

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 18, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to highlight an opportunity for the federal government to align itself with your expressed commitment to address climate change on behalf of our youngest citizens and future generations. Given your stated goals and executive orders addressing the climate crisis and issues of environmental injustice, we believe that the policy decisions being made by all U.S. agencies should be in line with those goals and policy commitments.

Young people across our nation are seeking environmental and climate justice. The fundamental right to a safe climate system has been advocated by the litigants in *Juliana v. United States*. In 2015, a diverse group including Black, Brown, and Indigenous youth filed this constitutional climate change lawsuit against the Executive Branch of the U.S. government for its affirmative actions that they believe have caused the climate crisis and violate the youngest generation's constitutional rights to life, liberty, property, and equal protection of the laws.¹ In 2016, the federal district court issued a significant decision recognizing the fundamental "right to a climate system capable of sustaining human life."² Earlier this year, the court recognized that all three branches of government need to work together to address the climate crisis and ordered the parties to engage in settlement discussions.³

At the Leaders' Summit on Climate, you committed to "confront the climate crisis, to build a better world for all of our children and grandchildren." Upholding that commitment is of the utmost importance. We urge you to carefully review any appropriate programmatic and executive options that you have available across your Administration to make progress, and thus further your commitment to "listen to science—and act," by using a "Government-wide approach" to tackling the climate crisis.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure the constitutional rights to life, liberty, property, and equal protection of the laws are protected for all young people, and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

¹ First Amended Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief, *Juliana v. United States* (No. 6:15-cv-01517), ECF No. 7.

² *Juliana v. United States*, 217 F. Supp. 3d 1224, 1250 (D. Or. 2016).

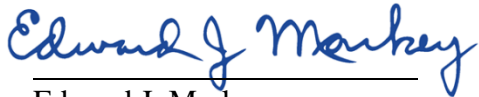
³ Minutes of Proceedings: Telephonic Status Conference Held Before Judge Ann L. Aiken, *Juliana v. United States* (No. 6:15-cv-01517), ECF No. 471.



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



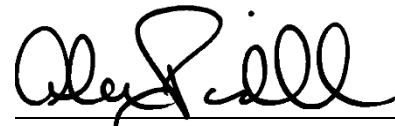
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

CC: Mr. Ron Klain, Chief of Staff to the President
Ms. Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor
Ms. Brenda Mallory, Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality
Dr. Ike Irby, Policy Advisor to the Vice President