



January 21, 2026

The Honorable French Hill
Chairman
Financial Services Committee
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Ranking Member
Financial Services Committee
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: January 22nd Markup

Dear Chairman Hill and Ranking Member Waters:

The American Securities Association (ASA)¹ supports several bills that the Financial Services Committee is scheduled to markup on January 22nd. The ASA continues to appreciate the ongoing work of the Committee to advance legislation that helps small American companies raise capital and provide every American investor with more opportunity to create wealth.

The ASA supports the following bills:

H.R. 7085, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to repeal certain disclosure requirements related to conflict minerals

This bill would repeal a disclosure mandate under Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Act, commonly known as the “conflict minerals” rule. The conflict minerals rule is a costly, burdensome, and poorly conceived requirement that has done nothing to solve the human rights abuses and violence on the ground in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In fact, soon after the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) implemented Section 1502, evidence arose that the rule was actually accelerating problems in the DRC and harming the people it was intended to protect.² What Section 1502 did do was cost American companies and American investors millions with no increase in investor protection, market improvement, or capital formation benefit.

The ASA has been a staunch proponent of the materiality standard for corporate disclosure. Since Congress first mandated the conflict minerals rule 15 years ago, the SEC has been bombarded with demands that it promulgate new disclosure requirements on a myriad of social or political topics

¹ The ASA is a trade association that represents the retail and institutional capital markets interests of regional financial services firms who provide Main Street businesses with access to capital and advise hardworking Americans how to create and preserve wealth. The ASA's mission is to promote trust and confidence among investors, facilitate capital formation, and support efficient and competitively balanced capital markets. This mission advances financial independence, stimulates job creation, and increases prosperity. The ASA has a geographically diverse membership base that spans the Heartland, Southwest, Southeast, Atlantic, and Pacific Northwest regions of the United States.

² https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/how-a-well-intentioned-us-law-left-congolese-miners-jobless/2014/11/30/14b5924e-69d3-11e4-9fb4-a622dae742a2_story.html





that have little to do with investor protection or the performance of public companies. Congress can protect American investors and take a meaningful step toward ending the injection of politics into the U.S. capital markets by repealing Section 1502.

H.R. 5877, the Combatting Money Laundering in Cyber Crime Act of 2025

The ASA commends this Committee, and especially Congressman Barr, for its work to combat the various threats that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) poses to the U.S. capital markets. Our organization has repeatedly called, for example, to eliminate the collection of personal information under the SEC's consolidated audit trail and to prevent fraudulent CCP-backed companies from listing on U.S. exchanges or being included in passive index funds.³ This legislation would empower U.S. authorities to thwart CCP-backed cyberattacks on U.S. institutions and individuals. The tools included in the bill will help protect and maintain confidence in the integrity of our markets.

H.R. 7127, the Restoring Secondary Market Trading Act

This legislation from Rep. Meuser would protect investors from a patchwork of state laws that has led to regulatory uncertainty for smaller companies whose shares are publicly traded. The bill would promote a national market ecosystem for small companies' stocks. This will improve national liquidity and allow more Americans to invest in small or newly formed public companies that will grow substantially over time, while requiring companies to maintain regular public financial disclosures.

The ASA also welcomes the forward-looking resolution from Rep. Steil regarding artificial intelligence and the financial services sector. This Committee has done good work to promote policies that embrace innovation while also maintaining robust investor protections in the face of new technologies. We look forward to being an active participant in conversations regarding artificial intelligence moving forward.

We thank the Committee for its work on these issues and important legislation.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Iacovella

Christopher A. Iacovella
Chief Executive Officer
American Securities Association

³ <https://www.americansecurities.org/post/asa-outlines-policies-to-end-china-s-exploitation-of-american-financial-markets>

