this policy and to ban the importation of trophies from threatened and endangered species in African nations once and for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Liss".

Cathy Liss
President
Animal Welfare Institute