

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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June 10, 2011

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

Dear Chairman Schapiro:

I believe it is good that Congress has given the Securities and Exchange Commission the mandate to help bring an end to the violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo by implementing the appropriate rules for Section 1502 (Conflict Minerals) of the "Dodd Frank Act." It is important to have a choice in purchasing goods that are conflict free and are not financing the horrific violence in the eastern Congo.

The reporting provisions of Section 1502 should take effect immediately. Prolonging the suffering of the people in the Congo would undermine what the law intends to accomplish. Transparency in company supply chains is at the heart of this legislation. The SEC should provide specific instructions on what companies must do to check their supply chains to find out if they are sourcing conflict minerals that contribute to violence. Companies that wish to label products as conflict-free should have to meet a high standard of proof, and the documentation of this claim should be easily available to the public. In order for the information reported by companies to be useful to investors and consumers it must be made easily available both on the SEC's website and on the company's website. All companies should be required to provide comprehensive reports, without exceptions.

I know that you are aware of all this and concerned about it, and I thank you for the work that you are doing on this vitally important issue.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago