

The Hague, June 12, 2023

President Rodrigo Pacheco  
Senado Federal  
Anexo 2 Ala Teotônio Vilela Gabinete 24  
Brasília, Brazil

**Subject: Concerns over the impact of Bill PL 490 on the environment and Indigenous rights**

Dear Mr. Rodrigo Pacheco, Honourable President of the Brazilian Federal Senate,

We, as members of the Dutch parliament, would like to express our deep concerns about the recent developments in Brazil surrounding Indigenous rights and the protection of the environment.

On May 30, 2023, Brazil's lower house of Congress approved Bill PL 490. This bill annuls Indigenous claims to huge areas of land whose protected status is currently still under review. Civil society warns this will lead to the dispossession of Indigenous communities' land.

Additionally, the loss of protection makes these territories vulnerable to logging and mining. Such activities are extremely damaging to the environment in which they take place. What worries us further is that much of these areas are located in the Amazon rainforest. As you are well aware, this is the largest rainforest in the world and home to more plant and animal species than any other ecosystem on land. The rainforest also acts as a net carbon sink and is therefore essential for keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The Brazilian Senate plays an important role in containing questionable legislation, while respecting the federal Constitution of Brazil. We therefore ask you, as President of the Federal Senate, to guarantee Brazil's environmental and Indigenous protections now that Bill PL490 has reached the Senate floor. We are committed to stand with Brazil in its defense of Indigenous rights, the environment and the global climate. Your support in this regard is both highly valued and crucially important.

Yours sincerely,

**Ernst Boutkan**

Member of Dutch parliament  
Volt

**Laurens Dassen**

Member of Dutch parliament  
Volt

**Stieneke van der Graaf**

Member of Dutch parliament  
ChristenUnie

**Tom van der Lee**

Member of Dutch parliament  
GroenLinks

**Christine Teunissen**

Member of Dutch parliament  
Partij voor de Dieren

**Joris Thijssen**

Member of Dutch parliament  
Partij van de Arbeid