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Mr A Masondo Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

Dear Mr Masondo

COMMENTS: SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO DOMESTIC TRADE IN RHINOCEROS HORN

The Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament welcomes the opportunity to comment on the afore-mentioned subordinate legislation. It also wishes to express its appreciation of the legislation's intent to protect the Rhinoceros species under South African law and the Committee supports all actions that will protect and ensure the future of the rhinoceros species.

The Committee has deliberated on the impact of the subordinate legislation on the Western Cape and wishes to comment as follows:

Chapter 5, Clause 18, has reference: The Committee is of the view that the penalties as prescribed may not be sufficient to act as a real deterrent to transgressors. Consideration should be given to clarify and increase the penalties, especially the monetary amount.

Furthermore, the different penalty amounts for environmental crime contained in different pieces of legislation is of concern to the Committee. If illegal activities are to be discouraged, then penalties must be clear and not open to interpretation.

The Committee has also noted that this legislation will, in addition, cause added administrative responsibilities for provinces and would appreciate it if any assessments done in this regard could be shared with us.

We trust that you would take the afore-mentioned comments into favourable consideration.

Yours sincerely

MR AP VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, MPP

CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

CC: MR MASIZOLE MNQASELA

SPEAKER

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT