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USA

## Urgent: Rule On Extractive Transparency At Risk in the Senate!

Representative Bill Huizenga (R-MI) is gathering support from his fellow Republicans to gut one of the [signature bi-partisan anti-corruption laws](#) passed in the last 8 years.

Representative Huizenga plans to introduce a bill today that will roll-back the Cardin-Lugar anti-corruption rule known as "Section 1504" of Dodd-Frank", which requires oil and mining companies to publish the payments they make to governments around the world. Rep Huizenga's bill will be followed by a similar measure in the Senate on Wednesday.

The Dodd-Frank transparency measure was passed to ensure people in low and lower income countries can [follow the money](#) and to break the "[resource curse](#)", which has plagued low and lower income countries like Indonesia, Nigeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea and more. It's one of the most important anti-corruption/anti-poverty laws that Congress has passed in recent years and was spearheaded by Republican Senator Richard Lugar and Democratic Senator Ben Cardin.

The timing to limit Section 1504 is suspicious. It comes the same week that the former CEO of Exxon Mobil Rex Tillerson, a [vocal opponent](#) of this anti-corruption rule, is expected to be confirmed by the Senate as the next Secretary of State. Exxon has spent millions, along with the American Petroleum Institute, to try to block this rule. Tillerson has [personally lobbied](#) on Capitol Hill and elsewhere to stop it.

Transparency, accountability and the rule of law are essential to the protection of human rights. Congress should be promoting those principles internationally not undermining them. Are we really going to let Congress make it easier for companies to finance governments that commit human rights abuses? Don't let Congress keep these payments secret. Let's make sure that the United States is a positive force for human rights and accountability.

**You can stop it!**

**[Tell Congress to stand up to corruption and for human rights and vote NO!](#)**

In Solidarity,

The Business and Human Rights Coordination Group

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## Take Action: Call Your Senator!

[Click here](#) to make your voice heard!.

[Call your Member of Congress](#) and urge them to oppose this measure. Tell them that a vote to overturn Sec.1504 of Dodd-Frank is a vote in favor of corruption and against human rights.

Here's a helpful script, just fill in your Senator's name where the XX is:

Please call (202) 224-3121 and ask to speak with the offices of both of your Senators.

Hello,

I'm calling to urge Senator XX to vote NO on the joint resolution overturning the Cardin-Lugar anti-corruption rule.

I believe that the United States must be a positive force for human rights and accountability and that Senate must ensure that US companies should be examples of robust transparency.

You can find contact information for your legislators at <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>.

*"Everyone, as a member of society... is entitled to realization... of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his [or her] dignity."*

*Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 22.*

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Amnesty International USA, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. SE 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20003