



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DR. JAMES HANSEN COMMITS HIS FULL SUPPORT TO YOUTH SEEKING TO PROTECT THE ATMOSPHERE IN TRUST FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

After His Retirement On Wednesday, Director of NASA's Goddard Institute For Space Studies Plans To Support Youth Demanding Science-Based Climate Recovery Plans

April 2, 2013 – Yesterday, Dr. James Hansen, the nation's leading climate scientist, announced his decision to retire from his position as Director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) in New York City. Hansen began his career at GISS in 1964 and has been Director since 1981, but he now plans to work full-time on climate science, making clear what science says needs to be done to protect the climate system for young people and future generations. In his unwavering commitment to young people, Hansen will support the youth behind the TRUST Campaign in their efforts to fight for Climate Recovery Plans by suing state and federal governments under the public trust doctrine.

"I "retired" so that I can devote full time to what is most important -- and supporting the rights of young people is at the top of my list", said Dr. Hansen. "Specifically, I will support the actions filed by Our Children's Trust, and I will try to help the public understand that success in stabilizing climate and preserving nature will only come when enough of the public demands it."

Our Children's Trust spearheaded the international TRUST Campaign in May of 2011, as youth from around the United States filed legal actions in 49 states and the District of Columbia, in addition to a federal lawsuit. Together with public interest attorneys, law scholars and top climate scientists, including Dr. Hansen, the youth launched the nationwide Atmospheric Trust Litigation (ATL) to compel U.S. state and federal governments to prepare comprehensive climate recovery plans to prevent further increases in carbon dioxide emissions and to compel government action in reducing CO₂ emissions.

In Dr. Hansen's final paper submitted for publication before leaving GISS, *Scientific Prescription to Avoid Dangerous Climate Change to Protect Young People, Future Generations, and Nature*, Hansen, *et al.*, provide the scientific prescription for protecting the atmospheric resource for young people and future generations. This prescription is the backbone of the ATL lawsuits. The paper concludes that CO₂ levels must decline to 350

ppm this century, and delineates a CO₂ emissions reduction trajectory to reach this goal – global CO₂ emissions must decline by 6% per year starting this year.

“As citizens, we have a legal right to clean air and a safe atmospheric resource, but without the scientific understanding of our climate system that Jim Hansen has been so instrumental in developing, the legal right would be hollow,” said Julia Olson, director of Our Children’s Trust. “Jim Hansen has provided the scientific prescription for climate recovery that every decision-maker should look to when taking actions that affect our climate system.”

***Our Children's Trust** is a nonprofit advocating for urgent emissions reductions on behalf of youth and future generations, who have the most to lose. 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 350 ppm. www.OurChildrensTrust.org/*

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