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**Juliana v. United States Youth Plaintiff to Testify on Thursday Before the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis**

**WHAT:** Aji Piper, one of the 21 young Americans who brought the landmark constitutional climate lawsuit *Juliana v. United States*, will testify at the inaugural hearing of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. The Hearing is entitled: “Generation Climate: Young Leaders Urge Climate Action Now.” In contrast to a typical Congressional hearing, the Committee will hear from Aji and two other young leaders who are asking policymakers to take responsibility for the government’s continued actions that cause the climate crisis and to ensure future generations the right to a safe climate.

Representative Kathy Castor, Chair of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis said in a statement:

“This is the first generation to grow up seeing the effects of the climate crisis in their own backyards. Now they’re demanding the opportunity to solve it. Climate change creates generational scale injustices. It’s a daunting challenge, but this generation is ready to meet it.”

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 9 am EST. The hearing will be livestreamed on CSPAN and the Committee’s Youtube channel.

**WHERE:** 2318 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC

**WHO:** *Juliana v. United States* plaintiff, 18-year-old Aji Piper. He and two of his attorneys, Andrea Rodgers and Phil Gregory, will be in Washington, D.C. on Thursday (April 4) and Friday (April 5) and will be available for interviews.

**BACKGROUND ON JULIANA:** The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals set a hearing date of June 4, 2019 in Portland, Oregon for oral argument in *Juliana v. United States*. 
The case, which was originally scheduled to begin trial on October 29, 2018 in Eugene, Oregon, is now pending before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Court, in a 2-1 decision, granted the Trump administration’s petition for permission to bring an early (interlocutory) appeal in the case. Chief Judge Sidney Thomas and Circuit Judge Marsha Berzon decided in favor of the petition, while Circuit Judge Michelle Friedland dissented.

In February 2019, youth plaintiffs sought a court order preventing the federal government from issuing leases and mining permits for extracting coal on federal public lands, leases for offshore oil and gas exploration and extraction activities, and federal approvals for new fossil fuel infrastructure. To obtain the order, the youth plaintiffs filed a motion with the Ninth Circuit Court for a preliminary injunction while the government’s early appeal of the youths’ case is being heard.

On June 4, 2019, the Ninth Circuit panel will hear oral arguments on the interlocutory appeal and the preliminary injunction. A Facebook event for the hearing and related activities can be found here.

*Juliana v. United States is not* about the government’s failure to act on climate. Instead, these young plaintiffs between the ages of 11 and 23, assert that the U.S. government, through its *affirmative actions* in creating a national energy system that causes climate change, is depriving them of 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, Philip L. Gregory, Esq. of Gregory Law Group of Redwood City, CA, and Andrea Rodgers, Esq. of Seattle, WA.*

*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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