

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2578

To support United States investment opportunities, to strengthen bilateral collaboration in addressing criminal elements operating in the Brazilian Amazon, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2025

Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To support United States investment opportunities, to strengthen bilateral collaboration in addressing criminal elements operating in the Brazilian Amazon, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening the Rule
5 of Law in the Brazilian Amazon Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) CRIMES.—The term “crimes” means—

(A) any crime related or contributing to the illegal fishing and wildlife trade, illicit mining, or illegal logging and land-clearing in the Brazilian Amazon; and

(B) associated corruption, financial crimes, and violent crimes.

(2) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—The term “international financial institutions” means—

(A) the World Bank Group;

(B) the Inter-American Development Bank Group; and

(C) the International Monetary Fund.

(3) RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The term “relevant Federal agencies” means—

(A) the Department of State;

(B) the United States Agency for International Development;

(C) the Department of Justice;

(D) the Department of the Treasury;

(E) the Department of Homeland Security;

(F) the Department of Agriculture;

(G) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(H) the Department of the Interior; and

1 (I) any other Federal agency that the
2 President determines is a relevant Federal
3 agency for purposes of this Act.

4 **SEC. 3. IDENTIFYING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE**
5 **BRAZILIAN AMAZON.**

6 (a) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.—The Chief Executive
7 Officer of the United States International Development
8 Finance Corporation should consider placing a staff mem-
9 ber in Brazil with duties that include—

10 (1) identifying and implementing more sustain-
11 able and viable economic opportunities in the Bra-
12 zilian Amazon; and

13 (2) identifying possible investment risks and
14 mitigation measures related to operations and actors
15 that contribute to criminal activity in the Brazilian
16 Amazon.

17 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive Officer
19 of the United States International Development Finance
20 Corporation shall submit a report to Congress that de-
21 scribes—

22 (1) the opportunities identified pursuant to sub-
23 section (a)(1); and

1 (2) the most significant barriers to greater in-
 2 vestment in sustainable and viable economic oppor-
 3 tunities in the Brazilian Amazon.

4 **SEC. 4. COMBATING CRIMINAL ELEMENTS OPERATING IN**
 5 **THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State should di-
 7 rect the Assistant Secretary of State for International
 8 Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, in coordination
 9 with relevant Federal agencies and the United States mis-
 10 sion in Brazil, to promote supporting Brazil’s efforts to
 11 identify and disrupt the complex and transnational crimi-
 12 nal networks contributing to the destruction of commu-
 13 nities and deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon by pro-
 14 viding capacity building and technical assistance, includ-
 15 ing—

16 (1) information sharing, training, and capacity-
 17 building for Brazilian agencies, including through
 18 United States Government agencies;

19 (2) collaborating on tracing funds generated
 20 from crimes;

21 (3) supporting investigations of crimes that are
 22 associated with deforestation, environmental deg-
 23 radation, money laundering, asset laundering, or
 24 corruption offenses;

1 (4) assisting with the identification of the pro-
2 ceeds of such crimes to help facilitate asset recovery;
3 and

4 (5) providing appropriate United States assist-
5 ance to funding mechanisms consistent with the
6 goals of this Act.

7 (b) COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator of
8 the United States Agency for International Development,
9 in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, should pro-
10 vide financial and technical assistance to help prevent
11 crimes by promoting—

12 (1) sustainable, lawful livelihoods in the Bra-
13 zilian Amazon;

14 (2) the protection of rights for Indigenous Peo-
15 ples and local communities;

16 (3) economic activities and natural resource
17 management, including mining, sustainable agri-
18 culture, and sustainable forest-based activities; and

19 (4) the management of protected areas, includ-
20 ing indigenous territories, buffer zones, water re-
21 sources, terrestrial and aquatic habitats of species
22 deemed to be threatened by extinction, and other
23 spaces vulnerable to conversion and deforestation.

24 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
25 the date of the enactment of this Act and annually there-

1 after for the following 5 years, the Secretary of State, in
2 coordination with relevant Federal agencies and non-
3 governmental organizations, shall submit a report to Con-
4 gress that describes the progress made in carrying out
5 subsections (a) and (b).

6 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
7 authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State
8 up to \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025
9 through 2028, which should be used to help Brazilian au-
10 thorities combat crimes in accordance with subsections (a)
11 and (b).

12 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON CERTAIN DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION**
13 **AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN THE**
14 **BRAZILIAN AMAZON.**

15 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
16 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination
17 with relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report to
18 Congress regarding certain drivers of deforestation and
19 environmental degradation in the Brazilian Amazon that
20 includes—

21 (1) a description of the agricultural commod-
22 ities, illegal timber, minerals, and wildlife entering
23 the United States market that are contributing to
24 deforestation and environmental degradation of the
25 Brazilian Amazon;

1 (2) a description of the role of the People’s Re-
2 public of China’s in facilitating illicit resource ex-
3 traction and environmental degradation, including
4 deforestation, in the Brazilian Amazon;

5 (3) the funding levels and efficacy of United
6 States foreign assistance programs in identifying
7 and disrupting the criminal elements operating in
8 the Brazilian Amazon; and

9 (4) an assessment of the Government of Bra-
10 zil’s contributions to countering criminal elements
11 operating in the Brazilian Amazon.

12 **SEC. 6. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.**

13 Notwithstanding any other provision of law (includ-
14 ing any Executive order), the Secretary of the Treasury
15 should direct the United States executive director to each
16 international financial institution, in consultation with rel-
17 evant Federal agencies, to use the voice, vote, and influ-
18 ence of the United States—

19 (1) to prioritize promoting sustainable and
20 broad-based development in the Brazilian Amazon;
21 and

22 (2) to oppose any loans or programs at any
23 such institution that would facilitate or exacerbate

- 1 deforestation and environmental degradation in the
- 2 Brazilian Amazon.

