



For immediate release:

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### **U.S. District Court Denies the Trump Administration's Motion for Protective Order in *Juliana v. United States***

Eugene, Oregon -- Today, U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Coffin issued an order denying the Trump Administration's motion for protective order and a stay of all discovery in *Juliana v. United States*, the constitutional climate lawsuit brought by 21 young plaintiffs. The Administration sought the protective order to avoid all discovery in the case and further delay trial.

In his order, Judge Coffin shut down the Trump Administration's delay tactics, [writing](#):

"The defendants' motion for a protective order and stay is simply a recasting of their position that the plaintiffs' claims should all be dismissed and the District Court should revisit its previous ruling to the contrary. Beyond whatever procedural impediments exist to the [ ] government's efforts to reconstruct its motion to dismiss under a different theory, this court is not at all persuaded by their argument that the APA is the sole avenue of relief for the plaintiffs for the asserted violations of their constitutional rights...Finally, the defendants argue that the separation of powers doctrine justifies an order barring or staying all discovery in this case based on wholly hypothetical scenarios that may implicate matters of privilege during the discovery process. Under such rationale, the government could avoid all discovery in any litigation in which it is named as a defendant simply by asserting hypothetical discovery requests that a litigant might make during the litigation."

**Julia Olson**, executive director and chief legal counsel of **Our Children's Trust** and co-counsel for youth plaintiffs said:

“We are on track for the October 29th trial. While the federal defendants file motions to stop these youth from securing their constitutional rights, our team has been preparing for trial and we will be ready.”

*Juliana v. United States* is not about the government’s failure to act on climate. Instead, the 21 young plaintiffs assert that the U.S. government, through its *affirmative actions* in creating a national energy system that cause climate change, has violated their constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property, and has failed to protect essential public trust resources. The case is one of many related legal actions brought by youth in several states and countries, all supported by Our Children’s Trust, and all seeking science-based action by governments to stabilize the climate system.

*Counsel for Plaintiffs are Julia Olson, Esq. of Eugene, OR and Philip L. Gregory, Esq. of Gregory Law Group.*

*Our Children’s Trust is a nonprofit organization, leading a coordinated global human rights and environmental justice campaign to implement enforceable science-based Climate Recovery Plans that will return atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations to below 350 ppm by the year 2100. We elevate the voice of youth, those with most to lose in the climate crisis, to secure the legal right to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate on behalf of all present and future generations.*

[www.ourchildrenstrust.org/](http://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](http://www.earthguardians.org)

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