



For Immediate Release:
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Inslee Administration to hold Public Hearings on the Proposed Clean Air Rule that Defies Court Order

Youth plaintiffs will attend a hearing to stand up for their rights

WHAT: Washington Department of Ecology will hold two hearings on their proposed Clean Air Rule. The hearings will allow the community to submit oral and written comments and ask questions about the rule.

WHEN: Thursday, July 14, 2016
6:00 p.m. PST

WHERE: The Red Lion Hotel
2300 Evergreen Park Dr. SW
Olympia, Washington 98502

*Another hearing will be held tonight in Spokane. Click [here](#) for more information.

WHY: The Inslee administration's [revised Clean Air Rule](#) defies an unprecedented May 16, 2016 [court order](#) issued by King County Superior Court Judge Hollis R. Hill, and fails the children of Washington. Eight young plaintiffs brought a climate change case against the Washington Department of Ecology for its persistent refusal to implement science-based carbon pollution limits.

Judge Hill ordered the state to adopt a rule "to limit greenhouse gas emissions in Washington" by the end of the year. The proposed Clean Air Rule, however, is based on outdated emissions data and only requires emissions reductions of a mere 1.7 percent annually for two-thirds of the state's emission sources, completely disregarding current science that would put Washington on a path toward climate stability. The plaintiffs will be at the hearing to let the Inslee administration know that paltry emission reductions statewide the rule would achieve are not based on science or reason and would fail to protect their livelihoods.

According to a Washington Court, Ecology has "a constitutional obligation to protect the public's interest in natural resources held in trust for the common benefit of the people of the State" and a "responsibility to protect fundamental and inalienable rights." In order to fulfill its legal duty, Ecology's rule must be based on the *best climate science*.

The best climate science is clear and provides a prescription for restoring the atmosphere, stabilizing the climate system, and protecting the oceans from acidification and warming. It requires the agency to set a rule for Washington to do its part to bring atmospheric CO₂ levels

back down to below 350 ppm by 2100. The agency's delay means that the rule must now achieve annual emission reductions of at least 8% per year to avoid catastrophic climate change.

The young plaintiffs and their attorney, Andrea Rodgers, of the Western Environmental Law Center, will present public comments during the hearing on Thursday. They urge their supporters to join them in Olympia to fight for their right to a healthy Washington and a safe future.

The eight youth plaintiffs are represented by Andrea Rodgers of the Western Environmental Law Center. The lawsuit was filed with the help of Our Children's Trust, an Oregon-based nonprofit orchestrating a global, game-changing, youth-driven legal campaign to establish the right to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate.

***Plant-for-the-Planet** connects children around the world as Ambassadors for Climate Justice, planting trees, educating the public, influencing decision makers, and now going to court with expert legal guidance. Children inspire children at Academies, free one-day workshops where children ages 8-14 find their voice speaking out for their future and taking action to create a better world.*

***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/*

***The Western Environmental Law Center** is a public interest nonprofit law firm. WELC combines legal skills with sound conservation biology and environmental science to address major environmental issues throughout the West. WELC does not charge clients and partners for services, but relies instead on charitable gifts from individuals, families, and foundations to accomplish its mission. www.westernlaw.org*

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