

February 4, 2019

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

As an Oregonian, I am glad to have the opportunity to write in support of S.B. 471. I have worked at the grassroots level to help conflict mineral legislation become a reality. I feel that this bill is an important element for encouraging responsible sourcing of the 3TGs (tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold) and for helping to stop the corruption rampant in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Conflict mineral legislation and consumer demand for a transparent supply chain are working. In 2016, the International Peace Information Service found that three out of the four conflict minerals have largely become peaceful, and that now 79% of miners at tin, tantalum and tungsten mines now work at conflict-free mines. This is a huge change from 2010, when the United Nations reported that almost every mining deposit was controlled by a military group.

As a consumer, I want to know that the materials in the electronic devices I buy are conflict free. I hope that the State of Oregon feels the same way. Since 2010, infrastructure required for companies to audit their supply chains has been developing and is succeeding in tracing the source of the 3T minerals. As you may know, the DR Congo has suffered for years with armed groups exploiting and robbing mine workers. Violence, intimidation and mass rape have been used as weapons of war, and horrific suffering and loss of life have been far too common.

If S.B. 471 passes, the State of Oregon will be added to the growing number of consumers calling for ethical mineral sourcing in the DR Congo. Peace is possible in DR Congo if we all do our part. I ask you to please support S.B. 471.

Thank you,  
Nancy Dawson