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LEARN THE STORY BEHIND THE YOUTH CLIMATE CASE

***TRUST Oregon* Film Released as Oregon's Court of Appeals Decides to Hear the Case**

Eugene, Oregon – Last Thursday the Oregon Court of Appeals decided to hear the climate change lawsuit brought by two Eugene youth.

The lawsuit was filed against Governor Kitzhaber and the State of Oregon for failing to protect essential natural resources, including the atmosphere, as required under the Public Trust Doctrine. Kelsey Juliana, Olivia Chernaik, and their mothers brought the case to compel the Oregon State government to create a viable climate recovery plan for reducing carbon dioxide emissions in order to protect Oregon's natural resources. "I hope the Court of Appeals understands the need to protect the atmosphere to ensure a livable planet for mine and future generations," said 16-year-old Kelsey Juliana.

Today Kelsey's story documenting her concerns over Oregon's changing climate is being released in [*TRUST Oregon*](#), a mini-documentary film. Her film is the eighth film in the ten-part, award-winning documentary series [*Stories of TRUST: Calling for Climate Recovery*](#) featuring the voices of daring youth from across the country who are pursuing lawsuits and asking the ruling generation to hear their climate change concerns. *TRUST Oregon* will be part of the Climate Reality Project's 24-hours of Reality on November 14 and has already been pre-screened at the Women's Congress for Future Generations in Moab, Utah.

"Kelsey is an amazing inspiration and her story is remarkable," says Tanya Sanerib of the Crag Law Center, one of the lawyers representing Kelsey and Olivia. "I am delighted Kelsey's tale will be shared with more than just the judges who are deciding her case. By capturing Kelsey's story on film, her hope and passion for Oregon and our natural world can be shared beyond the lawsuit and inspire other youth leaders to demand action for our climate before it is too late."

Thus far, the *TRUST* films have made an impression with their audiences with films being selected to air at festivals from Montana and Colorado to New York and the UK. The films share the youngest generation's call for action. Current climate science calls for a return to 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by the end of the century.

To do its part, Oregon must reduce the state's carbon dioxide emissions by six percent each year or risk our climate reaching tipping points – like the defrosting of the tundra and resulting release

of methane gas – beyond which there is no return. Each year Oregon delays making the necessary reductions, makes it harder to protect our climate system and the Oregon way of life.

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To learn more about the Oregon Climate Case visit:

<http://crag.org/2011/05/05/oregon-youth-go-to-court-to-halt-climate-disruption/>
<http://ourchildrenstrust.org/state/oregon>

To learn more about the amazing young people pursuing the climate cases and the international effort visit: <http://ourchildrenstrust.org/trust-films>

*The Plaintiffs are represented by the **Crag Law Center** a non-profit law firm that supports community efforts to protect and sustain the Pacific Northwest's natural legacy and by the law firm of **Hutchinson, Cox, Coons, DuPriest, Orr & Sherlock, P.C.***

***Our Children's Trust** is a nonprofit focused on protecting earth's natural systems for current and future generations. We are supporting youth in the coordinated Atmospheric Trust Litigation effort. We are here to empower youth as they stand up for their lawful inheritance: a healthy planet. We are mothers, fathers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers. We are adults, part of the ruling generation, and we care about the future of our children—and their children's children. www.ourchildrenstrust.org/*

***iMatter** is a youth-led campaign of the nonprofit group, Kids vs Global Warming, that is focused on mobilizing and empowering youth to lead the way to a sustainable and just world. Using multiple platforms at the local, state, and national level, we are committed to raising the voices of the youngest generation to issue a wake-up call to live, lead and govern as if our future matters. www.imattermarch.org/*

***WITNESS** is the global pioneer in the use of video to promote human rights. We empower people to transform personal stories of abuse into powerful tools for justice, promoting public engagement and policy change. In partnership with the TRUST Campaign we seek to bring visibility to the challenges our youth already face because of the changing climate and call for a massive assault on fossil fuel emissions. Without an all-out assault, effects will range from drought to disease; from food shortages to tainted water supplies; from the loss of homes due to floods, erosion and fire to massive relocations. The human rights challenge is most succinctly summarized by Mary Robinson, "Climate change will, in short, have immense human consequences." **WITNESS** partnered on this campaign in hopes that predictions will not become realities. To view the stories from our youth included in the TRUST Series go to www.witness.org/campaigns/all-campaigns/imatter or www.ourchildrenstrust.org/trust-films.*

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