

Melissa Hornbein
Barbara Chillcott
Western Environmental Law Center
103 Reeder's Alley
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 708-3058
hornbein@westernlaw.org
chillcott@westernlaw.org

Roger Sullivan
Dustin Leftridge
McGarvey Law
345 1st Avenue East
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5566
rsullivan@mcgarveylaw.com
dlefridge@mcgarveylaw.com

Nathan Bellinger (*pro hac vice*)
Andrea Rodgers (*pro hac vice*)
Julia Olson (*pro hac vice*)
Our Children's Trust
1216 Lincoln Street
Eugene, OR 97401
(413) 687-1668
nate@ourchildrenstrust.org
andrea@ourchildrenstrust.org
julia@ourchildrenstrust.org

Philip L. Gregory (*pro hac vice*)
Gregory Law Group
1250 Godetia Drive
Redwood City, CA 94062
(650) 278-2957
pgregory@gregorylawgroup.com

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ANGIE SPARKS, Clerk of District Court
By *[Signature]* Deputy Clerk

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 CLAIRE VLASES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT
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Pursuant to MCA §1-6-105, Claire Vlases, 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 nineteen-year-old U.S. citizen and resident of Bozeman, Montana. I attend Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, California, but I grew up in Bozeman, return to Bozeman on breaks, and consider Bozeman my home.
3. My childhood and secondary education was affected by Montana's fossil-fuel oriented energy policies and laws. When I was in middle school, I started a Solar Club to raise money for solar panels for my school. It just didn't make sense to me that our state prioritized fossil fuels for energy instead of renewable energy like solar. We successful raised enough money to equip the middle school with solar panels. Unfortunately, due to a cap on solar power in the state law, we were not able to provide enough solar panels to allow the school to run solely on solar energy. As a result, my school cannot reap the financial benefits of solar energy and must divert its money to paying for fossil-fuel energy, which decreases my school's ability to spend its money on things that will benefit its students, like teachers, programs, and facilities. I was disappointed that we did our part to make sure our school was using renewable energy, but the government limited us from being a part of the solution to climate change.
4. I grew up and continue to love to recreate outdoors in Montana, where I enjoy activities on roads, rivers, and mountains; activities like skiing, biking, running, floating rivers, swimming, and fishing. In recent summers, I have camped and hiked a lot in the smoke caused by the increasing occurrence of wildfires due to climate change. The smoke is very uncomfortable,

burning my nose, eyes, and lungs. The smoke also makes me cough. It is stressful having to worry about my health and safety, knowing that it is not always safe to go outside. When there is smoke in the sky, some of my favorite views are hazy or completely hidden and it diminishes my ability to enjoy an activity that was an important part of my childhood in Montana.

5. Extreme heat and high temperatures, increasingly an issue due to climate change, have taken a toll on my outdoor activities. I am an avid biker, and I have biked across Montana, the United States, and Europe. However, my experience biking has changed due to extreme heat. The extreme heat and high temperatures make it increasingly risky to bike without water, something that occasionally happens on my long bike rides.
6. On one biking trip to Glacier National Park, I was disappointed to see the extent to which the glaciers have receded due to rising temperatures and extreme heat, and it made me think about how the glaciers I see now might not be seen by future generations. If I have kids, I want them to have the childhood I had, but I know it won't be possible if climate change isn't addressed immediately because the beauty of the park will be diminished. This is more than disappointing; it terrifies me.
7. When I was in high school, I competed in cross-country running. Extreme heat affected my running, as cross-country practices had to be scheduled early in the morning to avoid the dangerous heat and some practices were canceled. This really impacted me and my running team, as we were highly competitive and won nationals before. It is difficult to go through a long day of school after an early morning practice.
8. Bozeman Creek runs through my family's home and is one of our sources of water. In 2021, I noticed that Bozeman Creek was the lowest that I had seen it. I was raised to conserve water resources, and I do. But I am scared about water loss and water scarcity due to receding

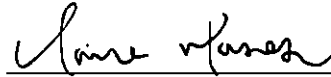
glaciers, declining snowpack, and increasing summer drought conditions. I am aware that climate change is causing more drought conditions in Montana. It is scary to think about what will happen if my family's water source cannot provide us with water anymore.

9. We also use the water to care for our animals and garden. We currently have dogs, chickens, and honeybees, and we have had sheep in the past. We use our chickens for eggs and have also used them for meat in the past. We use the garden for food and also sell the surplus of our garden. I am worried that less water will result in the loss of home-grown food and income for us.
10. For the past six seasons, I've worked at Big Sky Resort as a ski instructor. That work has been limited due to decreasing snowpack, which results in fewer people coming to Big Sky Resort. Because of this, I am either sent home from work when I show up or I am contacted to let me know that my scheduled shift has been canceled. I waste time and money getting to work just to be sent home. When I can work, my workload and income are determined by how many people show up, and how many people show up is determined by the quality of the snow. This affects my autonomy because my ability to earn money on my own is reduced.
11. My overall mental health is harmed by the State of Montana's ongoing decisions to prioritize fossil fuel burning and extraction over renewable energy sources. I want to feel hopeful that positive change is coming, but given my state's ongoing promotion of fossil fuels I am very worried about my future and the future of my home in Montana. I am experiencing climate dangers getting worse each year but my state government keeps pushing for more fossil fuels extraction and burning. Often, I feel that the only thing keeping me going is inspiration from others who are fighting for the same cause, such as my fellow plaintiffs in this case. I do have hope that a successful outcome in this case will make a difference in Montana and help shift

the state away from fossil fuels. If we win, it would restore some of my lost confidence in my state government and allow me to feel more optimistic about my future.

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 6th day of February, 2023 in Claremont, California.



Claire Vlasses