



**THE BENJAMIN B. FERENCZ FELLOWSHIPS
IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND LAW**

AT MITCHELL HAMLINE SCHOOL OF LAW

www.worldwithoutgenocide.org

To whom it may concern,

World Without Genocide is a nonprofit organization in St. Paul, Minnesota with 501(c)(3) status. For over nine years, the founder and executive director, Dr. Ellen Kennedy, has worked on advocacy issues surrounding conflict minerals in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She has engaged law students on legislative action surrounding this issue, specifically through a fellowship program named in honor of Benjamin B. Ferencz. World Without Genocide is operated out of Mitchell Hamline School of Law, an educational institution that itself has adopted a resolution supporting the reporting requirements of Dodd Frank.

As a recipient of the Benjamin B Ferencz Fellowship in Human Rights and Law offered by World Without Genocide, and also as a former law student at Mitchell Hamline, I lobbied for the implementation of Sections 1502-1504 of the Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act for contracts procured with Minnesota's state legislature. While ultimately the legislation did not pass, it was widely supported throughout the state and received unanimous support in House and Senate committees as well as a near-unanimous vote on the Senate floor.

During the process of building support for this bill, I gave a series of public talks on the legal ramifications of Dodd Frank and the tangible improvements that the provisions have made on the ground in Congo. At many of these events I was joined by a woman who was made to flee the DRC for her work as a physician treating victims of rape. The issue of sexual violence perpetrated against women and girls is directly related to the conflict surrounding ownership and control of Eastern Congo's mines. Repealing the provisions of Dodd Frank that address due diligence in supply chain management will have a drastic and harmful effect not only on international trade of these resources, but also on the women and girls of Congo.

We know that Dodd Frank has been a key factor in motivating audits of mines and implementing measures of due diligence during the smelting and refining of minerals from the affected region. Dodd Frank has resulted in a higher accountability in companies that use tin, tungsten, tantalum, or gold in the manufacturing of their

products. We know that companies have not only complied with the reporting requirements of Dodd Frank; they have often gone farther to actively support conflict-free mines. Furthermore, the end consumers of these electronics products have raised their voices, demanding products that do not benefit perpetrators of mass violence.

The repeal of Dodd Frank would have catastrophic implications for the people of the DRC. It will also set back the heightened standards for our electronics manufacturing companies that have been reached in recent years. People and organizations in the US and the DRC derive direct and extensive benefits from the existence of Dodd Frank. World Without Genocide as an organization, and I as an attorney, strongly oppose the repeal of sections 1502-1504 of Dodd Frank.

Sincerely,

Rachel Carlson, J.D.
Benjamin B. Ferencz Fellow in Human Rights and Law

