



New York State Conservation Council Inc.
8 East Main Street, Ilion, New York 13357-1899

MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

Bill # **A 5116** Rosenthal Same as **S 120** Hoylman
 S 1883A Avella No same as

Title: Bans the importation, transportation and possession of certain African wildlife species and products.

This proposal would prohibit the importation of selected big game hunting trophies even if legally possessed and licensed for export from the country of origin.

Justification:

The NYSCC opposes legislation that inserts New York into the regulation of the importation and possession of legally taken foreign game. Regulation of wildlife issues involving foreign countries and ensuring compliance with treaties to which the United States is a party is a federal responsibility and is best left in those hands.

All international trade in protected species of wildlife, including the shipment of hunting trophies, is regulated under the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). CITES is a 40 year old international agreement among 181 nations. It is an active organization, administered by a Secretariat within the United Nations Environmental Program. Approximately 5600 animal and 30,000 plant species are protected by CITES.

In addition to international CITES regulations, hunters attempting to import trophies to the United States are subject to stricter domestic measures that have been put into place under the [Endangered Species Act](#). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the federal agency that regulates the importation of trophies and controls the movement of wildlife across United States borders.

[U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) also have specific oversight responsibilities.

Big game species are more than adequately protected against illegal trafficking and, equally important, from locally legal exploitation by this regulatory structure. No additional regulation at the state level is necessary.

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05/01/18