

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 8, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States of  
America  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear President Trump and Secretary Rubio,

We understand that the United States is negotiating a critical minerals agreement with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Your administration, however, has not consulted with Congress on such a critical minerals agreement nor shared meaningful information about it with the public. As Members of Congress, we are deeply concerned with your administration's failure to consult Congress and the lack of transparency, especially given the dire security, human rights, labor, and environmental situation associated with mineral mining in the DRC.<sup>1</sup>

Mining in the DRC remains one of the most exploitative and dangerous industries in the world, with ongoing human rights abuses, such as child labor, forced labor, and the routine violation of workers' rights. Over 7.8 million people have been forcibly displaced, while at least 7,000 civilians have been killed and thousands more subjected to sexual violence in areas linked to mining operations.<sup>2</sup> Of the estimated 350,000 cobalt miners in the country, 80,000 work under forced labor conditions that are life-threatening, with no protection and no alternatives.<sup>3</sup> An estimated 40,000 children, some as young as seven, were working in these harsh conditions.<sup>4</sup>

People in the DRC's mining regions face exposure to harmful chemicals, pollution, and contaminated water. Toxic chemicals near artisanal mines has contaminated the surrounding water and land, reducing soil fertility, harming local agricultural production, and negatively impacting development outcomes in the DRC.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Public Citizen and Friends of the Congo, "The Deadly Cost of Cobalt Mining in the Congo," Iza Camarillo, Sarah Stevens, and Maurice Carney, October 2024, <https://gtwaction.org/the-deadly-cost-of-cobalt-mining-in-the-congo/>

<sup>2</sup> Atlantic Council, "Beyond critical minerals: Capitalizing on the DRC's vast opportunities," Dave Peterson, Mvemba Phezo Dizolele, Rabah Areki, Thomas De Dreux-Brézé, Nicole Namwezi Batumike, and Calixte Ahokpossi, May 23, 2025, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/report/beyond-critical-minerals-capitalizing-on-the-drcs-vast-opportunities/>

<sup>3</sup> United States Department of Labor, "Forced Labor in Cobalt Mining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo," ICF and Marakuja Kivu Research, May 30, 2023, [Task 4.1.14: Measuring Forced Labor in Cobalt Mining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

<sup>4</sup> Human Rights Research Center, "Potential U.S. cobalt deal in DRC comes with many risks," Peter Clarkin, March 20, 2025, <https://www.humanrightsresearch.org/post/potential-u-s-cobalt-deal-in-drc-comes-with-many-risks>

<sup>5</sup> Think Global Health, "Protecting Miners' Health in Democratic Republic of Congo" Jonta Kamara and Stephanie Bumba, February 10, 2025. <https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/protecting-miners-health-democratic-republic-congo>

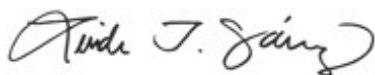
Contamination of food, land, and water caused by mining has led to long-term public health consequences, including increased rates of maternal and infant mortality, birth defects in children, cancer, and increased risks of infection.<sup>6</sup> The mining for critical minerals must not come at the expense of the DRC's people, their land, and development prospects.

We are also concerned by the apparent conflict of interest in the negotiations between this administration and the DRC. According to the Financial Times, one of your political associates, Gentry Beach, is part of a consortium negotiating for rights to the Rubaya coltan mine, a notorious source of conflict minerals.<sup>7</sup> This mine is central to the trade in smuggled coltan used in financing the conflict in the DRC, one of the longest-running and deadliest wars in sub-Saharan Africa.

Given the gravity of these issues, we urge your administration to develop a transparent and participatory process for critical minerals negotiations between the U.S. and the DRC. This process must provide opportunities for informed input and meaningful engagement with Congress and all stakeholders, especially the communities most affected by mining and conflict in the region.

Ahead of any visit to Washington, D.C. by a delegation of government officials from the DRC, we look forward to a response to this letter and a briefing to update Members of Congress on the progress of a critical minerals agreement.

Sincerely,



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

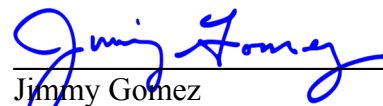
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<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

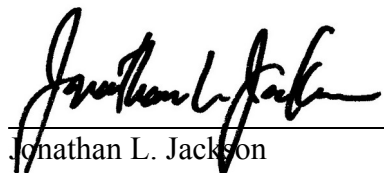
<sup>7</sup> Financial Times, "Donald Trump ally seeks to snap up DR Congo mine as US brokers peace deal," William Wallis, June 27, 2025, <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:va6c2:5d4f12c8-abfd-40a2-ad2f-9622c85b9536>



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



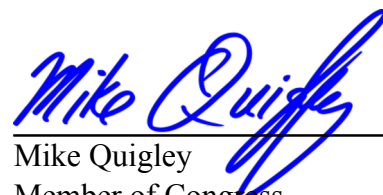
Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



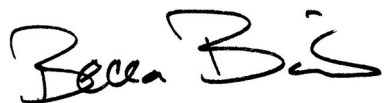
Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress




Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress




Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress

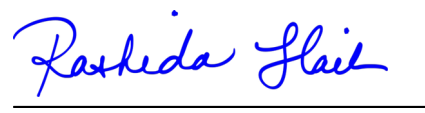


Dina Titus  
Member of Congress




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Terrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



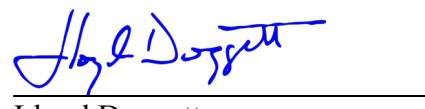
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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress




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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress




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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



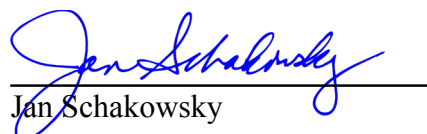
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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress




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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress




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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress




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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



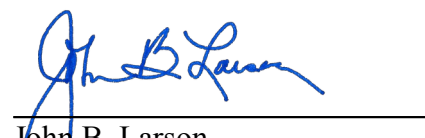
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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



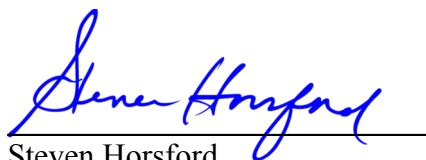
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MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



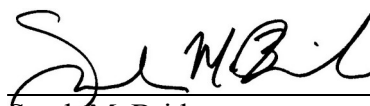
Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



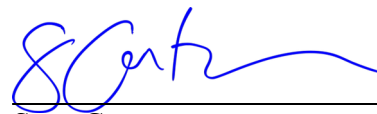
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



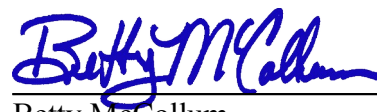
Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



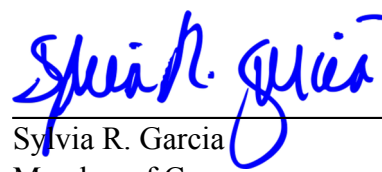
Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



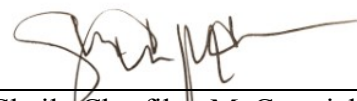
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



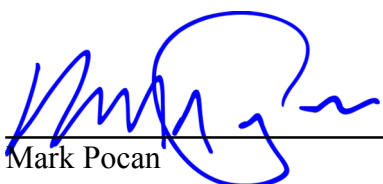
Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



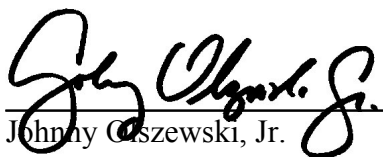
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



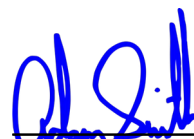
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Johnny Oszewski, Jr.  
Member of Congress



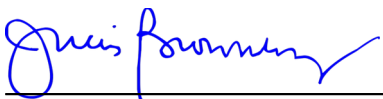
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



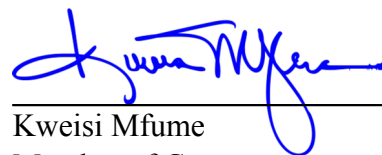
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Diana DeGette". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Diana" and last name "DeGette" clearly distinguishable.

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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress