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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GENESIS B., a minor, by and through
her Guardian, G.P.; et al.

Plaintiffs,

vs.

The UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY; et al.

Defendants.

**Case No.: 2:23-CV-10345-MWF-
AGR**

DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF
MARYAM D. IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' MEMORANDUM
OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES
IN OPPOSITION TO
DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO
DISMISS (ECF No. 62)

Date: September 30, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Judge: Hon. Michael W. Fitzgerald
Courtroom: 5A

DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF MARYAM D. IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS

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1 I, Maryam D., hereby declare and if called upon would testify as follows:

- 2 1. I am a Plaintiff in the above-entitled action. I make this Declaration in
3 support of Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss. I
4 have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein, and if called to
5 testify, I would and could testify competently thereto.
- 6 2. I am 16 years old and a resident of Garden Grove, California. Everything
7 that is in our Amended Complaint about me and the harms I am suffering
8 is true. Along with being a plaintiff in this case, I work with youth
9 climate organizations to try to change government laws and policies that
10 affect my right to a livable climate. My ability to protect myself is limited
11 because I don't have political rights, like voting and running for office,
12 and I don't have all of the privileges and rights that adults have either.
- 13 3. My age also limits my ability to be involved in climate activism. For
14 example, prior to December 2023, my parents did not allow me to have
15 my own cell phone so I could not personally use my phone to get
16 involved. I also still am limited because I do not have a driver's license
17 and can't even drive to the library without one of my parents.
- 18 4. Even so, I am doing everything I am able to do to stop climate crisis from
19 getting worse and to try to get leaders to stop the pollution causing it. I
20 joined Fridays for Future in 2022 in middle school. Initially, I did sign
21 making events, went to protests, and did other activities with my local
22 group. When there were global climate strikes, I helped plan a strike in
23 Irvine. We also organized marches. Separate from Fridays for Future, I
24 also planned climate strike in Fullerton with a group at my middle
25 school.

5. I joined the national Sunrise team in 2022. I helped run phone banks for Sunrise. I ran trainings and hosted phone banks to talk to people about climate policies and candidates who said they would take action on climate crisis. I became local hub coordinator with Sunrise of Orange County in fall of 2022.
6. When I'm asked why I became part of Sunrise or Fridays for Future, two youth climate organizations, I explain that I did not feel like I had a choice but to start climate activism. If I wanted a future, I had to join.
7. As part of my role with Sunrise and Fridays for Future, I have met with politicians and attended city council meetings. I have done a lot of local work.
8. The only times I've seen council members listen to kids is when they are making decisions about murals, or when there are plans for parades like for boy scouts or other more typical "kid activities."
9. On the issues I care about, especially climate crisis, they respect older voices more and discount what we, the youth, have to say. I have seen even more deference to older white men at city council meetings, especially in my own city of Garden Grove where we have a conservative city council.
10. In Garden Grove, we asked our city for legally binding climate action plans to eliminate fossil fuel pollution by a set date, but we were not heard and they have refused to stop fossil fuel pollution.
11. In Irvine, we also asked for legally binding climate action plans to eliminate fossil fuel pollution. Activists had been working towards this since 2016 and I got involved in 2022. Initially, we won some

1 commitments toward a plan, but then they reversed course. There was
2 interest by the Irvine City Council and especially their staffers, but it now
3 appears there will be nothing binding and if they adopt a plan, it will be
4 voluntary and unenforceable.

5 12. I see Irvine as one of the most liberal city councils. There's only one
6 conservative politician on the council and yet, even with Democrats in
7 control, we can't convince the council to commit in a binding way to
8 climate action and emission reductions.

9 13. I've also gone to Orange County and the Board of Supervisors to
10 advocate for climate action.

11 14. I have helped advocate for induction cook tops instead of gas stoves in
12 my community to avoid the use of gas that causes climate change, and we
13 have been told by politicians that certain types of food, like Korean food,
14 could not be cooked on induction stoves. Though this is not accurate, we
15 were told this shift in appliances would upset voters.

16 15. Politicians often don't respond to our emails. When we give comments
17 during city council meetings, some council members laugh, some just
18 ignore us, and once one council member even fell asleep while we were
19 speaking. Most council members are not responsive or receptive to our
20 concerns about climate change and our request that they take action to
21 protect our future. Sometimes council staff members will meet with us.
22 What I have learned from staffers is that they can't do anything more on
23 climate crisis or to protect our environment because of their voters. The
24 story goes that the voters won't like it and so they can't do anything
25 different.

1 16. In sum, my experience has been that the local officials don't value our
2 equal right to a livable climate and future. Even if they say they care,
3 they are not willing to do anything differently. I have even been spoken
4 to in aggressive tones by politicians who don't like that I am there and
5 think I am too young to understand what is happening.

6 17. I love my city, but I don't know how much my city loves me. I'm a
7 young person of color and I don't feel seen by leaders. Being Muslim and
8 female already makes it harder to be listened to. Being young and not
9 even of voting age, compounds my ability to make a difference and even
10 be seen or listened to.

11 18. Joining the Sunrise local hub was the first thing I saw I could do to try to
12 protect my future. I jumped in and put aside my free time and my social
13 life in order to do everything I could when I wasn't doing my studies to
14 try to make a difference. In addition to the local level work, I've worked
15 on national climate issues through phone banking trying to persuade
16 voters. I sign climate petitions that relate to federal or U.S. policy.
17 However, I don't think I have power to influence policy on a national
18 level or that my congressional representatives represent my interests.
19 They don't see me as a voter or someone who has real influence like
20 through money contributions.

21 19. When I think about how the government's discrimination of young
22 people is affecting my future, it's really sad and scary. Every summer
23 growing up my brother and I would play outside a game called "Calvin
24 Ball" that we learned from the Calvin and Hobbes books. We loved
25 playing that game outside in the summer months. Now, we are a little
26

1 older and it keeps getting hotter, which keeps us inside more. We've
2 stopped playing Calvin Ball. The fires and smoke are also really scary. I
3 used to think we were safe from fires and big tropical storms, but now we
4 aren't. It's worrisome to think where I live is not going to be even as it is
5 right now for long. It's going to keep getting worse.

- 6 20. Until the people who run our government and make decisions about
7 fossil fuel pollution see that we are being treated differently than adults
8 and it is harming my rights, and other kids' rights, politicians will be able
9 to keep doing the same thing, ignore me, and listen to adult voters who
10 want to keep their fossil fuel appliances and cars and other things burning
11 up my planet. I won't feel like I can be free to live my life as a young
12 person as long as this continues. I've already lost so much of my
13 childhood with this fear. I've asked adults and leaders to help. So far, no
14 one has.

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16 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of
17 America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on August 12, 2024.

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19 Maryam D.
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