



March 14, 2025

Subject: Clarification on *Washington Gets 'Congo Fatigue' Article*

Dear Mr. Pecquet,

I read your article, *Washington Gets 'Congo Fatigue' as DRC's Political Dysfunction Threatens Minerals Deal*, dated March 13, 2025, and thought it was well-written—thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

However, I'd like to offer one point of clarification. You quoted Senator Pierre Kanda Kalambayi as saying that he was engaging me in his personal capacity. A more accurate description would be that the Senator engaged me in his official capacity as Chair of the Congolese Senate's Committee on Defence, Security, and Border Protection—not in a purely personal capacity. I believe what he meant to convey was that he was not speaking on behalf of the DRC government as a whole.

As written, I believe this statement may cause some confusion among the U.S. government. To avoid any misinterpretation, I kindly request an edit or clarification in the article to reflect this distinction.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please let me know if you need any further information.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Poynton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Aaron" and last name "Poynton" clearly legible.

Dr. Aaron Poynton
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Cc: Patrice Mwamba, President—Africa, Africa-USA Business Council

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