

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Financial Services
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 25, 2011

The Honorable Mary L. Schapiro
Chairman
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, NE
Washington, DC 20549-1090

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CHAIRMAN'S
CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

Dear Chairman Schapiro:

Section 1502 of the "Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act" (Public Law 111-203) directs the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC or Commission) to implement a reporting regime for publicly traded U.S. companies designed to combat the trade in so-called conflict minerals originating in the Democratic Republic of Congo. On December 15, 2010, the SEC issued proposed rules and established a deadline of January 31, 2011 for public comment. Because I believe that this deadline does not provide adequate time for interested parties to submit comments on the complex issues related to Section 1502, I recommend the SEC extend the comment period by 30 days.

As you know, the Conferees added Section 1502 during the final stages of the Dodd-Frank Act Conference, without due consideration by the Committees of jurisdiction. This makes it critical that the rules to implement Section 1502 reflect considered input from the effected U.S. companies and sectors to ensure that the rules do not disadvantage U.S. firms.

The Commission has requested comments on a wide range of questions. To provide appropriate responses, issuers must consult with a variety of effected parties to determine the impact on their operations. Unfortunately, the Commission issued the proposed rules two weeks before the end of many companies' fiscal years. This is a time when most corporate officers are focused on closing their books for the year, rather than commenting on new regulations. As a result, the timing of the release impeded the ability of many companies to have the appropriate persons assess the impact of the proposed rule on internal compliance measures, manufacturing operations, and their global supply chains.

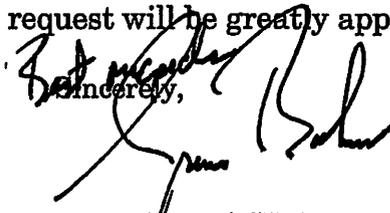
The proposed rules apply to a broad spectrum of American companies. Before these businesses are forced to comply with a new regulatory burden, issuers, small and large, deserve adequate time to consider thoughtfully the SEC's proposal. Providing an extension would result in a better end product, and may minimize market disruption and negative economic impacts on the ability of U.S. businesses to create jobs and compete in the global marketplace.

The Honorable Mary L. Schapiro

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Given these factors, I request you extend the comment period by 30 days.
Your prompt consideration of this request will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


SPENCER BACHUS
Chairman