

*The Nation's First
Elephant Sanctuary*



PAWS
PERFORMING ANIMAL
WELFARE SOCIETY

Founded in 1984
P R O T E C T I O N
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A D V O C A C Y
S A N C T U A R Y
pawsweb.org

March 4, 2015

Honorable Toni G. Atkins
California Assembly

Honorable Ricardo Lara
California Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94249-0078

Dear Assembly Speaker Atkins and Senator Lara,

We in the entertainment industry join the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) in applauding you for introducing AB 96, the bill that would prohibit the sale of ivory and rhinoceros horn, with limited exceptions, in California. We give this bill our strongest and most enthusiastic support.

We cannot imagine a world where majestic elephants and mighty rhinos no longer roam the land. But every day we are losing more and more of these precious animals for no reason other than greed. Elephants and rhinos are being poached at alarming rates in Africa, where they are gunned down or poisoned and then stripped of their tusks or horns for expensive trinkets and symbols of social status.

Nearly 100 elephants are killed each day in Africa, and more than 1,000 rhinos out of a remaining 29,000 in the wild were poached in South Africa alone in 2014. Unless action is taken now, these iconic animals are headed toward extinction – which is why passage of AB 96 is vital.

AB 96 would significantly contribute to the survival of elephants and rhinos by eliminating the market for illegal ivory and rhino horns in California. Its passage would send a message to other states and to other countries that immediate action is necessary if we are to save these beloved species.

Each and every one of us has a responsibility to the animals and to future generations to ensure that elephants, rhinos and other wild animals can live free and thrive in their native lands. The introduction of AB 96 is a crucial step toward this worthy goal.

We stand ready to do what we can to pass AB 96 and help protect the lives of wild elephants and rhinos. Thank you for introducing this very important bill.

Sincerely,

Aziz Ansari
(Actor and comedian, *Parks and Rec*)

Bob Barker
(Emmy Award-winning television legend)

Kim Basinger
(Academy Award-winning actress)



ACCREDITED



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AB 96 Support Letter

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(Writer and producer, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* and *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*)

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(Celebrity chef and cookbook author)

Ross McCall

(Actor)

Kimberly McDonald

(Celebrity jewelry designer)

Kevin Nealon

(Actor and comedian)

Oren Segal

(Radius Entertainment)

Amanda Silver

(Writer and producer, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* and *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*)

Betty Thomas

(Actress, *Hill Street Blues*)

Lily Tomlin

(Actress, comedienne, producer)