



November 15, 2023

Dear Colleagues:

The University of Richmond has convened a global summit in response to the urgent need to work together and across boundaries for a sustainable future. These include land-based and conceptual boundaries, which we have sought to overcome this week by joining forces from nine countries on "Braided Knowledges for a Sustainable Future: Rivers, Indigenous Peoples, Justice."

We have been tremendously fortunate to join forces with a group of Amazon rainforest Indigenous colleagues from Peru, Brazil and Bolivia who represent the Transboundary Commission of the Juruá-Yuruá-Alto Tamaya Rivers. In sharing lived and learned experience, including mapping of climate and forest change performed by the University of Richmond's Amazon Borderlands Spatial Analysis Team (students, staff, professors and collaborators), we ask for your support for the preservation of the rainforest and those who live there in harmony with nature. Roadbuilding, forest changes and agricultural expansion are rapidly eroding one of the few remaining vast old forests and untrammelled headwaters on our shared planet.

80% of the world's remaining natural lands are tended to by 5% of the world's population, Indigenous peoples. What is for these environmental defenders and their families a matter of vital survival today, for all of us is a matter of survival for a not very distant tomorrow.

With respect and shared concern,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Andrejewski".

Rob Andrejewski  
University of Richmond, *Director of Sustainability and Environmental Justice*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stewart Chirova".

Stewart Chirova  
SIT Abroad Cape Town, *Academic Director*  
South Africa

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Hart".

Daniel Hart  
University of Richmond, *Associate Director of Sustainability and Environmental Justice*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susanne Hovmand".

Susanne Hovmand  
DIS Abroad, *Program Director: International Business and Global Economics*  
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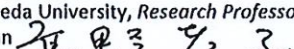
David Orr   
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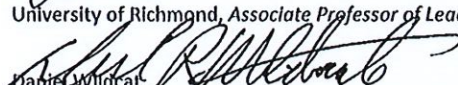
  
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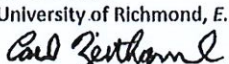
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