

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1915

To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to prohibit the sale of products labeled as containing endangered species, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 27, 1996

Mr. JEFFORDS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to prohibit the sale of products labeled as containing endangered species, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rhino and Tiger Prod-
5 uct Labeling Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON SALE OF PRODUCTS LABELED AS**
7 **CONTAINING ENDANGERED SPECIES.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

9 (1) the populations of several magnificent and
10 unique endangered species, such as the African

1 black rhinoceros, the southern white rhinoceros, and
2 the many tiger subspecies, are declining;

3 (2) growing demand throughout the world for
4 wildlife and wildlife parts and products has created
5 a market in which commercial exploitation has
6 threatened certain wildlife populations;

7 (3) there is no legal mechanism enabling the
8 United States Fish and Wildlife Service to confiscate
9 products labeled as containing endangered species
10 and prosecute the merchandiser for sale or display
11 of the products; and

12 (4)(A) although approximately 90,000 import
13 and export shipments occur annually in the United
14 States, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service
15 is able to maintain only 74 wildlife inspectors at 11
16 ports of entry to monitor the shipments; and

17 (B) wildlife inspectors are able to physically in-
18 spect an estimated 5 percent of all shipments, mak-
19 ing the detection rate of contraband wildlife prod-
20 ucts extremely low.

21 (b) PROHIBITION.—Section 9(a) of the Endangered
22 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1538(a)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (1)(F), by inserting before the
24 semicolon the following: “or any product labeled as

1 containing any such species or any species of fish or
2 wildlife listed in Appendix I to the Convention”; and

3 (2) in paragraph (2)(D), by inserting before the
4 semicolon the following: “or any product labeled as
5 containing any such species or any species of plant
6 listed in Appendix I to the Convention”.

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