



**Northwest**  
Eugene, Oregon

**Southwest**  
Taos, New Mexico

**Northern Rockies**  
Helena, Montana

**Southern Rockies**  
Durango, Colorado

**Defending the West**

[www.westernlaw.org](http://www.westernlaw.org)

## Western Environmental Law Center

*Via Electronic Mail*

June 29, 2015

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002  
T: (360) 902-4111

Re: Formal Request To Meet & Direct Ecology To Promulgate Proposed Rule To Implement Science-Based Carbon Dioxide Emissions Limits

Dear Governor Inslee,

In 2014, eight young Washington students, Zoe and Stella Foster, Aji and Adonis Piper, Wren Wagenbach, Lara Fain, Gabriel Mandell, and Jenny Xu, filed a petition for rulemaking with the Washington Department of Ecology to promulgate a rule: (1) recommending to the Legislature that the existing greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction requirements in RCW 70.235.020 need to be updated based upon best available science; and (2) ensuring carbon dioxide emissions are reduced by an aggregate 4% per year through 2050 across all sectors over which Ecology has regulatory control.

The need for our Petition was supported, in part, by Ecology's December 2014 Report. In this Report, Ecology summarized the current science regarding the devastating impacts of climate change, recognized that action to reduce GHG emissions is needed now and that delay will cause "intergenerational inequities," but alarmingly advised the Legislature **NOT** to update the GHG emissions reductions set forth in RCW 70.235.020. Ecology summarily denied our Petition.

On June 23, 2015, King County Superior Court Judge Hollis Hill issued an important decision remanding our Petition for rulemaking to Ecology and holding that Ecology has the legal responsibility to take into consideration the agency's December 2014 Report, and our expert's analysis of the report, when deciding whether to grant our petition. Ecology has until July 8, 2015 to reconsider its original decision denying our Petition.

We hereby formally request that you direct Ecology to grant our Petition and commence a rulemaking process without delay. Judge Hill's decision presents you with an unprecedented opportunity to ensure that Washington is the first State in the nation to facilitate meaningful regulations of carbon dioxide emissions, that if emulated by other jurisdictions would put the



**Northwest**  
Eugene, Oregon

**Southwest**  
Taos, New Mexico

**Northern Rockies**  
Helena, Montana

**Southern Rockies**  
Durango, Colorado

**Defending the West**

[www.westernlaw.org](http://www.westernlaw.org)

---

## Western Environmental Law Center

state, nation and planet on a path towards climate stability. In our lawsuit, Ecology made it very clear that the agency has the statutory authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions pursuant to the Washington Clean Air Act, but that it is simply not required to utilize that existing authority. As we are sure you agree, the current state of our climate demands a more courageous response.

We would like to meet with you in person to discuss this important request and ask to do so at your earliest convenience given the upcoming July 8 deadline. Please contact our attorney Andrea Rodgers at (206) 696-2851 or [rodgers@westernlaw.org](mailto:rodgers@westernlaw.org) to schedule the meeting. Thank you in advance and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Andrea K. Rodgers, Western Environmental Law Center  
Zoe Foster  
Stella Foster  
Aji Pipler  
Adonis Piper  
Wren Wagenbach  
Lara Fain  
Gabriel Mandell  
Jenny Xu

Cc: Kay Shirey, Assistant AG