

May 2, 2011

The Honorable Mary L. Schapiro
Chairman
Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street NE
Washington, DC 20549

Dear Chairman Schapiro,

I am happy that the Securities and Exchange Commission has the opportunity to reduce risks for investors while helping to bring an end to the violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo by implementing the appropriate rules for Section 1502 (Conflict Minerals) of the "Dodd Frank Act."

As an investor, I want to be able to make a choice of whether or not to invest in businesses whose mineral sourcing practices contribute to the on-going crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

As more and more people understand the links between conflict minerals and the violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, there are increased risks to investing in companies that source minerals that finance armed groups in that region.

All of the reporting requirements should take effect immediately. Prolonging the suffering of the people in the Congo would undermine what the law intended to accomplish. All companies should be required to comply with the full set of reporting requirements as soon as they are published.

Transparency in company supply chains is at the heart of this legislation. The SEC should provide specific instructions on what companies must do to check their supply chains to find out if they are sourcing conflict minerals that contribute to violence.

The SEC should specify what companies must include in their reports on their country of origin inquiry and their due diligence on mineral sourcing.

Companies that wish to label products as conflict-free should have to meet a high standard of proof, and the documentation of this claim should be easily available to the public.

I would like to be able to buy products that are labeled "DRC conflict-free." Companies must be required to clearly document the proof that their products merit that label.

I would be willing to pay more for a "DRC conflict-free" product only if the company can prove that this claim is true.

In order for the information reported by companies to be useful to investors and consumers it must be made easily available both on the SEC's website and on the company's website.

Information about sourcing practices that benefit armed groups who commit human rights violations must be easily accessible because they are very important to my purchasing and investment decisions.

The rules should cover gold, tin, tungsten and tantalum, and all companies should be required to provide comprehensive reports, without exceptions.

I thank the SEC for the work that they are doing on this vitally important issue. I'd like to reemphasize the important impact that strong rules will have on my decision-making abilities as an investor and/or consumer and on the lives of the people in the Congo.

Respectfully,

Hugh V. Larkin