



March 16, 2017

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Mr. Michael S. Piwowar
Acting Chairman
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

Dear Mr. Piwowar,

I am writing to you in my role as President of the Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) to express our organization's support for the continued implementation of the Conflict Minerals Rule.

On April 25, 2014, the MSBA passed a resolution in support of the Conflict-Free Initiative. The resolution created an obligation for the MSBA to purchase electronics only from companies that were compliant with the reporting requirement of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act regarding supply chain transparency, outlined in sections 1502 - 1504 of the law. It is important to us that we are able to access key information about the companies we purchase from, including information about their conflict minerals sourcing practices. We seek to support companies that have responsibly sourced their raw materials and are thus lending credence to the impact of supply-chain transparency.

The MSBA took this step with the hope of having an impact on reducing violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the sale of conflict minerals funds militias and warlords responsible for perpetrating atrocities. Since the 1990's over 6,000,000 people have been killed in the DRC, making it the deadliest conflict in the world since the Holocaust. Dodd-Frank sections 1502-1504 offers straightforward regulation that can have a significant effect in curbing this violence and creating the foundation by which to end the violence permanently.

The MSBA urges continued enforcement by the Security and Exchange Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robin Wolpert".

Robin Wolpert
President