



**global witness**

529 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 1085  
Washington, DC 20045  
t: (202) 621-6665  
f: (202) 450-1347

September 7, 2011

**By E-mail**

Chairman Mary L. Schapiro  
Commissioner Luis Aguilar  
Commissioner Elisse Walter  
Commissioner Troy Paredes

Securities and Exchange Commission  
100 F Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20549-1090

**Re: Conflict Minerals, File No. S7-40-10**

Dear Commissioners:

Please find attached the following items: 1) an op-ed published in *The Hill* written by Calvert Investments and Global Witness on September 4<sup>th</sup>; 2) an article published in *African Arguments* written by Mark Taylor on September 2<sup>nd</sup>; and 3) a letter to the editor from Global Witness published in *The New York Times* on August 15<sup>th</sup>. These articles all speak to the importance of timely and effective implementation of Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to meet the intent of this provision in helping to break the link between minerals exploitation and conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Sincerely,

Corinna Gilfillan  
Head of U.S. Office  
Global Witness

*The New York Times*

**A Conflict Over ‘Conflict Minerals’ – Aug 15, 2011**

Link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/16/opinion/a-conflict-over-conflict-minerals-in-congo.html>

**To the Editor:**

David Aronson’s attack on the Dodd-Frank law’s provisions on “conflict minerals” does not tell the full story.

It’s not true that the law amounts to a long-term embargo. Despite alarmist talk of an end to eastern Congo’s minerals sector, major international companies are planning to invest in the areas covered by the law, and initiatives aimed at effective tracing and auditing to clean up the minerals trade are being developed.

Mr. Aronson’s article inadvertently echoes industry rhetoric aimed at delaying the implementation of the law. Any delay would frustrate companies that are trying to do the right thing, undermining efforts to curb a conflict that millions of aid dollars and several peace negotiations have so far failed to stop.

GAVIN HAYMAN

Director of Campaigns, Global Witness

London, Aug. 8, 2011

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Freeman, Bennett, and Simon Taylor. "Crucial Few Weeks for Congo." Web log post. *The Hill*. 4 Sept. 2011. Web. 8 Sept. 2011. <<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/179499-a-crucial-few-weeks-for-congo>>

Taylor, Mark ” Conflict Minerals, Dodd-Frank And Due Diligence – Get On With It“ *African Arguments* 2 Sep, 2011. Web 8 Sep, 2011. <<http://africanarguments.org/2011/09/02/conflict-minerals-dodd-frank-and-due-diligence-%E2%80%93-get-on-with-it-%E2%80%93-by-mark-taylor/>>