

April 20, 2011

The Honorable Mary L. Schapiro, Chair  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
100 F Street NE  
Washington, D. C. 20549

Dear Ms. Schapiro,

I am a member of an advocacy group affiliated with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the U.S. Catholic overseas development and aid organization. Our faith calls us to a commitment to human dignity and therefore to address issues of violence and oppression. We have been alarmed at the increasing violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We know that the bishops of the DRC and the region have consistently identified the illicit mineral trade as a key driver of the violent conflict. Militias and other armed people use illicit profits to buy weapons and terrorize the local people. In order to reduce violence and bring peace, this illicit trade has to be addressed to protect human life and dignity. We want to make sure that our purchases do not contribute to this violence and we are urging the SEC to create a strong Congo conflict minerals rule soon.

We are pleased that Congress has given the SEC the mandate to help bring an end to the violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo by implementing the appropriate rules for Section 1502 of the “Dodd Frank Act.”

It is very important to us to be able to choose to purchase goods that we can count on to be truly “DRC conflict-free.” We know that some of the items that we purchase may contain conflict minerals and it saddens us as consumers and people of faith, to think that we may have contributed to financing the horrific violence in the eastern Congo. In the future, we want to have choice in our purchases and this can only happen if we have a strong Congo-conflict minerals rule soon.

Thank you for taking this into consideration.

Sincerely,

Pat Hayes  
CRS Advocacy Group  
Radnor, PA