



AT MITCHELL HAMLINE SCHOOL OF LAW

protect. prevent. prosecute. remember.

www.worldwithoutgenocide.org

March 17, 2017

To Whom it May Concern,

World Without Genocide is a human rights organization at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota. We have a stated mission to protect innocent people around the world, to prevent genocide by combating racism and prejudice, to advocate for the prosecution of perpetrators, and to remember those whose lives and cultures have been destroyed by violence. For these reasons World Without Genocide has been a long standing advocate for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The DRC has been faced with decades of civil war and insurgencies that have created the deadliest conflict since World War II. In addition to civilian casualties, DRC has faced egregious human rights abuses and has been labeled the 'rape capital of the world.' Those responsible for most of the violence make millions of dollars each year through the sale of minerals from mines in eastern DRC, minerals that are used in manufacturing small electronics – cell phones, computers, music players, medical equipment, and more.

When the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act was enacted in 2010 and implemented in 2012, a noticeable decline in violence in this eastern region began to occur. Section 1502 of Dodd-Frank required electronics producers to submit annual reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission on the sourcing of raw materials from the region. This brought attention to the issue of 'conflict minerals,' as they became called; educated company leaders and consumers about the issues; and helped organizations in DRC to develop auditing and verification processes.

Within two years of these efforts, half of DRC's mines had been declared conflict-free, meaning that children are no longer being used as slave laborers or as soldiers for

insurgent forces, women are no longer being brutalized in efforts to terrorize communities and force them out of the mining areas, and environmental degradation has been significantly reduced. Accountability standards have been documented throughout the region, keeping 'conflict minerals' out and conflict-free minerals circulating in trade.

Section 1502 of Dodd Frank is important for several reasons. First, it is directly responsible for the reduction in violence in DRC. Second, it has created accountability among U.S. companies. Third, and of considerable significance, it has promoted consumer awareness that virtually all of our electronics, many of our medical devices, and even our jewelry, contain these minerals from the DRC. Consumers for these products are demanding conflict-free practices in exchange for their business. One way to address this significant consumer movement is through the continued enforcement of Dodd-Frank.

We at World Without Genocide urge that the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act be upheld, specifically section 1502 and the reporting requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen J. Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ellen J. Kennedy, Ph.D.
Executive Director
World Without Genocide at Mitchell Hamline School of Law