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Contacts:
Andrea Rodgers, Deputy Director, U.S. Strategy, 413-687-1668, andrea@ourchildrenstrust.org
Helen Britto, Communications Manager, 925-588-1171, helen@ourchildrenstrust.org

Florida Youth File Comments Opposing FDACS’ Proposal to Repeal State Renewable Energy Goals

Our Children’s Trust submitted comments to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) yesterday, opposing their decision to repeal the state’s renewable energy goals, some of the strongest in the Nation, which were enacted in 2022 in response to a petition filed by over 200 Florida youth. FDACS’ proposal to repeal the goals was prompted by recent legislation signed by Governor Ron DeSantis that removed references to climate change and restricts the agency’s authority to promote renewable energy.

Andrea Rodgers, Deputy Director of U.S. Strategy said, “As youth in Florida experience overheated oceans, unprecedented hurricanes, loss of marine life, and deadly temperatures, FDACS claims renewable energy goals in Florida are not needed. Nothing could be further from the truth. Youth in Florida should be able to depend upon their government leaders to do everything in their power to protect them from the dangers of climate change, but FDACS is using their power to deepen Florida’s long-standing addiction to natural gas. Experts have found that renewable energy is far more efficient and affordable for the Sunshine State, and we ask FDACS to rethink its prioritization of fossil fuels over the lives and safety of Florida youth.”

Delaney Reynolds, one of the young Floridians who spearheaded the 2022 rulemaking petition said, “I am deeply disappointed and frustrated with this short-sighted decision by FDACS. The statewide renewable energy goals we secured over two years ago were consistent with what energy planning experts have determined is technically and economically feasible for Florida to achieve. At a time when Floridians are struggling to afford their exorbitant electricity bills and are suffering through climate change-fueled extreme heat and weather events, state agencies should be planning for a swift and comprehensive transition away from fossil fuel energy, not pretending the problem doesn’t exist.”

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Our Children’s Trust was founded in 2010 on the idea that courts are vital to democracy and empowered to protect our children and the planet. Without a stable climate system, every natural resource we rely upon to exercise our basic human rights—life, liberty, home, happiness—is under
threat. Our work will be achieved when there is universal recognition of children’s climate rights by courts around the world and children’s fundamental rights to life on this planet are protected. www.ourchildrenstrust.org