

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## MEMO

To: House Community and Regional Affairs Committee

From: Senator Donny Olson  
SJR 4 Prime Sponsor

Subject: S.1965 Federal Legislation

Date: April 3, 2018

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House Community and Regional Affairs Members,

Thank you for allowing me to provide additional information in response to a question regarding the effectiveness of a state resolution urging federal legislation to exempt Alaska ivory from Lower 48 ivory restrictions and bans.

Alaskan ivory artists and craftsmen have suffered a noticeable drop in ivory sales the past few years. Six states have already enacted restrictions or total bans of ivory and sixteen other states have similar legislation in process. Quick national action is needed to address the unintended consequences to Alaska ivory of these ivory restrictions and bans.

Senator Dan Sullivan introduced S.1965 into Congress, on October 17, 2017. This bill amends the Marine Mammal Protection Act and directly prohibits state ivory restrictions and bans affecting Alaska ivory. SJR 4 will be a helpful tool for Senator Sullivan demonstrating to senators and representatives how serious Alaska is taking the unintended impacts these state ivory restrictions and bans have had on Alaska ivory artists and craftsmen.

I direct your attention to page 4 of the S.1965 copy attached with this memo to read the language in S.1965 addressing this issue.