

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

I am writing in support of SB 471, regarding a state procurement policy for products that may contain “conflict minerals” from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Others have written about the devastation and human toll caused by the illegal trade in certain minerals from DRC. And about the nature of a procurement policy that would consider preference to companies whose supply chains are most demonstrably conflict-free.

I’d like to give a quick **Oregon history** of the people and efforts that have brought us to this day on which Bill 471 will be heard.

2005: Oregonian **Lisa Shannon**, started “Run for Congo Women”. It started in Oregon and spread to many other states over the next few years. It was a benefit for Women for Women International’s rehabilitation projects for Congolese women who had suffered extreme sexual violence due to militia groups’ terrorizing of communities to gain control of mines. Organizing for the run events was later taken on by **Amanda Ulrich**, and they continued until **2016**.

Most of the connections between the people mentioned below were made through participation in various aspects of those run events.

2010: **Lisa** led several people in raising awareness of the issue that these minerals were being used in consumer electronics, *first by demonstrating outside Intel in Hillsboro*, and then in Silicon Valley at Apple and others. They were mostly ignored, *except by Intel!* **Intel** asked its suppliers to complete a survey on the origin of metals used in its supply chain. In response to the disconcerting findings (many unknowns), Intel sent a delegation to Congo, and were so appalled at what they saw and heard that they developed the first tracking system for the minerals, to be able to track them from specific mines through brokers to smelters, to distributors, to Intel. Intel started working hard and fast toward cleaning up its supply chain, and by 2015 were finally able to certify all their products as “conflict free”. Intel also worked to get the largest purchasers of its processors on board to do the same, like HP and Apple. Those companies are also now using mostly conflict-free minerals.

2013: *a group of Oregonians from various organizations* and 3 counties were inspired by the Enough Project (a Washington DC nonprofit), that we could help curb the market in illegal minerals by consumer actions, particularly by urging large consumers, like Universities and government entities, to make purchasing policies in favor of conflict-free products. We decided to pursue this project together as **The Oregon Coalition for Humanity**. The founding members were:

Alysha Atma, co-founder of Atma Foundation

Amanda Ulrich, Oregon Ambassador for Women for Women International

Robert Hadley, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Teacher Corps

Kathy Cordell, co-founder of Arise for Congo

Richa Sehgal, project manager for Sister Somalia

Sonia Marie Leikam, Oregon Holocaust Resource Center

Ann Shannon, co-founder of Run for Congo Women & Sister Somalia

Diane Koosed, co-founder of Never Again Coalition

Various members spoke to the Human Rights Councils of Washington County and Portland and had meetings with Beaverton Mayor Doyle and with various City of Portland commissioners. The Never Again Coalition members organized letter/postcard writing campaigns to let the Portland City commissioners know of the public support.

2013-2015: Contacts with commissioners continued, with many people involved, but most consistently **Lauren Fortgang, Diane Koosed, Marty Fromer, Robert Hadley** and **Amanda Ulrich**. **Amanda** established good contacts with the City of Portland procurement dept and worked with them on the details of how a policy could be implemented.

2015: The Portland City Council passed a Conflict Free Mineral Resolution. It was something of a pilot project, with a limited scope.

2018: Portland City Council passed a new Sustainable Procurement Policy, that included more comprehensive guidelines for purchasing conflict-free products.

We learned early on that most of the City of Beaverton's purchasing, and a substantial amount of Portland's, was done through group purchasing at higher levels. So, the same people named above (and a number of others) have been working toward the state's SB 471 for a couple of years, raising awareness among our representatives, and learning how our state legislature works.

Please support S.B. 471.

Thank you,

Kathy Cordell
SE Portland