



An Open Letter to The Responsible Jewellery Council and the Alliance for Responsible Mining

We, the undersigned, are writing to express our concerns in regards to the Fairtrade and Fairmined gold label, in context to the current relationship between the Alliance for Responsible Mining and the Responsible Jewellery Council. We are concerned about how this relationship might impact the jewelers currently selling, and those interested in selling Fairtrade and Fairmined (FT/FM) gold in the future. We are also concerned for the strength of the Fairtrade and Fairmined brand, the enhancement of the quality of life for artisanal and small-scale miners and the expansion of responsible mining practices everywhere.

From its conception, the Fairtrade and Fairmined standard for gold and associated precious metals was the realization of a dream shared by small-scale miners *and* jewelers. The result of this collaboration is the FT/FM brand and story based upon traceability and transparency from FT/FM certified mines. The purity from source is critical. Therefore, all gold labeled as Fairtrade and Fairmined must continue to be traceable *from* a certified FT/FM mine, *to* a Fairtrade and Fairmined license holder. Gold that is a mixture of FT/FM gold *and* gold from other sources (mass balanced gold), *must not* have any association with the FT/FM product, the certification process, or any vague association with fair trade language.

We actively encourage RJC members to become a part of the FT/FM certification system by purchasing FT/FM gold, paying the FT Premium, and thereby making a positive contribution to future development and security of the certified communities. Any attempt to bypass this process would be a blatant attack not only on efforts to create a consistent consumer brand; but also on, the work that many have done to bring us where we are today. The chain of custody from producer through manufacturing must remain traceable, transparent and third party certified.

As FT/FM gold gains acceptance in the market through the pioneering efforts of smaller, artisanal jewelers, large companies will step into the market, which we view as an entirely positive development. However, systems must be put into place to assure that jewelers currently holding FT/FM licenses and jewelers who will be license holders in the future will continue to have full and complete access to purchase FT/FM gold.

We believe that FT/FM gold is a transformative opportunity for the artisanal small-scale mining community and jewelry sector. It is truly the most precious gold in the world. We hope to see the day when FT/FM gold is the first choice for all consumers who wish to purchase gold jewelry.

Thank you for considering these critical points. We request that you sign this open letter if you share the views expressed herein.

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