

Dear Chair Riley, Vice Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amanda Ulrich, and I am a constituent of committee member Senator Alan Olsen. As both a constituent, and long-time supporter of conflict mineral free legislation and policies, I write to express my support of S.B. 471 concerning procurement policies with regard to the State's purchase of electronic products which may contain conflict minerals. Conflict minerals are minerals mined for the profit of militias who use violence upon civilians in Eastern Congo. These minerals are in turn sold to smelters (aka refiners) who refine the minerals for electronic products used by consumers in America and Europe. These minerals are: Tin, Tungsten, Tantalum and Gold (the 3Ts and Gold), and Eastern Congo has some of the world's largest repositories of these minerals.

On a personal note, when I first learned of conflict minerals in 2011, and that over 5.4 million civilians have died due to fighting over control of these minerals, something sparked inside of me. When I realized that as a consumer of electronic products I was connected to the minerals mined in Eastern Congo, I made a commitment to support policies and legislation geared toward supporting peace in the region. Since that time I have been working with other area volunteers, elected officials on the local, state and federal levels, municipalities, and nonprofits on this topic.

By way of explaining my passion and experience on this topic, since 2013 I have worked with city government in the metro area to pass sustainable procurement policies with regard to conflict minerals. Since 2015 I have served as a key stakeholder and offer continued input with regard to these policies, which are in sync with international guidelines. This has allowed us to work out the details of how to have an effective policy that works for both the city and business.

As my colleagues and I will testify at the hearing on February 5, 2019, studies show that policies such as the one before you today work and have direct positive impact upon the ground in Eastern Congo. As of December 2017 79% of the 3T mines in Eastern Congo are conflict free, and as of June 2018, the number of refiners who have passed audits total 253 (out of 324). Policies have impact.

(International Peace Information Service (IPIS) & Progress and Responsible Minerals Initiative, "Responsible Minerals Assurance Process Indicators," available at <http://www.responsiblemineralsinitiative.org/responsible-minerals-assurance-process/active-and-conformant-smelter-count/?%20%20>)

Passage of S.B. 471 would make it much easier for every city in Oregon to support businesses that comply with international guidelines in reference to how conflict minerals are sourced. In fact, the infrastructure available to businesses to comply with international guidelines are robust and easy to access. This is an opportunity for Oregon to remain at the forefront of responsible commerce and business practices.

I respectfully request that you support S.B. 471.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Ulrich  
503-228-5222 x2136

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Activist Leader, Enough Project