



March 26, 2025

Subject: Strengthening U.S.-DRC Relations in Mineral Development & National Security

The Honorable Chris Smith
House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith,

We are writing to express our appreciation for your leadership in holding the recent hearing, *"Metals, Minerals, and Mining: How the CCP Fuels Conflict and Exploitation in Africa."* The issues raised in the hearing are crucial, and your efforts to address China's growing influence in Africa's mining sector are timely and significant.

The concerns raised during your hearing align directly with our objectives at the Africa-USA Business Council. We believe the United States must take a more active role in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and other resource-rich African nations to ensure responsible mineral extraction, strengthen economic partnerships, and enhance U.S. national security.

In February 2025, we sent a letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio and other key government officials outlining our vision for a stronger U.S.-DRC relationship. In that letter, we emphasized the following key priorities:

1. Establishing Transparent U.S. Investment in Critical Mineral Extraction
2. Strengthening Governance and Economic Development in the DRC
3. Reducing U.S. Dependence on Chinese-Controlled Supply Chains

Given the urgency of this issue, I wanted to bring to your attention that a delegation from the DRC is imminently arriving in the United States for high-level discussions. This presents a unique opportunity to solidify commitments that could reshape U.S. engagement in the region.

With this in mind, I would like to formally request:

1. A meeting with you to discuss how we can align our efforts to advance U.S. strategic interests in the DRC.
2. A meeting with the initial delegation and a subsequent meeting with President Felix Tshisekedi during his visit to discuss how U.S. businesses, policymakers, and leaders can work together to counter China's influence and ensure fair and sustainable development in the region.

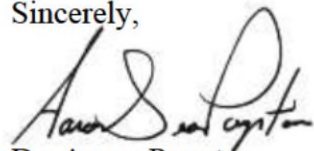
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Your leadership on these issues is invaluable, and I believe that by working together, we can implement policies that not only advance U.S. economic and security interests but also bring long-term stability and prosperity to the DRC.

We appreciate your time and consideration, and I look forward to the opportunity to collaborate. Please let me know your availability for these meetings.

cc: House Foreign Affairs Committee
Chair, Critical Minerals Policy Working Group

Sincerely,



Dr. Aaron Poynton
U.S. President
AUSA Business Council



Patrice Majondo-Mwamba
Africa President
AUSA Business Council

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