



**global witness**



May 5, 2017

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Rex Tillerson  
The US Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20522

Dear President Trump and Secretary Tillerson,

Over the last four months your administration has demonstrated clear intent to repeal or otherwise fatally undermine the “conflict minerals” provision of the Dodd-Frank Act (Section 1502), and the accompanying Conflict Minerals Rule promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). To further this aim your administration has taken several steps designed to circumvent or ignore the existing law and the underlying Congressional intent.

We write, in particular, to highlight our concerns with the State Department's recent consultation soliciting “input from stakeholders to inform recommendations of how best to support responsible sourcing of tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold.”

It is our understanding that the process is ultimately intended to inform a weaker replacement of Section 1502, and the accompanying Conflict Minerals Rule, under the auspices of the State Department. As we have made clear in previous comments, we believe that enforcing the existing law remains the most effective way of disrupting the trade in conflict minerals and ensuring US companies source their minerals responsibly.

The purpose and terms of this consultation have lacked clarity and transparency from the start.

It is for Congress to enact or repeal laws and for executive agencies, such as the State Department, to execute them faithfully. Despite this, the notice for the consultation does not make clear why the State Department is engaging in substantial policy development while Section 1502 and the Conflict Minerals Rule remain fully intact. Further, while it appears that some comments have been made public, we are aware that private comments have been invited through channels other than the official e-mail address stated in the notice.

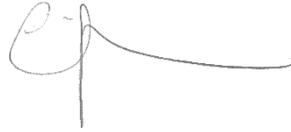
US conflict minerals policy—and its impact—is critical to a range of stakeholders. It deserves and requires a clear and public debate. This consultation, which appears premised on the repeal of a law that remains fully intact, can only serve to undermine such debate.

While we remain open to engaging in a public and transparent discussion of this policy, we cannot participate in an opaque process that runs counter to these principles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Huang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Margaret Huang  
Executive Director  
Amnesty International USA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corinna Gilfillan". The signature is more stylized and less legible than the one on the left, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Corinna Gilfillan  
Head of the US Office  
Global Witness