Dear [Recipient Name],

We, 8th Graders at North Gwinnett Middle School, are concerned about the impending destruction of the habitat of the Waoroni People in the Amazon Rainforest. Chevron Oil Company has purchased land in the Amazon Rainforest where this tribe is currently residing, and are planning to drive them out violently… for oil! This will greatly affect humanity as a whole, and we will definitely suffer the retributions here in the United States. In this letter, I will further extrapolate on what is happening and what we are doing to help, and then give you information on how you can make a difference.

The Amazon Rainforest is the most biodiverse place in the world, containing more distinct species than the entire North American continent! However, due to habitat destruction by major players such as Chevron, an average of 137 of these species are going extinct every day. Of these, an average of only one is catalogued and has been studied. Think of the astounding medical potential of all of that undiscovered flora and fauna, put to waste because of the greed of the timber and oil industries. We already know that periwinkle, exclusive to the Amazon, is one of the best cancer-treating drugs. Maybe we have already destroyed a cure for cancer without knowing it!

Not only is the Amazon the most biodiverse place in the world, but it also constitutes ≈20% of the world’s oxygen production. However, in the process of mining the Amazon for oil, incomprehensible amounts of carbon dioxide are released into the air. Firstly, the existing forest in the area is burned down, releasing much of the carbon dioxide that the trees have contained over the years. Next, drilling for oil and collecting it uses up even more fossil fuels to run the machinery. After that, the oil has to be exported around the world by ships or tankers running on oil. Finally, it reaches the consumer, which burns the oil to create even more carbon dioxide. And, to add insult to injury, one of the world most major reducer of these gasses is destroyed in the process!

If Chevron destroys that land, it will not only destroy its biodiversity, not only its oxygen production, but also the people living there. These are people who have been living harmoniously with the nature in the area for millennia, and who ask nothing more than to continue to retain their culture and way of life. They have accumulated thousands of years’ worth of knowledge about that ecosystem, all of which would be useless without the land itself. We should embrace the fact that they know so much about this unique piece of land and try learning from them, not drive them out. They are so attached to their land that they are willing to fight for it, even outmatched against an enemy who has an infinite military superiority. You would to, if you had lived in one spot all your life, as well as your parents, and your parents’ parents, stretching all the way back for thousands of years. There comes a time when the land becomes indisputable yours, and no legal entitlement should be able to change that.

In this letter, I hope I have opened your eyes to the injustice against a people, an environment, and ultimately ourselves. We already know what happened to the original inhabitants of North America. The explorers came in looking for gold, and got what they wanted, but too late now we are realizing the effects on the original inhabitants of the land, who have lost their invaluable culture and language to the world. Let us not repeat this over black gold, because surely we will end up with the same result. Take in mind that, without your assistance, the Waorani people stand little chance, and we will all suffer as a whole. Please try to raise awareness about this issue and do the best you can to help support the right cause. For more information visit <http://www.walkingdeadoverabarrel1.weebly.com/>.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Jamil F. Kassam