Media Advisory:
3:30-5:30 p.m. PST, January 15th, 2019
Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, 700 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

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Youth Plaintiffs Suing the Government For Climate Change Will Testify Against Proposed Liquid Natural Gas Project in Oregon

Salem, Oregon -- Jacob Lebel, one of the 21 youth plaintiffs suing the United States government for causing climate change in the landmark constitutional case, Juliana v. U.S., will speak at a rally outside of an Oregon Department of State Lands public hearing for critical permits for the Jordan Cove Energy Project. He will be joined in his testimony by a wide range of grassroots voices opposed to the pipeline and export terminal. This will be the last of five hearings held throughout the state. The Jordan Cove Energy Project is a specific fossil fuel project named in the lawsuit.

The permit under consideration by DSL would allow Pembina Pipeline Corp., the Canadian fossil fuel corporation behind the Jordan Cove LNG proposal, to excavate millions of cubic yards of materials from Oregon wetlands and waterways to export fracked gas overseas. If approved, the Jordan Cove Energy Project would be the single largest carbon polluter in all of Oregon, and would further jeopardize the youth plaintiffs’ constitutional right to a stable climate.
The DSL is one of several state agencies that can stop the Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminal and high-pressure Pacific Connector fracked gas pipeline. DSL has the power to deny the permit needed for dredging related to the project. A decision from DSL is expected no later than March 2019.

The DSL is overseen by the Oregon State Land Board, made up of Governor Kate Brown, State Treasurer Tobias Reed, and Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson. Under Oregon law, the DSL has the authority to deny permits for projects that are not consistent with the protection, conservation, or best use of Oregon’s waters and that unreasonably interfere with navigation, fishing, or public recreation.

**Jacob Lebel**, 21-year-old plaintiff from Roseburg, Oregon stated:

“Jordan Cove is the single biggest threat to any efforts to limit the emission of greenhouse gasses from Oregon. It also happens to run about a mile from my farm and through the properties of my neighbors and friends,” said Lebel, 21 year old plaintiff from outside of Roseburg. “We should not be trying to fix local economies by destroying other people’s lives and further compromising our climate in the process. There is a very simple answer for our elected leaders regarding this DSL permit: just say no.”

The project is opposed by a broad coalition that includes landowners, existing small businesses that would be impacted, native tribes, health professionals, climate action and water quality advocates, and more.

**Tia Hatton**, 21-year-old plaintiff from Bend, Oregon said:

“According to the most recent International Panel on Climate Change report, we have 12 years to reduce our emissions by 45% to avoid catastrophic climate change. We are being
instructed to reduce emissions. Let’s listen to the experts: no new fossil fuel infrastructure, no Jordan Cove Pipeline.”

The DSL also has the authority to deny the permit based on impacts to public health and safety. Dredging out Coos Bay will allow more water to move more quickly in the event of a tsunami, increasing risks to local communities. The export terminal would put thousands of Coos County residents in a hazardous burn zone, while the gas pipeline would cross some of Oregon’s most fire-prone forests. Just this October, a similar 36-inch diameter fracked gas pipeline exploded in British Columbia, starting a large wildfire and forcing the evacuation of nearby First Nations families.

**WHAT:** No LNG Rally and March in Salem.

**WHEN:** Tuesday January 15th, 2019. The rally will begin at 3:30 p.m. PST and go until the hearing starts at 5:30 p.m PST.

**WHERE:** The rally will begin at the State Capital with speakers, and then protestors will proceed to march to the Department of State lands.

**WHO:** *Juliana V. U.S.* Youth Plaintiffs, as well as a broad coalition of grassroots activists, impacted landowners, tribal members, and small business owners.

To get behind the scenes updates on Juliana developments, listen to No Ordinary Lawsuit, a new podcast from Our Children’s Trust: [www.noordinarylawsuit.org](http://www.noordinarylawsuit.org).

*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/

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