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**Leading International Scientists Support
Youth Appellants' Federal Climate Change Case**

Washington, D.C. – Today, Dr. James Hansen and ten other prominent scientists¹ from around the world came together to file an *amicus curiae* (“friend of the court”) brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. The brief is in support of young people suing the federal government for not acting to reverse climate change. Late last month, attorneys for five youth appellants and two non-profits filed their opening brief in the D.C. Circuit court arguing that they have a constitutional right to a protected atmosphere and a safe climate system.

As relief, the youth appellants seek a comprehensive federal Climate Recovery Plan, which would reduce U.S. emissions based on the Scientists’ prescription.

The Scientists’ Brief establishes that the necessary fossil fuel emissions reductions must be no less than 6% annually, and that these reductions must be coupled with effective efforts to limit and reverse land use emissions – including widespread reforestation. The Scientists argue that these directional changes could restore the atmospheric CO₂ concentration to approximately 350 parts per million (ppm) within this century – if such action begins without delay, and then is adhered to.

However, if the minimum 6% annual emission reductions are delayed even until 2030, then the global temperature will remain more than 1°C higher than preindustrial levels for nearly 300 years. Accordingly, the Scientists warn, “the failure to commence CO₂ emissions reductions without further delay. . . would consign our children and their progeny to a very different planet, one far less conducive to their survival.”

"The science is crystal clear. If emissions continue unabated, resulting warming of the ocean will lock in a continuing acceleration of climate extremes. We would subject young people and future generations to irreparable harm, with irreversible effects including the loss of many species and continually rising sea level out of their control," said Dr. James Hansen, the former head of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies. “Governments are shirking their responsibility, pretending they do not understand the urgency of actions – so we must count on the wisdom of our judicial system to protect the rights of young people.”

¹ Scientists James Hansen, David Beerling, Paul J. Hearty, Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Pushker Kharecha, Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Camille Parmesan, Eelco Rohling, Makiko Sato, Pete Smith, and Lise Van Susteren are *amici curiae* in this appeal.

“Future generations will look back and see this prescription for emissions reduction as one of the most important scientific pronouncements of our time,” said Mary Wood, professor at the University of Oregon School of Law and author of newly published *Nature’s Trust: Environmental Law for a New Ecological Age*. “Based on sound science, it provides the carbon emission pathway out of the climate crisis. It should guide all future government action.”

The youths’ lawsuit was filed with the help of Our Children’s Trust, an Oregon-based non-profit orchestrating a game-changing, youth-driven legal campaign in the United States and across the world. The legal effort advances the fundamental duty of government today: to address the climate crisis based on scientific baselines and benchmarks, and to do so within timeframes determined by scientific analysis.

The Scientists’ *amicus curiae* brief is one of seven briefs filed today, on behalf of the youth. The scientists are joined by faith groups, law scholars, national security experts, government leaders, NGOs, and amici representing Indian Country.

Short documentary films of the young plaintiffs can be seen at www.OurChildrensTrust.org or www.facebook.com/TRUSTCampaign.