



For Immediate Release
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Tillerson Deposition Delayed until Secretary of State Confirmation

In today's telephonic discovery dispute conference, U.S. Federal Magistrate Judge Thomas Coffin determined that plaintiffs in *Juliana v. United States* can depose Rex Tillerson if he is confirmed as Secretary of State, as he will then be represented by the Department of Justice.

On December 28, 2016, plaintiffs served a [Notice of Deposition](#) on Sidley Austin, the law firm representing intervenor-defendants, including the American Petroleum Institute (API).

On December 31, 2016, Tillerson signed an ethics disclosure for the Committee on Foreign Relations, in which he represented that he held the position of "Executive Committee Member" with API through 12/2016.

"We believe that Mr. Tillerson's deposition will be extremely important to this case," said **Philip Gregory**, counsel for the plaintiffs and a partner with Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy in Burlingame, CA. "The ties between the fossil fuel industry in the federal government run very deep and Mr. Tillerson will have much to add on this crucial issue. We are glad that his testimony will occur once the confirmation process is concluded."

At the intervenor-defendants request, a telephonic case management conference scheduled for February 7 will now be an in-person conference, taking place at the Wayne Morse Federal Courthouse in Eugene, Oregon and will be open to the public.

Judge Coffin has indicated that the case will be set for trial in the summer or fall of 2017. Among the facts to be determined at trial are whether the federal government's systemic actions over the past decades enabling climate change have violated the young plaintiffs' constitutional rights.

This federal case is one of many related legal actions brought by youth in several states and countries, all supported by Our Children's Trust, seeking the adoption of science-based

prescriptions to stabilize the climate system.

***Counsel for Plaintiffs** include Philip L. Gregory, Esq. of Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy of Burlingame, CA, Daniel M. Galpern, Esq. of Eugene, OR, and Julia Olson, Esq., also of Eugene, OR.*

***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 coordinated global human rights and environmental justice campaign to implement enforceable science-based Climate Recovery Plans that will return atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration to below 350 ppm by the year 2100. 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*

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