

S 891

Congo Conflict Minerals Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Apr 23, 2009

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (Apr 23, 2009)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/891>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Brownback, Sam [R-KS]

Party: Republican • **State:** KS • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (22 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Apr 23, 2009
Sen. Feingold, Russell D. [D-WI]	D · WI		Apr 23, 2009
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Apr 30, 2009
Sen. Begich, Mark [D-AK]	D · AK		May 20, 2009
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 3, 2009
Sen. Burris, Roland [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 8, 2009
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Jun 15, 2009
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 10, 2009
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Sep 23, 2009
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Oct 26, 2009
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Dec 14, 2009
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Dec 22, 2009
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Dec 23, 2009
Sen. Johnson, Tim [D-SD]	D · SD		Dec 24, 2009
Sen. Bayh, Evan [D-IN]	D · IN		Jan 20, 2010
Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jan 20, 2010
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Feb 2, 2010
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 3, 2010
Sen. Specter, Arlen [D-PA]	D · PA		Apr 14, 2010
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [ID-CT]	ID · CT		Apr 19, 2010
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		Apr 27, 2010
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		May 10, 2010

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 24, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Apr 23, 2009)

Congo Conflict Minerals Act of 2009 - Declares it is U.S. policy to promote peace and security in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by supporting the efforts of the DRC, other governments in the Great Lakes Region of Africa, and the international community to: (1) monitor and stop commercial activities involving the natural resources of the DRC (the minerals columbite-tantalite [coltan], cassiterite, wolframite, and gold) that contribute to illegal armed groups and human rights violations in the eastern region of the DRC; and (2) develop stronger governance and economic institutions that can facilitate and improve transparency in the cross-border trade involving such natural resources in order to reduce exploitation by illegal armed groups and promote local and regional development.

Directs the President, acting through the Secretary of State, the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), and other appropriate U.S. officials to use the voice of the United States at the UN Security Council to renew the mandate and strengthen the capacity of the UN Group of Experts on the DRC to investigate links between such minerals and the financing of illegal armed groups.

Directs the Secretary to work with UN member states and local and international organizations to: (1) produce, and make public, a map of mineral-rich zones and illegal armed groups in the eastern region of the DRC; and (2) provide guidance to commercial entities to ensure that the raw materials used in their products do not finance armed conflict, result in labor or human rights violations, or damage the environment.

Requires the Secretary, working with the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), to report to Congress on a strategy to address the links that exist between human rights abuses, armed groups, and the mining of the minerals in the DRC.

Requires specified annual reports to cover such links.

Amends the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to promulgate rules to require certain persons who engage in the trade or use of coltan, cassiterite, and wolframite to disclose annually to the SEC the country of origin and mine of origin of such minerals.

Expresses the sense of Congress on assistance to communities in the eastern DRC that depend economically on the mineral trade, particularly those affected by sexual and gender-based violence, as well as individuals displaced by violence.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 23, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 23, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S4696-4697)
- **Apr 23, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.