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Our Children's Trust Attorneys File Amicus Brief in Willow Project Lawsuits

In support of Sovereign Iñupiat for a Living Arctic, et al. v. Bureau of Land Management, et al. and Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. Bureau of Land Management, et al.

Anchorage, Alaska—On Wednesday, August 9, attorneys with Our Children's Trust filed an [amicus brief](#) with the United States District Court for the District of Alaska in support of the plaintiffs in *Sovereign Iñupiat for a Living Arctic v. Bureau of Land Management* and *Center for Biological Diversity v. Bureau of Land Management*. This "friend of the court" brief supports the organizations Sovereign Iñupiat for a Living Arctic, the Center for Biological Diversity, and other plaintiffs in their challenges to the Biden Administration's approval of the Willow Project, a major oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

In filing the brief, attorneys for Our Children's Trust seek to assist the Court in its analysis of the case by illuminating the unique vulnerabilities and disproportionate harms to youth in Alaska and worldwide from the federal government's continued contributions to the climate crisis through approval of fossil fuel projects like the Willow Project. The attorneys also briefed the Court on the best available climate science, which demonstrates that continuing fossil fuel emissions resulting from the approval of such projects critically harm and endanger the lives, health, and safety of children and youth.

"President Biden has publicly stated that climate change represents an 'existential threat to humanity,' and promised the 'young people organizing and leading the way' to address the climate crisis that they 'have the full capacity and power of the federal government' working for them," said Andrew Welle, Our Children's Trust senior staff attorney. "Yet the Biden Administration is doing the opposite - using its 'full capacity and power' to worsen the climate crisis by systemically approving projects like Willow. Our courts are tasked with protecting our most vulnerable citizens from the abuse of governmental power. It's critical that the courts are informed on accurate climate science as well as the profound harms to the health and safety of children in Alaska and throughout our nation from the government's continuing perpetuation of the climate crisis."

[Read the full brief here.](#)

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Our Children's Trust is the world's only nonprofit public interest law firm that exclusively provides strategic, campaign based legal services to youth from diverse backgrounds to secure their legal rights to a safe climate. We work to protect the Earth's climate system for present and future generations by representing young people in global legal efforts to secure their binding and enforceable legal rights to a healthy atmosphere and safe climate, based on the best available science. Globally, we support youth-led climate cases in front of national courts, regional human rights courts, and UN bodies. <http://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/>