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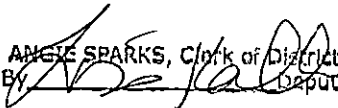
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY

RIKKI HELD, et al., Plaintiffs, v. STATE OF MONTANA, et al., Defendants.	Cause No. CDV-2020-307 Hon. Kathy Seeley DECLARATION OF GEORGIANNA FISCHER IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT
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FILED

FEB 16 2023

ANNE SPARKS, Clerk of District Court
By:  Deputy Clerk

INDEXED

Pursuant to MCA §1-6-105, Georgianna Fischer hereby declares as follows:

1. I am a Plaintiff in the above-entitled action. I am making this declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Response Brief in Opposition to Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment. I have personal knowledge of the facts I state herein and if called to testify, I would and could testify competently thereto.
2. I am a twenty-year-old citizen of the United States and live in Bozeman, Montana. My family has lived in Montana for generations. My great grandma, Mary "Polly" Wisner Renne, did a lot of work to protect Montana's environment. She was instrumental in getting the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Area protected, testifying before Congress about how valuable the land was in its natural state and about how it was being destroyed. Now I am watching climate change destroy all that she worked for and the identity I associate with my home in Montana, which used to be considered an outdoor mecca. Watching it change makes me scared for future generations of Montanans and future generations on this planet. I am proud to follow in my great-grandmother's footsteps and to work to protect Montana's environment and natural spaces, which are so important for my well-being and to protect for future generations of Montanans.
3. I am a competitive Nordic skier that started skiing in 2011. I currently train eleven months of the year and practice 15-22 hours each week, six days a week. I train for competitions in Montana and other states, and have competed in four Junior National competitions, two U.S. National competitions, and the 2021 NCAA competition. I am now a collegiate Nordic skier and attend college at the University of New Hampshire. Even though I attend school back east, I grew up in Bozeman, return there in the summer and on breaks, and I consider it my home.
4. My ability to compete and participate in Nordic skiing has been directly impacted by climate change. With less snowfall in the winter, and the snow melting at rapid rates, my training

season is curtailed and has overall shortened in length. In recent years there has not been enough snow to groom trails or create tracks in the snow to Nordic ski race until January, although historically tracks were created in November. The lack of snow has prevented me from completing all my necessary and appropriate training and hinders my ability to continue to train for competitions at a high level, which adversely impacts my health and mental well-being.

5. In the summer, when I train for Nordic skiing and winter competition, the wildfire smoke limits my ability to train outdoors, which is important for the sport. Practices in the summer have been cancelled or curtailed due to smoke from wildfires in Montana. The smoke makes it so I cannot fully breathe or train at a high intensity level. I am increasingly worried about the long-term effects that the exposure to heavy smoke while training has on my health and respiratory system. In or around August 2017, while training in Canmore, Alberta, Canada, I had to wear a mask to protect myself from the ash that fell from the sky.
6. The wildfire season has become increasingly worse. During the 2021 wildfire season the smoke and haze was so bad some days I could not see the end of my block. It was terrifying. My daily activities were disrupted by the wildfires because I had to reduce the amount of time I spent outside and being in the smoke irritated my lungs and eyes. The effects of the smoke were especially noticeable when I was training for skiing. I have had to change up some of my workouts which, as a competitive athlete, can impact my performance during the season. It is hard to get in quality training and stay motivated when I cannot train outside.
7. I have allergies that are triggered by pollen. I also believe they are triggered by smoke. The increased smoke levels in the summers are making my allergies worse especially on days when

the AQI is around 200. The longer growing season and increase in pollen makes my allergies worse. Flare-ups of my allergies prevent me from working out and training outside.

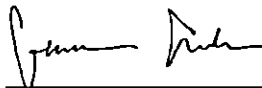
8. My mental health is deeply affected when the sky is grey and almost apocalyptic with smoke starting in July. I know that wildfires are only going to get worse unless climate change is addressed and Montana stops relying on fossil fuels for energy. It is stressful knowing that dangerous levels of smoke are becoming increasingly routine because it shouldn't have to be this way. I have a lot of anxiety in knowing that my health, as well as places in Montana I love are being directly impacted by the wildfires. The smoke has made me anxious and disheartened about the future.
9. I enjoy paddleboarding, backpacking, hiking, and other activities in the outdoors in Montana. I have noticed that there is less flow in the local rivers, in particular the Smith, Flathead, and Missouri Rivers. At times these rivers have been closed due to low water levels, which inhibits my access and restricts activities important to my health and foundational to my family life. Additionally, due to less water flows, the season for recreating on the river is shortened and it is increasingly difficult for my family and me to receive a permit to recreate on the Smith River, further inhibiting access. At times, even with a permit, my family and I have been forced to cancel float trips on the river because there is not enough water due to climate disruption, thus impacting important familial activities.
10. Montana has had much higher temperatures than usual, which has made the drought conditions worse. Summer 2021 was an especially hot and dry one. Usually, June is a rainy month, and summer never really started until July. But in 2021, June was hot and dry with no rain. I experienced heat exhaustion while running outside due to the unusually high temperatures. I had to stop training outside because I overheated too often, started coughing, and experienced

nasal symptoms. I also experienced headaches, dizziness, and lightheadedness from the heat. Training inside was frustrating and hard on my mental health because it's harder to stay motivated inside.

11. The drought of summer 2021 also affected my family's lifestyle. We restricted our water usage inside the house and had to restrict our outside usage for things like watering our lawn and garden even more. This reduced the yield that we had from our garden.
12. I am studying environmental science in college to help find ways to fight climate change. If climate change was not as dire, I would probably have gone into a different field. Climate change and the wildfires were also a factor when I decided to go to the east coast for college along with the quality of my ski team and academics and an opportunity to expand my horizons to another part of the country.
13. I sometimes have feelings of despair and hopelessness. As a young person, I am scared for my future. I have invested years into a snow-based sport, which has come at substantial financial investment by myself and my family, but that snow and the sport may not exist in my future. Not being able to be outside during the summers has increased these feelings of depression and has impacted every aspect of my life including my sleep. Seeing the effects of climate change firsthand has taken a toll on my mental health and led me to seek out professional help. Overall, the changes in the climate are disheartening and has made me nervous for the future. If we win this lawsuit, it will give me some hope for a better future, and that is important. As an athlete, I know that small steps are needed to achieve a bigger goal. In order to have a better future, I know that the State of Montana needs to stop relying so heavily on fossil fuels and the court telling them that doing so violates the constitution would provide the only help on the horizon.

Pursuant to MCA §1-6-105, I declare under penalty of perjury and under the laws of the state of Montana that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 5th day of February 2023 in Durham, New Hampshire.



Georgianna Fischer