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The Honorable Mary Schapiro  
Chairperson, Securities and Exchange Commission  
102 F St. NE  
Washington, DC 20549

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Dear Ms. Schapiro:

My daughter, Amy, has taken it upon herself to volunteer with rape victims in the Northeast Kivu province of Congo, the only American in the area. Repeatedly her blog comments on the ongoing rape and destruction still taking place in the Congo (thekingeffect.blogspot.com) despite the impression some people have that the devastation has been resolved. While control over conflict minerals being extracted (and often stolen) from Congo will not solve the entire problem, it does offer the potential to begin a process for gaining control over the situation, which, once implemented, can lead to local people being able to gain some control over their lives.

My family and friends urge you to establish the strongest possible regulations for implementation of the Conflict Minerals Act as spelled out in the Act itself. If it costs a bit for companies to implement the regulations, that is cheaper than military intervention and a small price to pay for lessening the blood money connected with our cell phones. If all companies are obligated to report on all conflict minerals coming from the area, then any competitive disadvantage will be non-existent. Equally as important, all information should be transparently presented on the SEC site as well as on companies involved, so citizens will be able to act on the information supplied.

Thank you,

Sincerely,



Jerome Ernst

[Redacted contact information]