

A New Youth-Led Climate Lawsuit in Alaska

Young People in Alaska Are Taking Meaningful Climate Action Against Their State Government - And You Can Join Them!

Supported by leading climate scientists, energy experts, and lawyers, young people in Alaska are filing a new lawsuit against the State of Alaska for its actions that worsen the climate crisis and prioritize fossil fuels above the health, safety, and cultures of Alaska's youth in violation of their constitutional rights.

Protect Your Legal Right to a Safe Climate in Alaska!

Alaska youth are joining young people around the world, including the 21 youth plaintiffs who filed suit against the U.S. federal government in *Juliana v. U.S.*, to stand up and protect their right to a safe climate. This new lawsuit against the state of Alaska is part of an international, youth-led legal campaign to address the climate crisis and demand that governments stop their actions that make the crisis worse. It is supported by the nonprofit public interest law firm Our Children's Trust. These youth-led legal actions are unique because they seek to secure the fundamental human right to a safe climate and enforceable court rulings to secure climate justice for current and future generations. Last summer, Our Children's Trust secured a landmark victory for climate justice on behalf of youth in *Held v. State of Montana*, the first constitutional climate case to go to trial in the United States, and the new Alaska case is an opportunity to seek climate justice for Alaska youth in Alaska's courts.

Why a Lawsuit?

From Utqiagvik to Anchorage and Dutch Harbor to Juneau, Young Alaskans from across the state's diverse geography, cultures, and walks of life are already experiencing the harmful effects of climate change through wildlife impacts, heat waves, wildfires, coastal erosion, food insecurity, loss of glaciers and sea ice, thawing permafrost, changing precipitation patterns, and other health and cultural impacts.

Young people are filing this lawsuit because Alaska's Constitution protects the rights of all Alaskans to a safe climate and equal access to the natural resources on which their lives, health, and cultures depend. Through the State of Alaska's actions in promoting fossil fuels, the State government is causing and contributing to Alaska's climate crisis, violating the constitutional rights of young Alaskans. Alaska's constitution does not allow the state government to prioritize fossil fuels above the health, safety, cultures, and future of Alaska's youth.

The young plaintiffs in this new youth-led climate lawsuit will seek recognition of their constitutional rights to a livable climate and a court-ordered remedy that will substantially affect Alaska's emissions.

Learn More About Becoming a Youth Plaintiff

If you are an Alaskan youth, age 5 to 22, and are interested in joining this effort as a plaintiff, please fill out our <u>New Client Interest Form</u>, contact Our Children's Trust's Alaska Plaintiff Engagement Coordinator at <u>michelle@ourchildrenstrust.org</u>, or leave a voicemail with your name and contact information indicating your interest in the Alaska lawsuit at 541-375-0158.

Our Children's Trust is the world's only non-profit public interest law firm dedicated exclusively to securing the legal rights of youth to a safe climate based on the best available science. We support our youth clients and amplify their voices before the third branch of government in a highly strategic legal campaign that includes targeted media, education, and public engagement work to support the youths' legal actions. Our legal work – guided by constitutional, public trust, human rights laws and the laws of nature – aims to ensure systemic and science-based climate recovery planning and remedies at federal, state, and global levels. Information provided in response to this document will be kept confidential. Submission of any information does not create an attorney-client relationship; Our Children's Trust will only establish an attorney-client relationship through a signed retainer agreement. Our Children's Trust attorneys are not admitted to practice in Alaska. Our Children's Trust attorneys will affiliate with local counsel and seek admission pro hac vice for the lawsuit. Our Children's Trust, 1216 Lincoln Street, Eugene OR, 97401.

www.ourchildrenstrust.org