



[Redacted]

Fwd: REQUEST FOR COMMENT REOPENING - black rhino import

1 message

[Redacted]

Tue, Nov 22, 2016 at 6:24 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [Redacted]@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, May 18, 2016 at 8:05 PM
Subject: Fwd: REQUEST FOR COMMENT REOPENING - black rhino import
To: [Redacted]@fws.gov>

Sharing given connection to petition.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [Redacted]@fws.gov>
To: [Redacted]@fws.gov>, [Redacted]@fws.gov>, [Redacted]@fws.gov>, [Redacted]@fws.gov>
Subject: Fwd: REQUEST FOR COMMENT REOPENING - black rhino import

All,

Got the following from [Redacted], HSUS. If you had not see a more direct connection between Dr. Murry and Pembient, Inc., here it is.

I am not inclined to reopen the comment period, but recognize that there seems to be more to the off-hand statement on page 23 than I first was giving it. I believe this does need to be taken into consideration.

[Redacted]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [Redacted]@humanesociety.org>
Date: Thu, May 12, 2016 at 3:49 PM
Subject: REQUEST FOR COMMENT REOPENING - black rhino import
To: [Redacted]@fws.gov>
Cc: [Redacted]@humanesociety.org>

Hi [Redacted] – it just came to my attention that the application from University of Washington that was noticed in the Federal Register as an import of wild black rhino samples for scientific research is actually an import for commercial purposes.

As discussed in the attached request for enforcement that HSUS submitted to FWS regarding the efforts of Pembient, Inc. to engage in commercial trade of synthetic rhino horn in violation of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act (and in a petition filed by the Center for Biological Diversity on the same issue, also attached), the conservation community has enormous concern about the impacts of producing synthetic rhino DNA/horns/products.

The applicant for PRT-80989B, Charles Murry, is affiliated with Pembient, Inc., and buried in the application materials for this import (on page 23 of 95) is a reference to the true intent of this import, to develop "lab-grown horns." See <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/latenightlive/can-biotech-save-rhinos-from-extinction/6677472>.

We respectfully request that the Service reopen the comment period for PRT-80989B so that FWS' decision on whether to issue this ESA import permit (or the related CITES import permit) is informed by the best available science. If the Service has already issued either of these permits, we request that you reconsider that decision.

Thank you,



<https://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FWS-HQ-IA-2016-0058>

https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/04/08/2016-08016/08016-endangered-species-receipt-of-applications-for-permit?utm_campaign=subscription+mailing+list&utm_medium=email&utm_source=federalregister.gov

Applicant: University of Washington, Seattle, WA; PRT-80987B

The applicant requests a permit to import biological samples from black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) collected in the wild in South Africa, for the purpose of scientific research.



Senior Attorney, Wildlife & Animal Research

Animal Protection Litigation



The Humane Society of the United States
2100 L Street NW Washington, DC 20037
humanesociety.org/litigation

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