

LEBER JEWELER INC

ESTABLISHED IN 1921

303 West Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60654
TEL 312 944 2900
EMAIL Info@LeberJeweler.com
WEB www.LeberJeweler.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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This morning the President of the United States signed into law the Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE (Junta Anti-Democratic Efforts) Act of 2008. This legislation will tighten an existing ban and specifically bar the importation of Burmese rubies and jade, both loose and set in finished jewelry, into the United States regardless of where the gemstones were cut and polished. With the Burmese Government's near-total control of the gem trade, every Burmese gem offers either direct or indirect support to the military government and helps fund the regime's continued oppression of the people of Burma. This law will deprive the junta of much needed funds they use to continue their reign of terror over the Burmese people.

Since 2001 Leber Jeweler Inc. was a lone voice in the gem and jewelry industry, actively working for a ban on the importation of gemstones known to offer funding to Burma's military regime. Under the strong leadership of the 110th Congress the legislation passed with unanimous consent, aided especially by the dedication of the late Representative Tom Lantos. This effort to end the flow of US dollars into the pockets of the generals in Burma is now a reality and serves as a symbol of Mr. Lantos' legacy as a champion of human rights.

"The US jewelry trade must now cease selling Burmese gemstones known to benefit one of the world's most despotic regimes," said Brian Leber, president of Leber Jeweler Inc. and long-time proponent of sanctions against the military dictatorship in Burma. "We have a debt of obligation to the people of Burma, whose land and labor have historically provided us with the products we sell. Our industry must honor their call for sanctions against the military government that has taken so much away from them."

At Leber Jeweler Inc, we will continue to work for the people of Burma through the Jewelers' Burma Relief Project, an effort the company founded in 2004 to raise awareness of and assist with the humanitarian plight facing the Burmese people.

"Until the day when the people of Burma can truly benefit from the gem resources that are rightfully theirs and live in freedom of fear," said Leber, "a Burmese gemstone is not a symbol of beauty, but of the suffering of the people of Burma."

For inquiries please contact:

Brian Leber
brianleber@leberjeweler.com