

April 25, 2011

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CHAIRMAN'S  
CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

Dear Chairman Schapiro,

In a world that has shifted to efficiency in all aspects of business, the need to protect both consumers and workers is growing rapidly. As both a consumer and investor, I understand the potential risks dealing with conflict minerals and am glad that the Securities and Exchange Commission has the power to curb / take the lead in solving this issue. Protecting the economy is of great importance to me, but the crisis within the Democratic Republic of the Congo has illustrated the effects of not maintaining proper knowledge and control of how our businesses are working. A great deal of our everyday technologies are composed of minerals from these areas, something that must be stopped. As a nation that looks to ensure freedom worldwide, the United States has an opportunity to intervene in a problematic area without having to utilize a large amount of resources, hurting our economy even further. Specifically, I feel we must target revealing information to the public, better detailing the requirements for businesses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and this field, and ensuring that all products and minerals are fully covered.

The biggest step to protecting the consumers, investors, and Congolese people is to permit and grow the amount of information made available to the public. Ignorance is one thing, but a lack of knowledge is something we can cure. With proper publishing of the issue within the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I am certain that the American people will support and push for these demands. By publishing this on SEC-related areas and of the business, people now can be held accountable for their actions, unlike before. Secondly, those businesses in the DRC that do not follow said guidelines can be avoided, allowing for peaceful (nonviolent) reform to begin to occur in these areas. Finally, this gives the United States a chance

to take the lead in global affairs. Many of the countries have begun to lose respect for the U.S. as they have seen us constantly intervene in active ways, rather than diplomatic/economic methods.

Here, the United States can show strength without requiring military force. The first step is to keep people informed.

An informed population is a strong population, and more than that, it is one who could change the world.

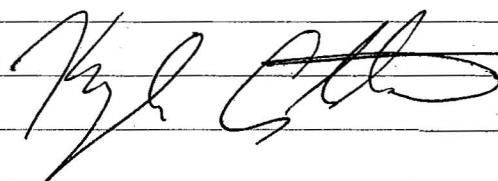
After the population can identify and voice their opinion, it is critical to ensure that the Congolese businesses and their counterparts understand these regulations clearly. While many may disregard them already, further reinforcement and clarification are necessary to instill a sense of strength towards the offenders. By resolving the transparency issue and using public revealing of information, a second step towards removing issues in Congo and promoting our market. Although the United States would never internally allow such problems, there is no explanation for supporting it in other nations. As a consumer/investor, I should have the choice of what I can buy without having to sacrifice my morals or my means, and I assure you that many more agree. The extra costs associated with this man never are worth all the help we can provide to people world wide. We have a responsibility to help those in need. Let not money heed us from such.

Finally, it is important that we cover all minerals' products under protection. It is imperative that we reduce all forms and methods of conflict and it begins with attacking at all angles. The overall worth, prevalence, or amount of companies targeting a specific metal/mineral should not matter. And we must ensure the people know this is a serious and important reform. In addition to minerals, all companies must comply to the ban.

No person should have the right to inflict such pain upon these innocent people. In order to protect the consumer and producer, as well as our economy, we must take these actions immediately and whole-heartedly.

Overall, I cannot thank you enough for all the work you and the SEC have done for this and other similar issues. It means a lot that you continue to value the consumer and provide for the investor. This issue is just another chance to assist in those two goals. The Dodd Frank Act and other previous actions have helped a great deal, but now more than ever, we must step in and go the extra step. I thank you very much for your time, and I hope we can agree and make headway in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Sincerely,



Kyle Atcheson