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## **HEARING IN YOUTH'S LANDMARK FEDERAL CLIMATE LAWSUIT GENERATES IMMENSE PUBLIC INTEREST**

*Federal Court Reserves Three Overflow Courtrooms For Huge Expected Turnout as Fossil Fuel Industry and Federal Government Try to Foil Youth's Case*

Eugene, Oregon – This morning, 21 young plaintiffs from across the United States and Dr. James Hansen, world renowned climate scientist, will sit before U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Thomas M. Coffin during oral arguments in their landmark constitutional and public trust climate case. The hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (PST) at the Wayne Lyman Morse United States Courthouse in Eugene, Oregon.

The plaintiffs will be joined by hundreds of students and citizens traveling to Eugene from all over the country showing their support for the case. Because of the immense public interest in the case, the court will provide three overflow courtrooms with live streaming of the hearing to accommodate the huge crowd. The hearing will also be live-streamed to the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse in Portland due to large public interest there.

“Governmental inaction on climate is no longer an option,” said Kelsey Juliana, the youth plaintiff for whom “Juliana v. U.S.” is named. “We, the youth, will not allow those elected in power to neglect their duties to protect our rights so they can serve the interests of the fossil fuel industry. We are telling our government that we have a constitutional right to survival, and no group of politicians or corporations can take those rights away from us or future generations.”

“Our young plaintiffs have brought one of the most significant cases in constitutional history,” stated Philip Gregory with Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy of Burlingame, CA. “Their Complaint alleges the Federal Government is violating the youths’ constitutional rights by promoting the development and use of fossil fuels. These young Plaintiffs are challenging the government’s fossil fuel programs, where they will hold President Obama and various federal agencies responsible for ongoing fossil fuel exploitation.”

At today’s hearing, the court will decide whether to dismiss the case, based on motions filed by the Federal Government and the Fossil Fuel Industry. Gregory noted, “The Federal Government and the Fossil Fuel industry seek to get this case dismissed because they have known for decades that fossil fuels are destroying our climate system and harming our kids.”

“This is a case of monumental consequence,” said Julia Olson, lead counsel for the plaintiffs and Executive Director of Our Children’s Trust. “Our system of laws is hollow if it is not equipped to stop the government from perpetuating the substantial harm that violates citizens’ fundamental rights, especially when the same government has known and brazenly disregarded the danger for decades. The youth are asking for a meaningful remedy in the form of a science-based climate recovery plan. Because they recognize that it is the government's responsibility to create and implement a plan, they are not asking for a specific plan. But the government's plan must be based on science. And it must work. Because a plan that does not work--or worse, and like we have now, no climate recovery plan at all--will mean a future for these youth that is simply unfathomable.”

***Our Children's Trust*** is a nonprofit organization, elevating the voice of youth, those with most to lose, to secure the legal right to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate on behalf of present and future generations. We lead a global human rights and environmental justice campaign to implement enforceable science-based Climate Recovery Plans that will return atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration to levels below 350 ppm.

[www.ourchildrenstrust.org/](http://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/)

***Earth Guardians*** is a Colorado-based nonprofit organization with youth chapters on five continents, and multiple groups in the United States with thousands of members working together to protect the Earth, the water, the air, and the atmosphere, creating healthy sustainable communities globally. We inspire and empower young leaders, families, schools, organizations, cities, and government officials to make positive change locally, nationally, and globally to address the critical state of the Earth. [www.earthguardians.org](http://www.earthguardians.org)

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