

Resolution of Support for a Statewide Ban of Imports of Amazon Crude

Whereas the Amazon rainforest is the world's largest terrestrial carbon sink and plays a critical role in the regulation of the global climate; and,

Whereas the Amazon contains half of the world's species, many of which have yet to be scientifically researched, and many of which are in danger of extinction; and,

Whereas the area of the Amazon represents the historic land of over 400 distinct Indigenous peoples, nations, and tribes who serve as stewards to the rainforest and depend on the rainforest for their livelihoods and for the survival of their cultures; and,

Whereas several oil corporations have been drilling for oil in the Amazon for decades with disastrous and irreversible results, including but not limited to the dumping of billions of gallons of toxic wastewater, the creation of almost one thousand unlined pits of toxic sludge, deforestation and fragmentation, increased rates of cancer, birth defects, and miscarriages among indigenous communities, and violence against local communities; and,

Whereas California imports half of all Amazon Crude exports, thus representing the world's largest importer of Amazon Crude; and

Whereas US demand for oil is driving the expansion of oil drilling projects in the Amazon rainforest; and,

Whereas the burning of fossil fuels the leading contributor to global climate change,

Be it resolved that the Student Union Assembly of the University of California, Santa Cruz supports a statewide ban of imports of Amazon Crude, and that the Student Union Assembly calls on Santa Cruz City Council to speak out against California's role in the expansion of oil drilling projects in the Amazon Rainforest.