

**Steve Largent**  
President/CEO

March 1, 2013

The Honorable Mark Amodei  
222 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Amodei:

On behalf of CTIA – The Wireless Association® (“CTIA”), thank you for your leadership in again sponsoring the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act, H.R. 761. CTIA is pleased to support your legislation and hopes it will be approved by the full House of Representatives soon.

CTIA’s interest in H.R. 761 stems from our commitment to ensuring that the United States remains at the forefront of wireless innovation and investment. The U.S. now leads the world in the deployment of advanced wireless services, and most of the advanced handsets and products that operate on 4G networks launch in the U.S. before they debut elsewhere. Maintaining America’s world leadership in the wireless industry requires that carriers have predictable access to an adequate supply of spectrum, reasonable regulatory and tax policies, and the availability of the equipment necessary to deliver service to end-users. It is this last point that brings us to support your bill.

As I noted in my July 10, 2012 letter, the development of domestic sources for rare earth minerals, some of which are employed in the manufacture of wireless products, is important to the long-term vibrancy of the wireless industry. Today, the sources for many rare earth minerals are abroad, often in regions where the long-term prospects for availability and export are uncertain or exports come at a high cost.

This certainly is true with respect to minerals extracted from areas in or around the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where concern over civil strife led Congress to enact Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. In implementing Section 1502, the Securities and Exchange Commission has proposed rules that will require publicly-traded companies to disclose annually whether any “conflict minerals” that are necessary to the functionality or production of a product originated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo or an adjoining country, and, if so, to provide a report describing the measures taken to exercise due diligence on the source and chain of custody of those minerals. This requirement will be burdensome, costly, and confusing, and result in putting publicly-traded U.S. companies at a disadvantage since companies that do not file with the SEC will not be required to comply. For this reason, companies that today rely on African-sourced minerals would prefer to have alternative sources available in the United States.

Similarly, many communications equipment manufacturers are concerned about the impact on mineral supply chains if China, another significant source for rare earth minerals, follows through on suggestions that it may limit the export of certain minerals. Because of this uncertainty, communications equipment manufacturers would benefit from having U.S.-based alternatives that might reduce their reliance on minerals mined and exported from China.

For these reasons, we applaud your work on H.R. 761.

Sincerely,

  
Steve Largent

