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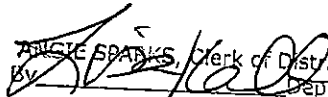
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ANGIE SPARKS, Clerk of District Court
By:  Deputy Clerk

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 BADGE B. IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT
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Pursuant to MCA §1-6-105, Badge B. 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 fifteen-year-old citizen of the United States and a resident of Kalispell, Montana. I am already experiencing the effects of climate change, and fear that the life I live now will not be possible when I grow up for me, or for generations of Montanans yet to come. Outdoor activities in Montana with my family and friends are an important part of my life, including swimming, fishing, camping, rafting, hiking, skiing, and hunting. Being outside is a way for me to decompress and relax. Experiencing the outdoors is an essential part of my life and who I am as a Montanan.
3. One of my favorite places to visit in Montana is Badger-Two Medicine. I have always felt connected to the area because it is the place that I am named after. We go and visit a lot as a family, but there was an awful wildfire there in 2015. Seeing the damage to this area that I feel so connected to was devastating. As a result of the fire, massive pine trees that were hundreds of years old were destroyed in the forest. Post-fire, it has been hard for vegetation to grow in the area. The fire has changed the nature of the place I am named after and now when I visit the experience is not the same. It feels like a part of who I am was lost. This is a picture of me in Badger-Two Medicine after the fire.



4. The increasing wildfires affect my health, safety, and quality of life in multiple ways. At home when there is smoke from wildfires, I cannot go outside to play because the air quality is so bad, and it is hard to breathe. The smoke makes me cough and irritates my eyes. Smoke has also led to recess being cancelled at school because it is not safe to go outside. In 2018, my family had to prepare to evacuate because of a close-by fire, though thankfully it did not reach our home. Preparing to evacuate was a stressful and scary experience. We had to stay inside that day due to the smoke from that fire. It is devastating to see fires burning up beautiful places nearby and I worry that our home could be damaged or lost by a fire in the future. I know climate change is making wildfire worse, and I fear that if Defendants continue to promote fossil fuels, the wildfires in Montana will continue to get worse as I grow up. I know that the wildfires will continue to get worse as long as my government keeps pushing policies that promote fossil fuels.
5. Hunting is both a recreational activity and an important source of food for me and my family. Some of my fondest memories are hunting with my dad in Montana, and it is a beautiful thing

that we as a family can do to bond and provide food for ourselves. We rarely buy meat from the store and we only do so when we are running low on meat that we have hunted. I go bird hunting with my family in beautiful places like Polson, and then my dad makes nuggets with the Hungarian partridges. However, the Hungarian partridges have been increasingly killed off by big storms and extreme weather events such as drought, which affects our food source. The Hungarian partridge are affected by dry conditions, which ultimately result in more scarce food and drier areas to habitat and reproduce. Climate change will continue to make it harder for me to go hunting in Montana. Here is a picture of me hunting in Montana.



6. Now, when I go hunting, I cannot walk a mile without seeing trees killed by pine beetles. We also see the pine beetles on our property as well. We love our trees and do not want them to continue to die. When I was younger, there weren't as many trees that were dead and dying but I know that pine beetles are more common now because climate change is causing warmer winters, which allows the beetles to spread.

7. Drought conditions and low water levels have prevented me from participating in rafting, which is another activity that I enjoy. I like to go rafting, but the water levels on the Smith River, Flathead, and Blackfoot are often too low to float. Even when I can go, there has sometimes been so much smoke that it is hard to see and hazardous to breathe. We cannot go swimming sometimes in our neighborhood lake because of toxic blue algae, which is made worse due to warmer summer temperatures, caused by climate change.
8. I love skiing and in the winter I try to go every week with my friends. I am also on the freestyle ski team. I want real snow to ski on, but I know that the snowpack is declining due to climate change, and this will continue to be an issue in the future. For example, our local ski mountain opened up way later than normal in 2021 and sometimes snow conditions are too bad to ski, which means less time to do one of my favorite activities. Skiing is also a great way for me to get exercise, so it's good for my physical and mental health, but I worry this is an activity I won't be able to do as I grow older because of climate change.
9. I want my own kids, if I have them, to experience Montana's beautiful environment like I do now. However, the climate crisis is threatening my way of life, and if my government continues what they are doing, it's only going to get worse. I am sad and scared when I think about how climate change is changing Montana and harming me. When I do outdoor activities that I enjoy, I don't want to think that it is going to be my last time. It is something I have been worrying about for my whole life. I am anxious about the future that I am inheriting and want action to be taken. Not all of my friends worry about climate change like I do and many of them do not understand why I am so concerned about it.
10. I want to protect Montana's environment and natural spaces so that future generations of Montanans can enjoy them too. But the state of Montana is not worried about that. It is

maddening to me to see my state government continuing to promote fossil fuels in the middle of a climate crisis when they can see the harmful effects of climate change that I am experiencing. I feel that my state government is betraying me. However, I believe that if we win this lawsuit, it will be a turning point in our state and it would give me hope that a brighter future is possible. It would mean that my constitutional rights matter. I am counting on the court to protect my rights because clearly my state government cannot be trusted to do so.

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

Executed this 8th day of February, 2023 in Kalispell, Montana.

Badge B.

Badge B.