

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 471. I am a small business owner in Portland and have worked in the precious metals industry for 25 years. During this time I have become very well-acquainted with the issues surrounding supply chains out of the mining industry, and can attest to the value that passage of this Bill would bring to the State.

Responsible sourcing is a win-win proposition. The innocent victims of conflict-ridden mining operations gain safety, dignity, and fair pay when the buyers of their mining outputs insist on fair mining operations. Governments, manufacturers and retailers who adopt responsible sourcing also gain through their ability to inform citizens/consumers that they only source through responsible channels, and that they value humanity over the last cent of profit or budget savings. The value that this type of transparency brings will only continue to expand as the public becomes increasingly aware of the struggles such as those that have been highlighted in the DRC.

Oregon is known to be a progressive leader towards adopting laws that protect the environment, and it would be an additional honor to be a citizen of a state that is progressive towards doing the right thing with respect to its own supply chain.

Sincerely,

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