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By  Anisie Sparks, Clerk of District Court
Deputy Clerk

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY

<p>RIKKI HELD, et al., Plaintiffs, v. STATE OF MONTANA, et al., Defendants.</p>	<p>No. CDV-2020-307 Hon. Kathy Seeley DECLARATION OF LAURA KING IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT</p>
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Pursuant to MCA §1-6-105, Laura King hereby declares as follows:


1. I am the mother and legal guardian of two Plaintiffs in the above-entitled action: Jeffrey K. and Nathaniel K. 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 citizen of the U.S. and currently a resident of California. My sons, Jeffrey and Nathaniel, live with me. Jeffrey is nine years old, and Nathaniel is five years old. I am making this declaration on their behalf since they are too young to testify in court. Also, as their mother, I am competent to testify as to how my children are being harmed by Montana's actions that cause climate change.
3. Jeffrey was diagnosed with a pulmonary sequestration when I was pregnant with him. This condition can potentially cause major health problems, making him more vulnerable to infection. His lungs are particularly at risk during the fire season in Montana, which has increased in length and severity.
4. Jeffrey likes to go outside and hike but is unable to do so during the increasingly worse wildfire seasons. In the summer of 2021, he was sent home from day camp twice due to wildfire-related sickness. Throughout that season he experienced nosebleeds, sore throats, headaches, tiredness, coughing, trouble breathing, and eye irritation. When he was born, I understood he was at increased risk because of his medical condition, but the climate crisis is unnecessarily exposing him to harmful conditions.
5. My son, Nathaniel, was born in 2017, which was a really bad fire season. There were wildfires while he was born and the month after. Nathaniel has respiratory issues and has gone to the

emergency room for difficulty breathing. Because of these respiratory issues, he is also vulnerable to wildfire smoke.

6. Our family enjoys camping and hiking. The increasingly severe wildfire seasons in Montana prevent us from doing these activities because we need to stay inside to keep Jeffrey and Nathaniel safe from the smoke that can hurt their delicate lungs.
7. Jeffrey and Nathaniel were born in Montana and lived there until December 2021, when we moved to California. Part of the reason we moved was to escape the poor air quality in Montana due to wildfire smoke during the summers. Jeffrey and Nathaniel continue to visit Montana regularly and will continue to do so as they grow up, including to hike, camp, fish, hunt, and spend time with friends.
8. Even though we have moved, we cannot escape the wildfire smoke that Jeffrey and Nathaniel were exposed to when they were growing up in Montana. It is my hope that their early childhood exposures will not cause them lifelong harm, but the trauma of growing up with intense wildfires remains.
9. My children are plaintiffs in this lawsuit because it is not right for state government to take actions that knowingly harm children, particularly those that are especially vulnerable to climate change impacts, like wildfire smoke. I believe that if the judge rules in our favor, it will send the message to the state of Montana that their current conduct is unlawful and must be changed. That is what is needed to protect children like Jeffrey and Nathaniel, and other children who are increasingly exposed to the harmful impacts of climate change.

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 7th day of February, 2023 in Santa Monica, California.



Laura King