

1 [Supporting California Assembly Bill 96 (Atkins and Lara) - Prohibiting the Sale of Ivory and
2 Rhinoceros Horn]

3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill 96, co-authored by Speaker of the**
4 **State Assembly Atkins and State Senator Lara, which prohibits the sale of ivory and**
5 **rhinoceros horn in California.**

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7 WHEREAS, There is worldwide concern regarding the plight of African and Asian
8 elephants and rhinoceroses, which are considered “keystone” species in their respective
9 ecosystems; and

10 WHEREAS, African Elephants are being poached at alarming rates — an average of
11 96 elephants per day are killed and some estimates suggest that central African elephants
12 could be extinct by 2025; and

13 WHEREAS, More than 1,020 rhinoceroses out of a remaining 29,000 in the wild were
14 poached in South Africa alone in 2014; and

15 WHEREAS, Rhinoceros poaching is estimated to be increasing by 30% each year and
16 is threatening the species with extinction; and

17 WHEREAS, Illegal poaching and wildlife trafficking is the fourth largest transnational
18 crime and illicit ivory syndicates greatly contribute to armed strife; and

19 WHEREAS, Smuggling gangs routinely engage in corruption and violence to move
20 tons of tusks to markets thousands of miles away, further enabling the funding of other
21 criminal operations and destabilizing nations; and

22 WHEREAS, International, Federal, and State laws are all being strengthened to protect
23 these iconic species from cruelty and extinction; and

1 WHEREAS, The States of New York and New Jersey recently enacted strong
2 prohibitions on intra-state ivory and rhinoceros horn commerce and the Federal government
3 has proposed strengthened ivory trade and import regulations; and

4 WHEREAS, San Francisco, along with Los Angeles, has consistently ranked among
5 the top trading markets for illegal ivory in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, California has prohibited the ivory trade since 1977, but a loophole has
7 rendered the law unenforceable — allowing illegal sales to flourish; and

8 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 96, co-authored by Speaker of the California State
9 Assembly Toni Atkins and State Senator Ricardo Lara, prohibits a person from purchasing,
10 selling, offering for sale, possessing with intent to sell, or importing with intent to sell ivory or
11 rhinoceros horn, except as specified for educational or scientific criteria or consistent with
12 defined antiquities provisions; and

13 WHEREAS, AB 96 closes the existing loophole by making the ivory trade illegal
14 regardless of the date of its importation, and makes this prohibition enforceable by the
15 Department of Fish and Wildlife; and

16 WHEREAS, The California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs
17 voted in support of AB 96; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco strongly supports Assembly
19 Bill 96 prohibiting the sale of ivory and rhinoceros horn in California regardless of date of
20 importation; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco is unwavering in its
22 support and protection for elephants and rhinoceroses and strongly condemns illegal
23 poaching.

