

Please support the enactment of a state procurement policy to require that all state-level purchases take into consideration the presence of conflict minerals when purchasing electronics. It is up to us to support peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Congo) through ensuring that armed groups cannot profit from violent and illegal mining practices, which in turn stunt local communities from economic growth.

The ongoing conflict in the Congo has resulted in the deaths of more than 5.4 million people and millions have been displaced, citizens continue to be terrorized and rape is used as a weapon of war.

Conflict minerals have fueled and continue to help sustain the ongoing conflict. Armed groups have generated hundreds of millions of dollars by illegally extracting and smuggling tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold. These minerals eventually end up in consumer products such as computers and cell phones.

We must ensure that companies and industries as a whole prioritize conflict-free sourcing.

For these reasons, it is imperative that SB471 is passed in the 2019 Oregon legislative session.

Sincerely,

Eileen Fromer
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