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November 8, 2010

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The Honorable Mary L. Schapiro
Chairman
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20549

Dear Chairman Schapiro:

We are writing to comment on Section 1502, the Conflict Minerals provision of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which was signed into law July 21, 2010. The Conflict Minerals provision secured broad, bipartisan and bi-cameral support. Section 1502 was designed to limit the ability of armed groups in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to profit from the illicit mining of tin ore, coltan, gold, and other mineral resources that eventually end up in computers, cell phones, and other products. Companies doing business in the Democratic Republic of Congo and adjoining countries must now disclose both the provenance of the minerals they use and the efforts undertaken to ensure that their dollars do not support the ongoing conflict there.

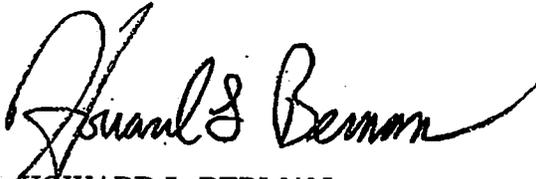
We urge you to adopt rules and regulations that will provide a legal framework to provide greater transparency to the murky supply chain and support peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo. You may want to consider establishing clarifying requirements such as:

1. The auditing required of manufacturers should be independent of the regulated entity and should include disclosure of the mine of origin and trade routes of any conflict minerals sourced from the Democratic Republic of Congo and surrounding region, even if the minerals are ultimately used in very small amounts.
2. Manufacturers should be responsible for tracking the origin of the minerals used in their products even if they employ subcontractors.
3. Ensure that products made from virgin gold mixed with recycled gold are subject to the same auditing requirements of products made from pure virgin gold.

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We believe that we can promote human rights and legitimate commerce in the Democratic Republic of Congo. If we promote robust reporting by manufacturers about their trade in the DRC and thereby inform American consumers about the origins of the minerals in the products they purchase, we will make a measurable, positive step toward a lasting peace for the region.

Sincerely,



HOWARD L. BERMAN
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs



DONALD M. PAYNE
Chairman
Subcommittee on Africa and
Global Health



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Ranking Republican Member
Subcommittee on Africa and
Global Health