



# NONHUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

June 11, 2018

Assemblyman Steven Englebright  
621 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248

**RE: Support for A.8157-A/S.7718-A, an act to prohibit the issuance of permits for the use of wild animals in circuses**

Dear Assemblyman Englebright:

On behalf of The Nonhuman Rights Project and our New York supporters, I am writing to express our strong support for A.8157-A/S.7718-A, an act to prohibit the issuance of permits for the use of wild animals in circuses in New York. We thank you for your willingness to champion this issue and for introducing this important piece of legislation.

Wild animals live complex and emotionally rich lives in their natural environment where they can engage in their innate behaviors. Animals in circuses face a bleak existence, one where they are subjected to beatings, psychological torment, and perpetual isolation. They are deprived of their liberty, forced to live in cages and trailers, and prohibited from moving about freely or engaging in any behavior that is natural to them.

Watching wild animals perform unnatural tricks does not foster respect or appreciation for wildlife. Rather, it teaches children that it's acceptable to exploit and mistreat animals for amusement and provides a distorted understanding of the animals' natural behaviors. Americans are increasingly signaling their preferences for more compassionate treatment of our fellow creatures, both with their pocketbooks and their choices in entertainment.

Taking the public's lead on this issue, Ringling Brothers announced that it would retire elephants from its show, with the last elephant performance being on May 1, 2016. The following year, on May 21, 2017, it closed its travelling circus and ended all animal performances. Similarly, in 2017 New York prohibited the use of elephants in circus acts and performances. It's time for New York to take action and extend this protection to all wild animals.

Thank you again for introducing A.8157-A/S.7718-A. The Nonhuman Rights Project is here to help ensure its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Fern". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Courtney Fern  
Director of Government Relations  
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