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**GROUPS SUPPORTING PLAINTIFFS IN *JULIANA v. U.S.* URGE
DISMISSAL OF TRUMP'S MANDAMUS PETITION**

San Francisco - Today, powerful voices of support for *Juliana v. United States* youth plaintiffs in their landmark climate case filed *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) briefs in opposition to the Trump Administration's mandamus petition with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. In all, eight amicus briefs, from legal scholars, religious, women's, libertarian, and environmental groups, alongside legal nonprofits, displayed resounding legal support for denying the mandamus petition, and allowing the *Juliana v. U.S.* case to proceed to trial on February 5, 2018.

On June 9th, the Trump Administration filed its [mandamus petition](#), arguing intervention in the case by the Ninth Circuit was necessary due to what the Trump Administration characterized as burdensome discovery issues. On August 28th, attorneys for the youth plaintiffs filed [their answer to the petition](#) with the Ninth Circuit, making clear that the U.S. government already admitted that its actions imperil youth plaintiffs with "dangerous, and unacceptable economic, social, and

environmental risks.” The Trump Administration has until September 11th to reply to the youth plaintiffs’ answer before the Ninth Circuit panel makes its ruling.

Before the Trump administration filed its mandamus petition, the District Court of Oregon [issued an order](#) for trial to begin on February 5, 2018 in Eugene, Oregon, with Judge Ann Aiken presiding. On August 25th, the District Court of Oregon also submitted [a letter](#), signed by federal **Judge Ann Aiken** and **Magistrate Judge Thomas Coffin**, to the Ninth Circuit stating, “In short, we do not believe that the government will be irreversibly damaged by proceeding to trial.”

Victoria Barrett, 18, *Juliana v. US* youth plaintiff, said:

“We’re living in a world right now where it’s becoming increasingly integral to have allies that care about the quality of life that future generations will have. The support that our lawsuit is receiving indicates that there are still people who care about protecting what is right.”

Jacob Lebel, 20, *Juliana v. US* youth plaintiff, said:

“It’s an amazing, heartwarming feeling to have the support of all these accomplished organizations and individuals and to know that they have our backs in this fight. Right now, my home in Oregon is choking in smoke while the Southwest drowns in floodwaters. It makes me hopeful that communities of faith and global advocacy groups are standing united to defend youth’s right to safe climate and I look forward to moving rapidly to trial.”

Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club said:

“The Trump Administration has made clear that its number one goal is protecting the profits of corporate polluters instead of the lives of vulnerable communities and future generations. Rather than wrestle with how to address the climate crisis, President Trump and his appointees are working overtime in a vain attempt to write it out of existence. The Sierra Club is proud to support these brave kids who are showing the world what true climate leadership is by speaking truth to power, seeking their day in court, and holding the U.S. government accountable for protecting their lives and their future.”

Erika Lennon, Senior Attorney at Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), said:

“The government’s attempt to circumvent the judicial process and avoid discovery is inappropriate, misguided, and should be denied.”

Julia Olson, co-lead counsel for plaintiffs and executive director of Our Children’s Trust, said:

“*Juliana v. U.S.* raises critical constitutional claims that the District Court is ready to hear. When the U.S. government takes actions that cause climate danger, those actions violate the rights of our youth plaintiffs. These distinguished legal scholars and diverse advocacy organizations have weighed in powerfully on the side of the youth and their right to proceed to trial.”

Phil Gregory, co-lead counsel for plaintiffs and partner with Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP, in Burlingame, CA, said:

“The unanimous support of these various groups, from the League of Women Voters, to the Sierra Club, to the Niskanen Center, shows that the Trump Administration’s writ should be denied. These amicus briefs echo the need for the courts to give the youth plaintiffs access to a trial that will protect their rights. After the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, we must take steps now to properly protect the youth of America from horrendous damage of the growing climate crisis.”

Juliana v. United States was brought by 21 young plaintiffs, and Earth Guardians, who argue that their constitutional and public trust rights are being violated by the government’s creation of climate danger. The case is one of many related legal actions brought by youth in several states and countries, all supported by Our Children’s Trust, seeking science-based action by governments to stabilize the climate system.

AMICI BRIEFS	
Topic of Brief	Party Submitting
<u>Demonstrating that US international commitments, international law, and evolving jurisprudence in other countries support the fundamental right to a climate capable of sustaining human life.</u>	Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW)
<u>Objecting to the Government’s inappropriate bid, in the guise of a mandamus petition, for review of the district court’s well-reasoned standing decision.</u>	Center for Biological Diversity Defenders of Wildlife EarthJustice Earth Rights International Union of Concerned Scientists
<u>Standing, with a focus on the impacts of climate change on oceans, and how these impacts have harmed the youth plaintiffs, and support for the Federal Public Trust Doctrine.</u>	Food & Water Watch Friends of the Earth Greenpeace

<p>Moral foundations of government stewardship and action on climate from the perspective of multiple faiths, and support for the Federal Public Trust Doctrine.</p>	<p>Faith organizations, including: Eco-Justice Ministries The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions Franciscan Action Network Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) Greenfaith Interfaith Moral Action on Climate Interfaith Oceans Interfaith Power and Light The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) The National Religious Coalition for Creation Care Office of Apostolic Action & Advocacy, Christian Life Community-USA Quaker Earth Witness San Francisco Zen Center The Shalom Center The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Leadership Team The Sisters of Mercy Northeast Leadership Team (Prepared by Charles M. Tebbutt, Law Offices of Charles M. Tebbutt, P.C.)</p>
<p>Substantive due process under the Fifth Amendment.</p>	<p>Distinguished Law Professors brief authored by James R. May and Erin Daly of the Dignity Rights Project, Widener University Delaware Law School on behalf of 63 law professors, including: Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law David L. Faigman, Chancellor and Dean, University of California, Hastings, School of Law Doug Kysar, Joseph M. Field '55 Professor of Law at Yale Law School.</p>
<p>Proper role of courts as checks and balance on the political branches, how irreversible impacts justify urgency, and standing for youth.</p>	<p>League of Women Voters of the United States, and League of Women Voters of Oregon (Prepared by the Crag Law Center)</p>
<p>Public Trust Doctrine, Federal government's obligation to protect common property.</p>	<p>Niskanen Center</p>
<p>Limitations of litigation using existing statutes, reality of Trump Administration undoing past progress.</p>	<p>Sierra Club</p>

Counsel for youth plaintiffs include Philip L. Gregory, Esq. of Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy of Burlingame, CA, Daniel M. Galpern Esq. and Julia Olson, Esq. 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

The **Center for Biological Diversity** is a non-profit corporation with offices in Oregon, California, and throughout the United States. The Center works to protect wild places and their inhabitants. The Center believes that the health and vigor of human societies and the integrity and wildness of the natural environment are closely linked. www.biologicaldiversity.org/

The **Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)** uses the power of law to protect the environment, promote human rights, and ensure a just and sustainable society. Through cutting edge legal research, education and advocacy, CIEL works to strengthen the law and defend the right to a healthy planet. www.ciel.org

Crag is a client-focused law center that supports community efforts to protect and sustain the Pacific Northwest's natural legacy. Implementing a unique model of legal aid for the environment, Crag supports local communities, native tribes and conservation groups by providing free or low cost legal services in combination with assistance on campaign strategies, communications, community organizing and media relations. www.crag.org

Defenders of Wildlife is a not-for-profit conservation organization recognized as one of the nation's leading advocates for wildlife and their habitat. www.defenders.org

The Dignity Rights Project, Widener University Delaware Law School works with partners locally and around the world to advance knowledge and capacity-building around the right to human dignity. <http://delawarelaw.widener.edu/prospective-students/jd-program/jd-academics/public-interest/dignity-rights-project/>

Earthjustice, the nation's original and largest nonprofit environmental law organization, is representing **EarthRights**, the **Center for Biological Diversity**, **Defenders of Wildlife**, and the **Union of Concerned Scientists** in their role as amici curiae in the case. <https://earthjustice.org/>

EarthRights International is a non-profit organization dedicated to representing individuals and communities suffering human rights abuses, particularly where those abuses arise out of the destruction or exploitation of the environment. <https://www.earthrights.org>

Eco-Justice Ministries is an ecumenical Christian organization, based in Denver, Colorado, that advocates in churches for ecological sustainability and social justice. We constantly stress that "love of neighbor" includes responsibilities to deal justly with the poor and marginalized, with future generations, and with all species. <http://www.eco-justice.org>

The **Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide U.S. (ELAW)** serves as the Secretariat of a global network of public interest environmental lawyers. ELAW is a non-profit organization that has been collaborating with lawyers in 80 countries to defend the rights of communities for more than 25 years. www.elaw.org

The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions is an interfaith organization of individuals and congregations organized for climate change solutions as an urgent spiritual responsibility. <https://www.faithforclimate.org>

Food & Water Watch champions healthy food and clean water for all. We stand up to corporations that put profits before people, and advocate for a democracy that improves people's lives and protects our environment. www.foodandwaterwatch.org

Franciscan Action Network is a collective Franciscan voice seeking to transform U.S. public policy related to peacemaking, care for creation, poverty, and human rights. <https://franciscanaction.org>

Friends of the Earth fights to create a more healthy and just world. Our current campaigns focus on promoting clean energy and solutions to climate change, ensuring the food we eat and products we use are safe and sustainable, and protecting marine ecosystems and the people who live and work near them. www.foe.org

GreenFaith is an interfaith environmental organization that works with faith communities globally from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and other faith communities. <http://www.greenfaith.org/>

The Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) is an international network of over 250 Catholic organizations and thousands of individuals that seeks to raise a strong Catholic voice in global climate change discussions. <http://catholicclimatemovement.global/>

Greenpeace is an independent campaigning organization that uses peaceful protest and creative communication to expose global environmental problems and promote solutions that are essential to a green and peaceful future. www.greenpeace.org

Interfaith Moral Action on Climate brings communities of faith together with the purpose of awakening our nation's leaders to their urgent moral obligation to act on climate change. <http://www.interfaithmoralactiononclimate.org>

Interfaith Oceans is a multi-faith campaign encourages religious and spiritual communities to delight in the wonder of God's oceans but also become aware of the ongoing damage to marine life, ocean systems, and coastal communities. <http://www.oceanethicscampaign.org/>

Interfaith Power and Light is a network of 15,000 congregations nationwide, engaging hundreds of religious leaders, educating people of faith about the moral and ethical mandate to address global warming, and advocating for laws to protect future generations. <http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org>

The Leadership Council of Women Religious (LCWR) represents leaders of more than 38,800 women religious across the United States and around the world. Catholic sisters have an abiding concern for the wellbeing of children. They continue to protect children in need, care for children in clinics and hospitals, and educate America's youth in schools and universities. LCWR and its members care deeply about the environment we are creating for future generations and women religious fully appreciate the responsibility to care for all of God's creation. As people of faith and as citizens of the United States, we are deeply concerned about the policies, plans, and practices of the federal government which do far too little to achieve the reduction in fossil fuel emissions necessary to ensure the health and wellbeing of our children and our planet home, now and into the future. <https://lwr.org>

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Since the 1960s, the League has been at the forefront of efforts to protect air, land and water resources. The League supports legislation that seeks to protect our country from the physical, economic and public health effects of climate change while also providing pathways to economic prosperity. www.lwv.org

The National Religious Coalition for Creation Care seeks to serve God and creation by bringing together the formal policy positions of religious institutions on environmental issues and communicating those positions to government leaders. <http://nrccc.org>

*The **Office of Apostolic Action & Advocacy of Christian Life Community (CLC)-USA** identifies, fosters, supports, and communicates CLC's initiatives and ministries across the USA as one Ignatian, lay community on mission in the world. www.clc-usa.org*

***Quaker Earth Witness (QEW)** is a network of Friends (Quakers) in North America and other like-minded people who are taking spirit-led action to address the ecological and social crises of the world from a spiritual perspective, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies. www.quakerearthcare.org/*

*The **San Francisco Zen Center** is one of the largest Buddhist sanghas outside Asia. It has three practice places that offer daily meditation, regular monastic retreats and practice periods, classes, lectures, and workshops: [City Center](#), in the vibrant heart of San Francisco; [Green Gulch Farm](#), whose organic fields meet the ocean in Marin County; and [Tassajara Zen Mountain Center](#)—the first Zen training monastery in the West—in the Ventana Wilderness inland from Big Sur. <http://www.sfzc.org/about-zen-center/principles-governance/green-practice>*

*The **Shalom Center**, founded in 1983, seeks to be a prophetic voice in Jewish, multireligious, and American life, pursuing peace, eco-social justice, and the healing of our wounded Mother Earth. <https://theshalomcenter.org>*

*The **Sierra Club** is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3 million members and supporters. In addition to helping people from all backgrounds explore nature and our outdoor heritage, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. www.sierraclub.org.*

*The **Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Leadership Team** represents about 2,800 vowed religious women with a commitment to persons who are poor, especially women and children. Advocating for carbon-emission reduction measures and reducing the carbon footprint of the congregation's institutions is an important step toward realizing sustainability of life. The **Sisters of Mercy Northeast Leadership Team** also joins the interfaith brief. <https://www.sistersofmercy.org>*

*The **Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)**, is an organization of more than a half-million citizens and scientists, is the leading non-profit group in the United States dedicated to putting rigorous, independent science into action for a healthier planet and a safer world. www.ucsusa.org/*

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