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The *Juliana* 21 Launch #Congress4Juliana Campaign

Members of Congress are asked to support the *Juliana v. U.S.* constitutional climate lawsuit and a science-based national climate recovery plan

Eugene, Oregon -- Today, the 21 young Americans behind the landmark constitutional climate lawsuit, *Juliana v. United States*, launched a new campaign. The #Congress4Juliana campaign urges supporters of the *Juliana* plaintiffs to call, email, and tweet at members of Congress to ask that legislators publicly support the youth plaintiffs and their constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property free from government endangerment.

This spring, the *Juliana* plaintiffs met with many members of Congress and were successful in garnering their support. Senators, including Bernie Sanders, Sheldon Whitehouse, Dick Durbin, Jeff Merkley, and Ed Markey, and members of the House of Representatives, including Rashida Tlaib, Earl Blumenauer, Deb Haaland, and Raul Grijalva have all publicly endorsed the lawsuit. In March 2019, several members of Congress filed an [amicus brief](#) with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in support of the *Juliana* plaintiffs.

Alex Loznak, 22-year-old named plaintiff from Oakland, Oregon, said:

“The United States government has known about the causes and dangers of climate change for more than half a century and yet it continues to promote and protect the major driver of the climate crisis: our national fossil fuel energy system. These actions of the executive branch have endangered young Americans. This is unjust and unconstitutional. That’s why we are suing the federal government. I’ve met with members of Congress on the Hill, and they get it. They’re with us. Now we need their colleagues to join them in supporting our fundamental constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property free from government endangerment.”

Senator Bernie Sanders, created a video in support of the youth plaintiffs in April and shared it on his Facebook page with the following statement:

“I am so incredibly proud of the youth fighting against climate change. Our climate struggle would not have progressed as much as it has without their momentum and support. I thank them for their relentless work in the fight for a cleaner, safer world.”

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, an amicus in the *Juliana* case, met with plaintiff Kelsey Juliana in Washington in May and told her:

“The Supreme Court has always stood up for a current minority against a current majority. This isn’t the first big case about a future, a right, and intergenerational equity...This is really important. So, thank you.”

Representative Deb Haaland tweeted her support after the *Juliana* plaintiffs’ hearing before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on June 4, and wrote:

“I’m proud to have signed an amicus brief supporting the young people who are suing for their right to an inhabitable planet.”

Senator Ron Wyden, in a recent video he created in support of the *Juliana* plaintiffs on June 4, said:

“I’m so proud of the inspiring young leaders from Oregon and around the country who are doing so much to fight for the future of all of us. If anybody has a stake in the future of our planet, it is America’s young people. I am so pleased that they are making sure that their voices are heard through this landmark climate lawsuit.”

Representative Raul Grijalva, the House Natural Resources Committee Chairman, said during a meeting with Alex Loznak in May:

“The lawsuit is fundamental in many ways - we are in a time right now where the constitutional rights and prerogatives of all of us are in question...I support it very much. You’re not only ensuring a right to a future for generations to come, you’re ensuring that our democracy works the right way...I hope that when you win this case, it will be the impetus to get Congress, whatever party is in charge, to move forward on an agenda that begins to protect our environment.”

Vic Barrett, 20 year-old plaintiff from White Plains, New York, said:

“While we wait for the decision from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, we must call on members of Congress to publicly support *Juliana v. United States* and the constitutional rights of young people to life, liberty, and property free from government endangerment. We have been calling on the judicial branch to help hold the executive branch of our federal government accountable for its role in creating the climate crisis, and we need the legislative branch to step up as well. Let’s make this happen.”

In the coming weeks or months, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit will decide whether the 21 plaintiffs will go to trial against the Trump administration.

To learn more about the #Congress4Juliana campaign visit: <https://www.youthvgov.org/congress4juliana>

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 plaintiffs of their constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property, and failing to meet the government's obligation 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/

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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