FIGHT GENOCIDE
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Dear Acting Chairman Piwowar:

Jewish World Watch (JWW) submits this statement to strongly affirm our support for Section 1502 of Dodd-Frank, the Conflict Minerals Provision pertaining to conflict minerals sourced from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the surrounding region. JWW works to end genocide and mass atrocities worldwide by educating and mobilizing individuals, advocating for policy changes and funding projects to support and build resilience in conflict-affected communities. We have supported local civil society organizations in eastern DRC since 2009, and our staff frequently visits the region.

JWW has been and remains supportive of legislation that aims to curb mineral exploitation throughout eastern Congo and the region. Cutting off the main source of funding for militias, rebel groups, and corrupt government officials is essential to ending the cycle of predatory violence throughout the region. And section 1502 is the bare minimum requirement that can be placed on U.S. companies. It requires only that companies publicly disclose where their minerals are coming from.

We recognize that section 1502 is not a panacea, and it will not resolve all of the conflict and corruption that is plaguing the DRC. It is, however, a step in the right direction. More enforcement is needed to ensure companies are incentivized to follow in the footsteps of corporations like Intel and Apple. Defunding or repealing this mandate will only reverse all the progress that has been made to decouple Congo's mineral wealth from various rebel groups.

Many civil society leaders from the DRC, including JWW partners, have been outspoken in their support of Dodd-Frank. They have seen the impact transparency measures can have on resource flows to armed groups, and the long-term vision of what laws like Dodd-Frank can do to transform their country. One of our partners, a civil society leader from South Kivu who works with children near the Kalimbi tin mine told us, **"Reversing the conflict minerals ruling means sending Congolese children and pregnant women to be exploited and used by armed forces in the mining sites. We have seen results of the ruling on the children who used to be subjected to forced labor, who are now happy with a new hope and vision for their future. They are now given a chance to be enrolled in school. Defunding or repealing the ruling is to jeopardize and destroy the future of Congolese children."**

The fact that Dodd-Frank is a part of a long-term strategy cannot be overly stated. While the results from implementation of Dodd-Frank have already shown promise, it is important to remember that the first Conflict Minerals Reports were only submitted in May 2014. Given more time, with more SEC oversight, companies effectively doing their due diligence reporting, and with measures being implemented inside the DRC, Section 1502 can have a meaningful impact in the region.

What would happen if this law disappears? We don't have to imagine, we already know the answer. Dark and unaccountable supply chains will further support violence in the region. Global Witness recently reported that, "In just one year, up to $17 million of gold produced by Kun Hou Mining, the Chinese-owned company, went missing and was likely smuggled out of Congo into international supply chains." This is the alternative to not having the due diligence requirements of Dodd-Frank.

Defunding or repealing Section 1502 shouldn't be up for debate. Requiring U.S. companies to be transparent about their sourcing is the bare minimum that can be required of them. Due diligence reporting shouldn't be a question, it should be a given.

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We ask that you use your position to encourage companies to comply with the law, and advise the President to develop additional tools and resources to assist in breaking the cycle of violence in eastern Congo. Retreating from Section 1502 will not help the people of Congo.

Sincerely,

Susan Freudenheim
Executive Director

Mike Brand
Director of Advocacy & Programs