

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, according to the New York Times, the Amazon's rainforest is now burning at record rates, with an 80% increase of forest fires since 2018, straining the Earth's ability to store carbon and produce oxygen; and

WHEREAS, members of the European Union have condemned the destruction of the Amazon rainforest by cattle farmers and called for an urgent review of the possibility of banning Brazilian beef imports for their connection to environmental damage; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for International Policy's Mighty Earth Campaign, soy products have a related effect of global deforestation, as 75% of the world's soy is used as feed for raising livestock including chicken and fish across the globe; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Global Environment Change Journal described the rising global demand for soybean production as an underlying driver of global deforestation, as pressure mounted for farmers across South America to partake in large-scale forest-clearing to establish more cropland for soy cultivation; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization issued a statement entitled, "Livestock, a Major Threat to Environment," stating that animal agriculture is responsible for approximately 65% of all human-related nitrous oxide emissions, which causes heat to be trapped at an estimated rate 296 times stronger than carbon dioxide, and is guiding our global temperature towards a climate tipping point of no return; and

WHEREAS, the horrific murders of Indigenous Peoples working to protect the Amazon from deforestation have been committed with impunity and continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, one of these "Guardians of the Forest," Paulo Paulino Guajajara, a 26-year-old Indigenous Guajajara leader was ambushed and killed allegedly by illegal loggers in the Arariboia Indigenous Reserve, one of Brazil's most threatened Indigenous territories; and

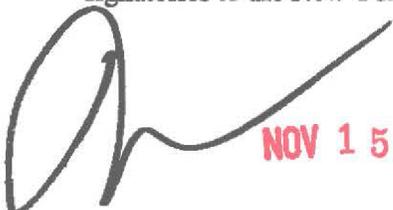
WHEREAS, Indigenous wisdom is essential to our understand of and continued protection for the Amazon rainforest; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kevin De Leon's SB 100, which was signed into law on September 10, 2018, seeks to eliminate electricity-related greenhouse-gas emissions by 2045 and cut them by half by 2026, making California the world's largest economy with a zero-emissions goal; and

WHEREAS, on July 3, 2019, the City Council approved legislation creating the world's first Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization in order to address the climate crisis at the speed of what is scientifically necessary, not the speed of what is deemed possible; and

WHEREAS, the entire State of California is an endorser of the New York Declaration on Forests, which ensures a commitment from companies to end deforestation by 2030; and

WHEREAS, many multinational corporations that distribute beef and soy products in Los Angeles are not signatories to the New York Declaration on Forests; and



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WHEREAS, any buyer in Los Angeles, be it a city agency, private corporation, or otherwise, should proactively uphold climate protections by refraining from purchasing agricultural products that fail to meet the sustainability standards set under Mayor Garcetti's Green New Deal, which sets the City on course to be carbon neutral by 2050; and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve the commitments made by the City and State to drastically reduce greenhouse gasses and carbon emissions in all sectors of the economy, it is imperative for public and private sectors to divest from agricultural industries that contribute to the climate emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby calls on corporate and government entities operating in the City of Los Angeles to divest from agricultural industries that benefit from deforestation, the murder of the Indigenous People who inhabit the rainforests, and the acceleration of global warming.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State and Federal Legislative Programs SUPPORT for any legislation that would require clear labeling of any product sourced from the Amazon or any other rainforest.

PRESENTED BY: 
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District


DAVID RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: 