

April 14, 2011

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

Dear Ms Schapiro,

Re: Regulations for implementation of the Congo Minerals Act.

This past year I joined several people from our Diocese who worked for many years in the DRC in visiting every office of our MN senators and the members of the House from our Districts. We were well received as we testified to the necessity of strong legislation regarding conflict minerals. When the Dodd Frank Act passed with the Conflict Minerals Amendment we were very pleased by the comprehensive coverage of this legislation.

Our concern now is that this comprehensive legislation not be weakened when your agency drafts the implementation regulations. We are confident of your concern that all possible be done to address the horrific brutality of the armed groups who are sustained by their control of the minerals involved. Therefore I trust that you will see that the specific objectives of this legislation be retained.

We are particularly interested that the regulations spell out specifically what companies must do to verify whether any of the minerals they use benefit armed groups in the DRC. Transparency regarding supplies from mine to company is the most essential ingredient of these regulations. We deem it is essential that regulations mandate companies to label their products as “DRC conflict-free.”

With appreciation for your best efforts in this regard, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Reverend William A Vos

Catholic Relief Services

Diocese of St Cloud