



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2014

For inquiries or interview requests, please contact:

Gayle Goldsmith Tuch, Attorney at Law, 336-766-2767, gayle@ggtuchlaw.com

Nate Bellinger, Our Children's Trust, 413-687-1668, nate@ourchildrenstrust.org

**12-Year-Old Submits Petition for Rulemaking to the
North Carolina Division of Air Quality to Limit Carbon Pollution**

Raleigh, North Carolina – On Friday, December 5th, 12-year-old Hallie Turner submitted a [petition for rulemaking](#) to the North Carolina Division of Air Quality asking that a rule be established to reduce carbon pollution. Hallie filed the petition in an attempt to get the State to protect North Carolina's water and air resources. These are public trust resources upon which all North Carolina residents rely on for their health and safety.

"We can't vote or run for office," said Hallie. "We have to trust today's leaders to make decisions on behalf of us. This is why I want to file the petition, to show our leaders that the youngest generation is ready and willing to take action, and they need to be, too. Climate change is a global issue, and North Carolina needs to step up and be a role model for the rest of the world."

Hallie's petition asks the Division to promulgate a rule based on the best available climate science to limit North Carolina's carbon dioxide emissions and take the following steps:

- (1) Ensures that Statewide carbon dioxide ("CO₂") emissions peak in the year 2015;
- (2) Adopts and implements a CO₂ emissions reduction plan that, consistent with the best available science, reduces Statewide CO₂ emissions by at least 4% annually until at least 2050;
- (3) Establishes an accounting, verification, and inventory system for Statewide CO₂ emissions;
- (4) Requires the issuance of annual reports providing the public with accurate data on the effectiveness of North Carolina's efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions; and
- (5) Requires the adoption of any policies or regulations necessary to implement the emissions reduction plan referred to in (1) through (4) above.

Hallie hopes that through her petition the Division will adopt a rule that will ensure the integrity of North Carolina's climate system by protecting the atmosphere based on what the best available science says will ensure a stable climate. The best climate scientists, led by Dr. James Hansen, say that atmospheric CO₂ concentrations must return to 350 parts per million by the end of this century. In order to meet this target, CO₂ emissions must be reduced by an adequate margin each year. According to North

Carolina's emissions data, the State's CO₂ emissions must be reduced by 4% per year in order for the State to do its part to achieve safe atmospheric CO₂ concentration by the end of the century.

The North Carolina Division of Air Quality has stated, "Clean air is ***essential to public health, the environment, and the economy in North Carolina.***" The US EPA, reports "greenhouse gases in the atmosphere endanger public health and welfare." In 2013, the CO₂ concentration in our atmosphere exceeded 400 ppm for the first time in recorded history. Current atmospheric CO₂ concentrations are the highest they have been in the last 800,000 years. The atmosphere is an asset that belongs to all people and the State of North Carolina holds it in trust for all of its citizens. Businesses are already braced for change; it is time for the State, as trustee of the public's air, to seize ownership of the problem. Any short-term costs would be outweighed by long-term economic benefits.

Gayle Tuch, attorney for Hallie states, "Inaction is not an option."

Hallie has been involved in climate activism since the fourth grade. She has attended rallies and marches in Washington D.C., and has spoken at several events, including the Climate Convergence on Raleigh in 2013. Hallie is determined to leave behind a small carbon footprint and voices her climate concerns in her classroom, and at rallies and marches. She's especially passionate about engaging other youth, recognizing that they are the ones who will inherit the Earth created by today's decision makers. Hallie is hoping to have the opportunity to present her petition to the Division of Air Quality at its January, 2015 meeting.

Our Children's Trust is a nonprofit organization advocating for urgent emissions reductions on behalf of youth and future generations, who have the most to lose if emissions are not reduced. OCT is spearheading the international human rights and environmental TRUST Campaign to compel governments to safeguard the atmosphere as a "public trust" resource. We use law, film, and media to elevate their compelling voices. Our ultimate goal is for governments to adopt and implement enforceable science-based Climate Recovery Plans with annual emissions reductions to return to an atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration of 350 ppm.

www.ourchildrenstrust.org/

###