



Sainsbury's Plc
Mike Coupe
33 Holborn
London EC1
UK

Brussels, 27/08/2019

Dear Mike Coupe,

The destruction of the Amazon rainforest is heart breaking and the people of the world look on in horror as our most important carbon sink goes up in flames. This year has seen a record number of fires - more than 70,000 across Brazil - which represents a more than an 80% increase compared with the same period last year.

Around a fifth of the Amazon rainforest has been destroyed already and scientists warn that losing another fifth could trigger a feedback loop, which could see the forest begin to dry out, burn and collapse. As the world's largest land-based carbon sink this could lead to runaway climate change and the end of life on earth as we know it.

It is clear that it is the Bolsonaro government's deliberate policy of 'developing' the Amazon that is driving the deforestation and the destruction of the Amazon and the lives of the indigenous people who call the forest home and have always protected it. His campaign for the presidency was supported by agribusiness and he made shocking and racist statements encouraging the murder of indigenous people by ranchers.

The fires in the Amazon are not accidental but a deliberate policy to eliminate an entire ecosystem to enable the expansion of beef production and the growth in the profits of the beef producers and exporters.

Many people in this country, many of your customers, feel shocked and appalled but powerless to make a difference. But we are not powerless, because we ourselves may be buying Brazilian beef grown on deforested land or fed on soya grown on deforested land. As consumers, we need to be able to choose to spend our money for good and to avoid being implicated in the destruction of the Amazon and the killing of indigenous people.

We are writing now to ask you to carry out an audit of your supply chains to identify any products on your shelves that have come from the Amazon or Cerrado regions of Brazil. Such an audit should also be able to identify beef fed with soya produced on deforested land and to distinguish products grown ethically in a way that protects the forest (such as Brazil nuts) from those that have resulted from illegal and irresponsible destruction of that forest.

Ideally, we would wish to see damaging products removed from your shelves but, as a minimum, we would request that you identify them clearly by labelling so that customers can avoid them to show their concern about the destruction of the Amazon.

In this climate emergency, we all need to play our part and we look forward to your response.

With best wishes,

Molly Scott Cato, Green MEP for South West England and Gibraltar

Alexandra Louise Phillips, Green MEP for South East England

Gina Dowding, Green MEP for North West England

Ellie Chowns, Green MEP for the West Midlands

Scott Ainslie, Green MEP for London

Catherine Rowett, Green MEP for the East of England

Magid Magid, Green MEP for Yorkshire and the Humber