



NEWS RELEASE

October 26, 2018. For immediate release

Contact: Harry Bennett, hmbennett@hotmail.com, 785-466-1728

Rally in Support of Youth Climate Plaintiffs Will Go On

MADISON: 350 Madison, in partnership with Our Children's Trust and other allies, will host a rally in support of the youth climate lawsuit on Monday, October 29.

October 29 is the date that the case of *Juliana v. United States* is supposed to finally go to trial. 21 young plaintiffs from around the country allege that the United States is knowingly violating their constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property by continuing to subsidize fossil fuels. The plaintiffs argue that Republican and Democratic administrations alike, for over 50 years, have supported energy policies that are now severely diminishing the opportunities available to those who will live to see the worst impacts of climate change. To remedy these harms, the plaintiffs are demanding a science-based National Climate Recovery Plan that will guide a swift and just transition to a society powered by 100% renewable energy.

Last week, the Supreme Court placed an administrative stay on the case, halting it temporarily. The young plaintiffs' attorneys have responded to the stay, and are optimistic that the case will be heard in the federal courthouse in Eugene, Oregon, as scheduled.

The stay was granted in response to the latest in a long line of legal maneuvers by the Trump Administration, which has repeatedly sought to have the case dismissed or otherwise resolved in their favor. The Obama Administration, which was in power when the lawsuit was first filed, similarly attempted to block the young plaintiffs from having their day in court. In all, the 21 youths – who now range from ages 11 to 22 – have been waiting three years to formally present their case. This most recent delay will not deter them.

Nor will it deter 350 Madison, which plans to rally outside Madison's federal courthouse (120 North Henry Street) whether the administrative stay is lifted or not. The event will go on from 2-4 PM on Monday, October 29, in solidarity with similar events at federal courthouses across the nation.

Climate change activists, concerned citizens, students, families, adults, and children will gather in front of the courthouse. The group will then march to the Capitol, where leaders will present a petition demanding that Wisconsin's state government create a climate recovery plan, even if the children's lawsuit fails to result in an order for our federal government to do the same.

"This action of solidarity with the youth plaintiffs is our local next step towards supporting children as they play an increasingly important role in demanding meaningful action on climate change," said Tim Cordon, Social Justice Coordinator for the First Unitarian Society of Madison, a co-sponsor of the rally.

350 Madison Climate Action Team is the local branch of 350.org, an international grassroots organization that is mobilizing a global climate movement. 350 parts per million (ppm) of CO₂ is the number that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. We have well exceeded that limit.

Learn more: <http://350madison.org/>