

President Michel Temer
Office of the President of Brazil
Brasilia
Brazil

June 16th, 2017

Dear Mr. President,

RE: Request to veto provisional acts MP756 & MP758 that reduce forest protection in Brazil

Since the Rio Summit, Brazilian leadership on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement has been critical for securing our common future. We commend your Government for its engagement in these processes over the past few years.

Brazil is home to some of the planet's most valued ecosystems, including the Amazon and other forest basins, which play a crucial role as carbon sinks and as homes for rich and critically important biodiversity. We are therefore deeply concerned by proposed legislation (acts MP756 and MP758) that will reduce forest protection in Brazil if approved. As business and civil society leaders active on this agenda, we also recognize that, in addition to the environmental considerations, there is a strong economic case for protecting these ecosystems.

Accordingly, we are writing to you in support of the *The Brazilian Coalition on Climate, Forests and Agriculture* – a movement formed by the business sector, civil society and the academic community – in its call for a Presidential veto of provisional acts MP756 and MP758.

We are concerned that approval of these laws will withdraw protection of 588,500 hectares of forests in the Amazon and cause the reduction of 20% of Parna de São Joaquim, one of the main refuges of the Atlantic Forest biodiversity, the most threatened biome in the country.

The approval of these provisional acts goes against the protection of the environment and the battle with growing deforestation around the world and has the potential to seriously damage Brazil's rich biodiversity, undermine the heritage of indigenous communities, and reduce Brazil's ability to meet its emission reduction goals under the Paris Agreement.

Those parties who are defending approval of the proposed legislation argue that difficulties faced by the government in implementing protection have prevented the effective control of illegal and predatory exploitation. However, we share the concerns of the Brazilian Coalition of Climate, Forests and Agriculture, that reducing protection will only lead to increased degeneration of the forests.

As business and civil society leaders, we are committed to the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement, and we are driving these goals into the core of the businesses we lead. But these global ambitions can only be achieved by the private sector, governments and civil society working together.

Brazil is well positioned to be a beacon of sustainable, inclusive development, with the potential to build a vibrant economy operating within environmental boundaries. We believe this would attract considerable investment and drive development gains for the Brazilian people.

Mr. President, given Brazil's significant commitments to the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, we are writing to urge you to consider use of your veto in this instance with regard to bills MP756 and MP758, to help protect ecosystems upon which all life depends.

THE B TEAM

Yours sincerely,



Sir Richard Branson
Co-Chair, The B Team
Founder, Virgin Group



Jochen Zeitz
Co-Chair, The B Team



Guilherme Leal
Co-Founder and Chair, Natura



Paul Polman
CEO, Unilever



Yolanda Kakabadse
President, WWF International



Mary Robinson
Former President of Ireland
President, Mary Robinson
Foundation – Climate Justice