

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE BRAZILIAN SENATE

Sr. Rodrigo Pacheco
Presidente do Senado Federal
Senado Federal - Anexo 2 - Ala Teotônio Vilela Gabinete 24 - Praça dos Três Poderes
70160-900 Brasília – DF
República Federativa do Brasil

December 13, 2021

Dear Mr. Rodrigo Pacheco,

We are writing to you out of concern over Brazil's skyrocketing Amazon deforestation and signals that legislation being considered in the Brazilian Senate will dramatically worsen the deforestation and human rights emergencies in Brazil. In particular the bills PL2633/2020 and PL510/2021 that relate to land grabbing and legislation that will curtail environmental licensing - PL 2159/2021 and PL 3729/2004.

In mid November, Brazil released an alarming 2021 PRODES annual deforestation report that showed nearly a 22% increase in Amazon deforestation, the worst level of deforestation since 2006. This represents the third year in a row of elevated deforestation, after a decade of pioneering progress. Most alarming was that the report was delayed by weeks and stakeholders at COP 26 were given a contrasting image of Brazil's management of the Amazon rainforest by Brazilian officials and private sector representatives.

At COP 26, Brazilian officials claimed that the government was adopting more ambitious environmental plans, however upon return, some of these same officials demonstrated that they intend to worsen deforestation with legislation that would further dismantle environmental protections in the Amazon.

Earlier this year and last year, we and other lawmakers from the EU¹, UK², and USA³, scientists, and major companies manifested concern for the PL2633/2020 legislation that would reward land grabbing. This Bill did not move forward in 2020 but this year was expedited and passed through the Chamber of Deputies through the use of emergency measures. Land Grabbing is a driver of deforestation as 30% of Brazilian Amazon deforestation occurs within Non-Destined Public Forests. Because the bill would reward land grabbing and open a path towards amnesty, researchers are projecting an increase in deforestation if the bill is approved. Brazil's dismantling of environmental and human rights protections have already created an obstacle in diplomatic and trade relations with Brazil. Taking steps to accelerate deforestation through laws like PL2633 puts at risk our future (joint missions, business, investments, trade, cooperation)

¹ <https://enhedslisten.dk/an-open-letter-to-the-president-of-the-chamber-of-deputies-and-senate>
<https://www.nouripour.com/an-open-letter-the-president-of-the-chamber-of-deputies>

² https://www.retailsoygroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Letter-from-Business-on-Amazon_2021.pdf

³ <https://raskin.house.gov/2020/6/house-members-ring-alarm-amidst-human-rights-violations-brazil>

relations, especially after the COP 26, as we are committed to raise the ambition to combat climate emergency and commit to the 1,5oC scenario.

The approaching Amazon Tipping point, the growing climate emergency, and the national impacts of deforestation happening in Brazil that threaten water stability, energy, and food production, should serve as a call to action to reverse course both in terms of how the Amazon rainforest is managed and how forest risk commodities are traded and consumed. We hope that Brazil can return to its position of being a climate leader in using innovative plans to reduce deforestation and reduce climate emissions.

Yours sincerely,

Signatures:

Bertel Haarder, The Liberal Party

Jan E. Jørgensen, The Liberal Party

Kim Valentin, The Liberal Party

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