

# Aji's statement of standing



## Aji Piper, 15, West Seattle, Washington

77. Aji and his family are forced to breathe smoke in the air from the worst wildfire in the state's recorded history during a recent trip through the Cascade Mountains.

Aji struggles to participate in his regular summer outdoor activities, because of unusually high temperatures for extended periods of time.

78. The decreasing water quality in Puget Sound causes **dead zones** to occur more frequently. Ocean acidification is killing fish and shellfish.

Aji recreates in these areas and enjoys seeing marine life. Dead and dying sea life harm Aji's ability to recreate in and enjoy the natural beauty of this area. Aji has been unable to touch or eat shellfish in Puget Sound due to high toxicity levels.

Aji is upset by seeing the ecosystems surrounding his home harmed by climate change and **ocean acidification** caused by Defendants' activities.

79. The impacts of climate change in other places in the western United States are also harming Aji. On a trip to Montana with his grandparents, Aji witnessed dead forests killed by pine bark beetles.

Aji's mother is from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and they have family there. But Aji and his family will not move back to New Mexico, because of current and ongoing water shortages and the declining **aquifer**.

**aquifer:** underground layer of permeable rock that stores groundwater

**dead zone:** an area in an ocean with too low oxygen levels to support life

**ocean acidification:** occurs when carbon dioxide reacts with seawater to produce acid

### Personal values

### Harm claimed

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# Alexander's statement of standing



## Alexander Loznak, 18, Kellogg, Oregon

24. Alex lives on his family's 570-acre farm along the Umpqua River. His great, great, great, great grandmother founded the farm in 1868. The farm is Alex's intellectual and spiritual base and a foundational piece of his life and heritage. His identity and wellbeing depend on its protection.

26. The farm is an important source of revenue and food for Alex and his family. The family grows fruit and nut trees, raise chickens and cows, and grow many other fruits and vegetables.

The record-setting heat waves and drought harm farm crops and limit Alex' ability to work outside.

27. The farm is also home to many different species of wildlife. Alex and his family hunt deer, elk, and wild turkeys for food.

These species are harmed by climate change caused by the Defendants' activities

28. The health and bodily integrity of his family and their farm – and the food, income, and personal wellbeing they derive from the farm – are increasingly harmed by climate change.

The area where Alex lives is frequently smoky due to nearby wildfires during summer. Alex is allergic to pollen and suffers worse in warmer years. He also suffers from asthma, which is worse in the smoky months and will worsen as climate change impacts caused by Defendants worsens.

29. Alex enjoys hiking in northern Washington, where he has witnessed glaciers receding due to climate change. He plans to visits Montana and Alaska, but his enjoyment of glaciers and natural beauty of these areas is harmed by worry that the glaciers may disappear before he can visit them.

## Personal values

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# Journey's statement of standing



## **Journey Zephier, 15, Hawai'i**

68. Journey is a member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe. In 2009, Journey and his family moved to Hawai'i. Journey adopted the Hawaiian culture as his own. He has deep cultural and spiritual connections with the Earth and all life – and a deep sense of responsibility to protect the Earth for his generation and future generations.

69. Journey enjoys cultural activities like working in taro fields, organic farming, playing Tahitian drum, fire dancing, and performing Hula Hula. He also enjoys swimming, snorkeling, fishing, canoeing, stand-up paddle boarding, and walking and biking along the beach.

70. Journey's food security and his enjoyment of coral reefs and sea life are harmed by climate change impacts such as ocean acidification, sea level rise, increased sea surface temperature, changes in ocean circulation, and increased storm intensity – all caused by the acts of Defendants.

Rising sea levels harm Journey's health, personal safety, cultural practices, and recreational interests. For example, intense storms increase coastal flooding and erosion that damage coastal ecosystems, farming, farm buildings, and roads. Saltwater flooding in the farms and taro patches where Journey works reduces the yield of crops.

Decreased rainfall and sea level rise have caused poor water quality, high bacteria levels, and more shark activities in coastal rivers. This threatens Journey's health and safety and prevents his use and enjoyment of rivers. Less freshwater threatens Journey's access to drinking water and ability to stay on the island.

**ocean acidification:** occurs when carbon dioxide reacts with seawater to produce acid

## **Personal values**

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# Kelsey's statement of standing



## **Kelsey Juliana, 19, Eugene, Oregon**

16. Kelsey depends on the freshwaters of Oregon for drinking, hygiene, and recreation. She also depends upon the marine and estuarine waters of Oregon as a food source and a place of recreation. Kelsey enjoys playing on the beach, tidepooling, and observing sea life.

Kelsey's diet includes local seafood and food grown in Oregon by small farmers in the Willamette Valley and by her family in their garden.

17. The current drought, lack of snow, record-setting heat, and low water levels, caused by Defendants' activities, are harming places Kelsey visits and her drinking water and food sources, including salmon.

18. Kelsey enjoys snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and snow camping. Warmer winters and declining snowpack limit her opportunity to do, and to enjoy, of these activities.

Kelsey enjoys rafting, swimming in rivers, canoeing on lakes, hiking, rock-climbing, and backpacking. Unusual hot temperatures and resulting algal blooms in lakes harm her ability to enjoy these activities and prevent her from drinking the water. Intense wildfires have caused her to abandon camping trips.

19. Defendants have caused mental and emotional harm to Kelsey. Her fear of a changing climate, her knowledge of the impacts that will occur in her lifetime, and her knowledge that Defendants are continuing to cause harms threaten her life and wellbeing.

Kelsey believes that she will not be able to continue to do all of the activities she now enjoys and that she not be able to share those experiences with her children.

## **Personal values**

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# Miko's statement of standing



## **Miko Vergun, 14, Beaverton, Oregon**

58. Miko was born in the Marshall Islands. Her low-lying home island is threatened by sea level rise. She fears she will never be able to travel back to the Marshall Islands as she intends to do, because the islands will likely be underwater in the near future.

Her new home in Oregon is also experiencing climate change impacts with record-breaking heat waves.

Miko is now finding that the lakes where she goes to recreate, swim, and fish have much lower water levels than usual. This limits her ability to use and enjoy these areas.

59. Seafood is an important part of Miko's diet. Ocean acidification and the warming of ocean, coastal, and river waters harm the health of fish and other sea life on which Miko depends.

57. These threats to her life, home, and country have caused Miko to become a climate activist. Miko and her brother and mother started the first Plant for the Planet Academy in Oregon to plant trees and help reverse deforestation. (Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and act as a carbon sink. This helps stabilize the climate system.)

Miko also helps increase awareness among young people and adults about the climate crisis. She and her family model solutions. They have solar panels on their roof, and they use an electric hybrid car to reduce their emissions when they drive. Miko is committed to living a low-carbon lifestyle.

**carbon sink:** things that remove and store carbon from the atmosphere

**ocean acidification:** occurs when carbon dioxide reacts with seawater to produce acid

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# Nathaniel's statement of standing



## **Nathaniel Baring, 15, Fairbanks, Alaska**

74. Nathan is an avid Nordic cross-country skier who also enjoys downhill skiing. Nathan has been harmed by reduced snowfall. The snow season is getting much shorter and the snowfall much less in recent winters.

Nathan is also experiencing more unusual ice storms in Fairbanks. The city declared a state of disaster after a severe ice storm caused widespread power outages. Nathan and his family were without power for nearly a week in temperatures below freezing.

75. In summers, Alaska has experienced hundreds of wildfires across the state, all occurring at once. Increasingly, Fairbanks is surrounded by many wildfires, and the air quality becomes as bad as in the world's smoggiest cities.

During the hot dry wildfire season, Nathan's asthma and allergies flare, making it hard for Nate to breathe and take part in cross-country running, his favorite sport.

Nathan is upset knowing that the changing temperatures caused by Defendants' actions will affect his way of life and the animals and ecosystems that surround him and that he relies on for food.

Nathan's family raises chickens, and they hunt moose and grouse for food. These animals are also harmed by the extreme climate changes happening in Alaska and caused by Defendants.

Nathan has also noticed a sharp decline of salmon, especially king salmon, which is important for his diet. Nathan and his family take fishing trips and their catch has declined in recent years.

Nathan enjoys visiting Alaska's glaciers, however he has noticed that the glaciers are retreating very fast due to unusually hot temperatures.

### **Personal values**

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# Sophie's statement of standing



## **Sophie K, 16, Allentown, Pennsylvania**

63. Sophie feels a sense of urgency and responsibility to compel government action on climate change. Extreme weather events, including Hurricane Sandy, cause Sophie to miss school; hailstorms have damaged her house; floodwaters often cover roads by her house; and Sophie has been forced to prepare for tornadoes, which were unusual where she lives.

Intense summer heat limits Sophie's ability to participate in and enjoy outdoor activities like track and tennis. She had planned to live in coastal cities like New York or Los Angeles, but rising sea levels may flood these areas within her lifetime unless Defendants' stop their actions that are causing these catastrophic impacts.

Sophie is distressed knowing that the loss through submersion of our coastal hubs of our nation's economy will profoundly impact our nation and her own life and career as she gets older.

64. Climate change impacts caused by Defendants' actions is harming, and will continue to harm, the ability of Sophie and her family to grow food in their garden. Food crops rely on pollinators, and the population of bees and other pollinators is declining due to climate change and other factors.

Sophie's health was harmed for the first time by pollen allergies, a reaction that is triggered or made worse by warming temperatures.

Sophie is deeply concerned about the future, because she knows that climate change will not only harm her, but will also harm the entire fabric of human civilization and all living things on Earth that she loves and relies on for her life, liberties, and property.

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# Victoria's statement of standing



**Victoria B., 16, White Plains, New York**

72. Victoria experiences emotional distress over the climate change-driven increase in superstorms in the Northeast. Victoria was harmed by Hurricane Sandy when she and her family lost power to their home, her school shut down, and her forms of public transportation were not operating.

Victoria is also harmed by the increasing sweltering and record-breaking summer temperatures. This limits the time she spends outdoors in New York.

Extended hot temperatures also extend the pollen season. In recent years, Victoria's pollen allergies have become worse, making it even more difficult to enjoy being outdoors.

Victoria lives on low-lying land, which is threatened by rising sea levels and more frequent storm surges and resulting flooding, caused by climate change due to Defendants' activities.

71. These threats to her life, home, and future have caused Victoria to become a climate activist. She works to educate people about climate change and actions to mitigate it.

**mitigate:** make less severe or harsh; lessen the extent of harm

**storm surge:** sea level rise due to low pressure and wind from storm

**superstorm:** an unusually large and very powerful storm

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