# **Congress will debate the bill that seeks to stop deforestation in the Amazon on Thursday, January 5.**

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**Body**

The Congress of the Republic scheduled for this Thursday, January 5, to debate by insistence the bill that would promote ***deforestation*** in the ***Amazon***. The initiative was approved last July 14, but the Executive Power observed it, returning it to the Agrarian Commission.

The observed document is signed by former President Pedro Castillo and also by the former head of the Council of Ministers, Aníbal Torres. In this sense, they mentioned that this project does not constitute "an adequate legislation" that would not protect the ***Amazon*** and the national ecosystem.

However, the parliamentarians voted in favor of the project, without taking into account the observations made by the former president. Among them was that it "threatened" the ***Amazon***. Therefore, it will be debated in the Plenary of the Congress to decide if it will be approved and become law.

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The provision seeks to modify the Forestry and Wildlife Law, precisely in articles 29 and 33. This working group approved it on November 4, 2022.

For its part, the Ombudsman's Office also urged the Parliament not to approve the bill promoted by the Teachers' Bloc. The entity pointed out that 80% of ***deforestation*** is generated by the agricultural sector, so they ask that land be provided to help "promote this activity".

What was the Executive's observation?

The Executive Branch details that this provision will allow the development of agricultural activities without the authorization of the Ministry of Environment. Therefore, they specify that this portfolio is responsible for approving the forest zoning. "This regulation could have a greater impact on the forests of the ***Amazon***, being that the process of formalization and titling of rural properties," reads the document.

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They also emphasize that it must be guaranteed that the lands are not granted with a "use capacity greater than forestry". "That is to say, this provision implies that private properties with title and proof of possession will no longer have the requirement of forest zoning for the change of land use," they detailed.

In addition, they warned that this project has no "technical support". "Therefore, the legislative proposal not only contravenes the purpose and objectives of the Forestry and Wildlife Law itself (...) threatening the sustainable development of the ***Amazon*** with adequate legislation, and putting at serious risk the right to enjoy a balanced and adequate environment for the development of people's lives," they read.

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