



RIT
**student
government**

SG 65.04

RESOLUTION FOR RIT CONFLICT-FREE PROCUREMENT POLICY

A Resolution that requests that Rochester Institute of Technology conduct responsible purchasing, and that products containing materials covered under the Dodd-Frank act should not be purchased in the future.

Version 1.0

Introduced by: RIT Conflict-Free Campus Initiative and SG Sustainability Committee

First Reading: 7 April 2017

WHEREAS, Rochester Institute of Technology's mission statement emphasizes the importance of incorporating a global mindset throughout the institution, stating: "Through a unique blend of curricular, experiential, and research programs delivered within a student-centric culture, Rochester Institute of Technology prepares its students for successful careers in a global society;" and

WHEREAS, Rochester Institute of Technology values "innovation and flexibility...that could make the department, college, or division an even better organization;" and

WHEREAS, the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Congo) has been the source of ongoing violence for decades, particularly heightened since the Rwandan genocide; and

WHEREAS, the International Rescue Committee has found more than 5.4 million civilians have died and many more remain at risk as a consequence of attacks conducted by armed groups in eastern Congo; and

WHEREAS, the illegal exploitation of four minerals in particular - tin, tungsten, tantalum, and gold (3TG) has funded armed violence in the eastern Congo; and

WHEREAS, conflict minerals have fueled and continue to help sustain armed groups in Congo that operate with little accountability for perpetrating economic crimes, war crimes, and crimes against humanity including sexual violence and the recruitment of child soldiers; and

WHEREAS, legislation signed into law Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 requires that companies publicly traded in the U.S. submit an annual report to the Securities and Exchange Commission disclosing whether their products contain gold, tin, tantalum, or tungsten from Congo or an adjoining country and what steps they are taking to determine whether those materials are supporting armed groups; and

WHEREAS, Rochester Institute of Technology seeks to gain transparency in the supply chains of the equipment it purchases; and

WHEREAS, Rochester Institute of Technology supports the establishment of an international certification system for minerals coming from central Africa to ensure they are not contributing to conflict; and

WHEREAS, Rochester Institute of Technology desires to do business with electronics companies and other industries that are taking the necessary steps to source conflict-free minerals from Congo and are contributing to livelihood projects for Congolese mining communities; and

WHEREAS, Rochester Institute of Technology procures a significant amount of equipment from companies which likely contain conflict minerals from Congo in their supply chains; and

WHEREAS, a situation may arise in the future where Rochester Institute of Technology's procuring of a product may indirectly or directly aid perpetrators of conflicts or in human rights violations, and

WHEREAS, Rochester Institute of Technology, through its procurement capacity, can leverage the use of consumer pressure for market change.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Rochester Institute of Technology will take into account whether electronics products contain conflict minerals in future purchasing decisions and, when available, will favor companies that are working to source or have sourced verifiably conflict-free minerals from eastern Congo for their products; and

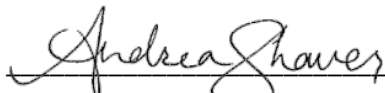
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Rochester Institute of Technology will request documentation from the manufacturers regarding their policies and practices related to the conflict minerals originating from Congo, including, for publicly traded companies, their Securities and Exchange Commission report associated with Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Rochester Institute of Technology will use the information gathered from the conflict minerals documentation and other public sources to support purchasing conflict-free products containing minerals from Congo; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Rochester Institute of Technology should end the purchase or discontinue the purchase of similarly produced materials in favor of materials that are responsibly produced in the future situations where profits are funding perpetrators or contributing to human rights violations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Rochester Institute of Technology will make this policy publicly available online; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the procurement department and administration of Rochester Institute of Technology call on electronics companies and other industries to implement the necessary steps to remove conflict minerals from their supply chain.


Andrea Shaver, *SG President*


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Kevin Kane, *SG Sustainability Committee Head*

This resolution was adopted on April 7, 2017, at Student Government Senate