

## Invitation: hosting role for international partners and indigenous leaders event

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To: jennifer.vanderheide@mail.house.gov <jennifer.vanderheide@mail.house.gov>; Garcia, Christopher <[REDACTED]@mail.house.gov>

Cc: Margaret Hansbrough <[REDACTED]@waxmanstrategies.com>

Jennifer and Chris, hi,

Rose here, from Congressman Waxman's firm. We met earlier this year at a dinner your boss organized to have the Congressman meet and talk with freshman members. Hope you all are weathering these crazy times.

My team wanted to reach out with a special invitation for Congresswoman Haaland. As you might know, our firm is grant-funded on a number of projects that seek to protect tropical forests abroad and to support local and Indigenous communities that depend on them. A lot of this work is conducted hand-in-hand with [Mighty Earth](#), the non-profit group Congressman Waxman chairs, and is focused on reforming industrial agricultural practices that are driving deforestation and land-grabbing. We urge reforms among large multi-nationals operating in Brazil, Indonesia, and other high forest cover countries, and have had success, especially in Indonesia, securing sustainability commitments to restore damaged forests and provide restitution to communities for harm.

We think this is an opportune political moment to uplift the voices of some of our international allies, and give them a platform to describe their stories, experiences and knowledge. The idea would be to create space for partners to describe how they've been impacted, and to reinforce that the U.S. is connected to abuses abroad (through trade, investments, and domestic policy that allows problematic imports and/or incentivizes unsustainable international production).

**With this in mind we're planning a virtual briefing in late July, date still TBD.** The briefing would be for Congressional members and staff, and likely also NGO allies. We thought this event seemed closely aligned with the Congresswoman's priorities, and **we want to offer her the chance to host the briefing and offer remarks and her perspective.** I'd be happy to fill in any and all details (participants, format, themes, etc) and to touch base and discuss if that makes sense. We're in still in the fairly early planning stages, and we'd welcome input, of course.

Thanks so much for considering this. Looking forward to talking more.

Best, Rose

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