

Senator

District

For more than a decade, people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have suffered intense conflict over land rich in minerals. Since 1996, nearly six million innocent men, women, and children have perished, making this one of the most brutal conflicts on the planet and the deadliest since World War II.

Mining of gold, coltan, tin, and tungsten drives this conflict in Congo; these minerals are used in the production of all small electronics. The violence occurs as militias use rape, mutilation, forced labor, and starvation to gain access to the minerals. As consumers of electronics, we are all responsible for this situation.

Around the world, individuals and organizations are taking steps to reduce this violence by becoming ‘conflict-free.’ This means purchasing electronics from manufacturers that source minerals from companies with responsible practices, harming neither the people nor the environment. We, as members of the Minnesota community, in partnership with World Without Genocide, urge the State to pledge to become ‘conflict-free.’ We can help bring peace to Congo by purchasing electronics thoughtfully and with full transparency to insure that our venders are either conflict-free or are working to get there.

Sincerely,

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