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REGION AMAZONICA - ECUADOR

April 17, 2007

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Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Gov. Schwarzenegger:

I am alawyer from a small town in the Amazon rainforest of Ecuador fighting in a major litigation against one of your state's biggest companies, Chevron. Recently, the magazine Vanity Fair reported on the case that I am working on, and I have attached a copy of it for your review. I know that Chevron has supported your elections, and that you have worked with them in the past. However, in light of the serious injustices they have perpetrated on the peoples of my homeland, I am asking for your support in our fight against this company, which has destroyed many beautiful parts of the rainforest where I and thousands of others live. .

Over the course of two decades, Texaco, which was bought and folded into Chevron in 2001, drilled and excavated oil, all the while ignoring every environmental standard that was and is practiced in the United States. They did so because they never envisioned that we would fight back.

Chevron destroyed over 1,700 square miles of once pristine rain forest with petrochemicals and seepage, and in the process poisoned generations of people. We can no longer drink the water in our villages and towns because the water is contaminated. I stand with 30,000 Ecuadorians in asking for your help.

To put a scale to the damage, the pipeline that Chevron is responsible for spilled over 17 million gallons of oil - most not cleaned up - in the 17 years they owned it. The Exxon Valdez spilled 11 million gallons. Yet these spills are only a small part of the overall pollution left by Chevron. The company dumped 18 billion gallons of toxic waste directly into the rainforest, apart from pipeline spills.

Chevron willtell you that they spent $40 million to "remediate" the contamination. What they won't tell you is that they only offered to clean up less than 1% of the contamination they created, and that they completely ignored contamination of groundwater, rivers, and streams. -. They will tell you that the limited and inadequate work they did releases them from any further liability, but this is not the case. A full clean-up is estimated by experts to cost at least $6 billion.

Instead of trying to help my people, Chevron has time and again funded studies to discredit our health problems and to downplay the economic impact their drilling had.

I know that you have close ties to this company. For instance, I have read that Chevron has donated over $600,000 to your campaigns and inaugurations. I have also read that your former Chief of Staff was a lobbyist for Chevron.

However, I have faith because I know you are a man of the environment. You are making California a leader in the United States on almost every environmental issue. You are what they call a "green" governor.

I would like to ask you to read the article I have included. It is long, but it is full of facts that you should know about Chevron. After you have read the article, I would like to invite you personally down to Ecuador to look at what Chevron has done to the rainforest here. I would plead with you to bring your friends who are executives at the company so they can explain to you what they have done here. And finally, I am asking for your public help in supporting our fight against this company.

As a man who respects the environment and business, I have faith that you will stand with us in this important fight.

Respectfully yours,

Pablo Fajardo