

October 23, 2024

To: Alexandra MacMillan Daitch, Andrew Cargill MacMillan, Anne Pedrero, Austen S. Cargill II, Christopher MacMillan, Daniel H. MacMillan, David D. MacMillan, Donald C. MacMillan, Donna J. MacMillan, Elizabeth MacMillan Schmidt, Gwendolyn Sontheim Meyer, James R. Cargill II, John Cargill MacMillan, John H. MacMillan IV, Kate MacMillan Reed, Katherine Tanner, Lucy MacMillan Stitzer, Marianne Liebmann, Pauline MacMillan Keinath, Sandra MacMillan Kirkpatrick, and Sarah MacMillan:

As the owners of Cargill, the largest private company in America and the largest agricultural company in the world, you are one of the wealthiest and most powerful families on Earth. (1)

Forbes estimates your net worth at \$47 billion, with more individual billionaires than any other family in the world. Each year this wealth continues to grow, with some of you making as much as \$64 million a year in dividends alone. (2)

But this windfall comes at a price for everyone else.

Your company's reputation for the destruction of nature, human rights abuses, and corporate malfeasance is notorious. Forests across the world continue to fall to make way for your company's expansion; children toil on plantations to supply you with cocoa beans, Indigenous communities are forced from their territories, and hundreds of thousands of Brazilians this year alone have been forced out of their homes, ravaged by floods caused and exacerbated by the destruction of the land for soy plantations. (3)(4)

Cargill has repeatedly committed to addressing human rights abuses and the destruction of nature in its supply chain but has not followed through on these commitments. (5) In addition to sourcing from plantations that destroy South America's forests to produce grain, Cargill is promoting the construction of a mega railway that would destroy forests through the heart of the Brazilian Amazon. The project, called the Ferrogrão, is proposed to be constructed through over 600 miles of Amazon rainforest between the Xingu and Tapajós rivers, and would result in an estimated half a million acres of deforestation. This project would supply animal feed to China and Europe and affect at least six Indigenous lands, 17 conservation units, and three isolated tribes without their consent or consultation.

Your company's support for the dangerous and destructive Ferrogrão railway in the Brazilian Amazon is a clear example of this contradiction: this mega-project for grain export favors deforestation and deepens violations against Indigenous peoples and local communities.

For years, you have delegated the management of your company to its executives. You have trusted them to conduct business ethically and to follow through on their commitments. So far, the company has done neither

**Bellingham, U.S.**

Traditional Lummi and Nooksack  
Lands  
1329 N State St #302  
Bellingham, WA 98225

**San Francisco, U.S.**

Traditional Chochoyeno and Karkin  
Ohlone Lands  
548 Market Street Suite 74196  
San Francisco, CA 94104-5401

**Vancouver, CA**

The Unceded Territories of the  
Səlilwətaʔ, xʷməθkʷəy̍əm, and  
Skwxwú7mesh Nations  
5307 Victoria Drive, Suite 347  
Vancouver, BC V5P 3V6

Last November, Cargill committed to ending the destruction of forests and other ecosystems in Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina by 2025. We hope that this is more than just another empty promise. (6)

It's time for you to engage—to step in, step up, and show leadership. It is time to fulfill and expand this commitment and eliminate human rights abuses and the destruction of nature throughout Cargill's entire supply chain.

Sincerely,

Mathew Jacobson, Stand.earth

With support from:

AidEnvironment

Amazon Watch

Arteoitava

Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil (APIB)

Associação Indígena Pariri

Brigada Guardiões da Cafuringa e Brigada Guardiões do Canela de Ema Ekō

Guardioes da Cafuringa

Instituto Climainfo

Instituto Procomum

Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza (ISPAN)

International Rights Advocates

Mighty Earth

Parede Viva

QueroQuero Cinema

Rainforest Action Network

Rainforest Foundation Norway

Rede Emaranhadas

Resistencia Cultural Upaon Açú- Reocupa

(1) <https://www.forbes.com/lists/largest-private-companies/>

- (2) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/danalexander/2015/03/02/record-290-newcomers-join-forbes-billionaires-list-including-michael-jordan/>
- (3) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criticisms\\_of\\_Cargill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criticisms_of_Cargill)
- (4) <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/03/climate/brazil-floods-climate-change.html>
- (5) <https://burninglegacy.org/evidence/a-grain-of-truth/>
- (6) <https://www.cargill.com/2023/cargill-announces-commitment-to-eliminate-deforestation>