

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 21, 2014

Chair Mary Jo White
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, NE
Washington, DC 20549

Dear Chair White:

With the Securities and Exchange Commission's Final Rule on Conflict Minerals now fully upheld by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and with that decision largely affirmed by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, we write to urge that all due diligence and other reporting requirements due on the May 31, 2014, initial filing deadline move forward as promulgated. This SEC rule was drafted in a balanced and thoughtful way that followed Congressional intent in trying to provide greater transparency in the use of key minerals that fuel horrific violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). With strong court decisions affirming the key components of the rule, no delay is warranted in the implementation of those requirements while any remaining free speech issues are resolved (namely the listing of specific products that are not "DRC Conflict Free" and the requirement for companies to also post their reports on their own websites).

This original conflict minerals law sought to address the conflict minerals black market and resulting violence in DRC – violence which has claimed more than five million lives and earned eastern Congo the ominous designation as the "Rape Capital of the World." This deadliest conflict since World War II is fueled, in part, by the mining and trade of minerals used in everything from cell phones, to jewelry, to airplanes.

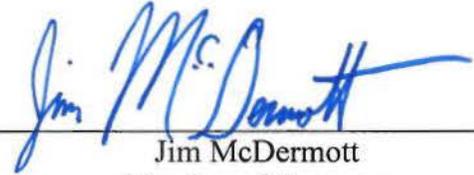
As such, the law we passed was simple. Congress said that any company registered in the United States which uses any of a small list of key minerals from the DRC or its neighbors has to disclose in its SEC filing the use of those minerals and what is being done, if anything, to mitigate sourcing from those perpetuating DRC's violence. Such transparency allows consumers and investors to know which companies source materials more responsibly in DRC and serves as a catalyst for industry to finally create clean supply chains out of Congo. This key provision was upheld in both court rulings.

We urge the SEC to continue implementation of this rule in light of the judicial validation of both the underlying statute and the SEC's promulgated rule. We also thank the Commission for its notable work on this important topic.

Sincerely,



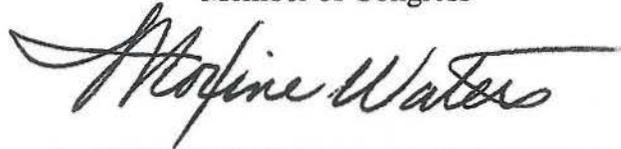
Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



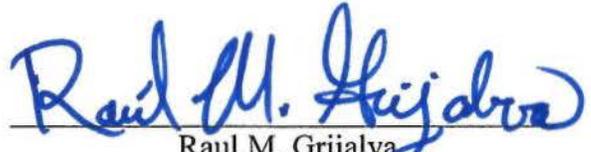
Tim Johnson
U.S. Senator



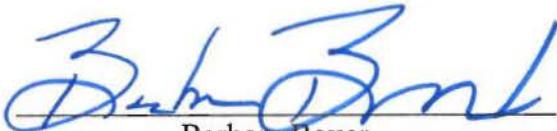
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Benjamin L. Cardin
U.S. Senator



Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senator



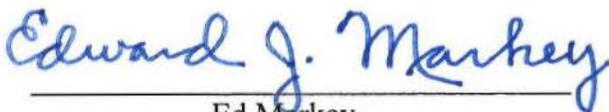
Jim Moran
Member of Congress



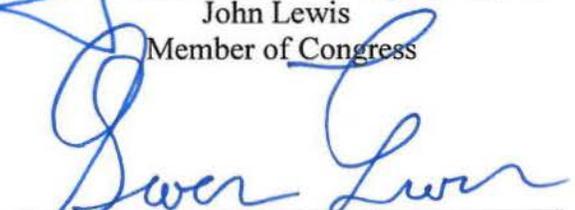
Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator



John Lewis
Member of Congress



Ed Markey
U.S. Senator



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress