

STEPHEN A. WOMACK  
THIRD DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

E-MAIL — womack@mail.house.gov  
WEBSITE — womack.house.gov

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0403

December 23, 2011

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

Re: Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act

Dear Chairman Schapiro:

I am writing to encourage the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to keep in mind the impact of any regulation on our country's small- and mid-sized manufacturers as it considers appropriate regulation of the conflict minerals provision of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

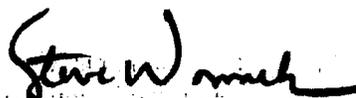
Tungsten, a conflict mineral, is vital to the nation's manufacturing supply chain. Due to a number of factors, including global economics and the growing cost of mined tungsten, many manufacturers have identified an alternative, more environmentally responsible source — recycled scrap. The use of recycled scrap presents a myriad of opportunities; however, tracing the original source of it poses significant challenges.

In its proposed rule, the SEC recognized the difficulty of tracking the lifecycle of scrap and, as a result, categorized conflict minerals from a recycled or scrap source as Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) conflict-free. While the SEC noted that this alternative approach was "consistent with the Conflict Minerals provision because issuers purchasing conflict minerals from recycled or scrap sources would not implicate the concerns of the provision," there is concern that the final rule will impose burdensome auditing requirements for recycled scrap.

As it prepares to issue a final rule, I respectfully request that the SEC provide clarity and certainty to manufacturers across the country and exempt conflict minerals from a recycled or scrap source as DRC conflict-free.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Womack  
Member of Congress

WASHINGTON DC  
1508 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4301

ROGERS  
3333 PINNACLE HILLS PARKWAY, #120  
ROGERS, AR 72758  
(479) 464-0446

FORT SMITH  
423 NORTH 6TH STREET  
FORT SMITH, AR 72902  
(479) 424-1146

HARRISON  
303 NORTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 102  
HARRISON, AR 72601  
(870) 741-6900

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