

Dear _____.

I am writing in regard to the 2019 oil spills currently affecting Brazil. Contamination from this oil has reached at least nine states in Northeast Brazil, touching over 2,250 kilometers of coastline. This oil has already started to impact mangroves and corals, and the toxins it leaves behind will continue to endanger those who come in contact with oil residue and gses. In other words, this spill has had and will have critical impacts on both ecosystems and human lives. In relation to both those categories, I am especially worried about this impacts of this spill on fishing communities who depend on clean water and coasts for their livelihood. While I recognize that the oil spilled was not Brazilian, strong governmental reaction is necessary to mitigate the crisis.

I look to you, _____, to take action in the following ways: fully activate The Contingency Plan on Oil Spills, which already exists in Brazilian law, on the Bahia coast; declare a Public Health Emergency for the Northeast, both for leisure areas of beaches and for fishing and shell-fishing communities; conduct careful research on how local fisheries in the Northeast are, or are not, polluted, instead of continuing a total prohibition against catching or consuming any and fish and shellfish; research on the health risks to “the People of the Waters”; involve fisherwomen and men, and their communities, in government plans to deal with the oil spill disaster at all levels of government.

Thank you for your consideration and I wish you the best in dealing with this disaster.

Yours Sincerely,
Caroline Maker