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CIRCUIT COURT OF OREGON
FOR LANE COUNTY

BY.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY

OLIVIA CHERNAIK, a minor and resident of Lane County, Oregon; LISA CHERNAIK, guardian of Olivia Chernaik; KELSEY CASCADIA ROSE JULIANA, a minor and resident of Lane county, Oregon and CATHY JULIANA, guardian of Kelsey Juliana,

Plaintiffs,

v.

JOHN KITZHABER, in his official capacity as Governor of the State of Oregon; and the STATE OF OREGON,

Defendants.

Case No. 16-11-09273

AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AND EQUITABLE RELIEF

(Claim not Subject to Mandatory Arbitration)

Plaintiffs allege:

1.

This is a proceeding for declaratory and equitable relief under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapter 28. Plaintiffs are children and their families who live in Oregon, and their personal and economic well-being is directly dependent upon the health of the State's natural resources held in trust for the benefit of its citizens, including water resources, submerged and submersible lands, coastal lands, forests, and wildlife. All of these resources or assets, and

therefore the future of the children, are currently threatened by the impacts of climate change. In bringing this action, the children seek a declaration from the Court that the State of Oregon and Governor John Kitzhaber have violated their duties to uphold the public trust and protect the State's atmosphere as well as the water, land, fishery, and wildlife resources from the impacts of climate change.

2.

Plaintiffs are Oregon youth and their families whose personal and economic well-being is and will continue to be threatened with injury from climate change due to increasing temperatures and excessive heat, rising sea levels, loss of water resources, diseases and pests, loss of agricultural and soil productivity, changes in precipitation patterns, extreme weather events, flooding, and other consequences of climate change.

3.

The survival, health, recreational, scientific, cultural, inspirational, spiritual, educational, aesthetic, emotional well-being, and other rights and interests of Plaintiffs are and will be increasingly adversely and irreparably injured by Defendants' failure to protect the natural resources the State holds in trust for its citizens.

4.

Plaintiffs Olivia Chernaik is a minor and Lisa Chernaik is her mother and both reside in Lane County, Oregon. Olivia and Lisa Chernaik enjoy and gain great educational, aesthetic, scientific, and other benefits from visiting the Oregon coast. They enjoy walking on the beach and observing tidal pools. Olivia Chernaik visits the Oregon coast at least once a year either with her family or on school field trips. Lisa Chernaik has visited the Oregon coast since she was child and still takes her family on trips to Newport and Depoe Bay. Olivia and Lisa

Chernaik's ability to engage in these activities is and will continue to be harmed by the State's failure to protect trust resources from the impacts of climate change and the resulting loss of beaches and shorelines from erosion and rising sea levels. Lisa Chernaik wants her children to enjoy the sea lions and seals at Cape Arago and the beautiful gardens at Shore Acres throughout their lives as she has done but as a direct and consequential result of accelerating climate change this recreational pursuit will be negatively impacted by climate change.

5.

Lisa Chernaik also enjoys preparing and serving fish for her family including salmon, halibut, and Pacific shrimp. The ability of her family to enjoy these foods is and will continue to be harmed by the State's failure to protect trust resources from the impacts of climate change and the resulting heating of the ocean and consequent impacts on fisheries and other sea life.

6.

Olivia and Lisa Chernaik grow fruit and vegetables in their backyard and enjoy picking berries together. Their ability to engage in these activities together will be harmed by the State's failure to protect trust resources from the impacts of climate change and the resulting reductions in water availability, drought, increases in pests, rising temperatures, and weather changes.

7.

Lisa Chernaik has seasonal allergies and is allergic to tree and grass pollen. She is concerned that her allergies will worsen due to the impacts of climate change and that her children may also develop allergies. She is harmed by the State's failure to protect trust

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resources from the impacts of climate change and the resulting rising temperatures and weather changes that will lead to increased allergy and related health problems.

8.

Plaintiffs Kelsey Cascadia Rose Juliana is a minor and Catia Juliana is her mother. They both reside in Lane County, Oregon. Kelsey Juliana enjoys and gains great educational, aesthetic, scientific, and other benefits from hiking and backpacking in Oregon's forests and especially old-growth forests with her father. She enjoys viewing big and various trees, wildflowers, animals, and pastures of moss. She hikes at least once every other month and frequently visit Mount Pisgah, Spenser Butte, Three Sisters, and Goodman Creek, and she takes longer backpacking trips in the summer in different areas in Oregon. Her ability to engage in these activities is and will continue to be harmed by the State's failure to protect trust resources from the impacts of climate change and the resulting changes to the ecosystems from drought and rising temperatures, and other changes in Oregon's weather patterns.

9.

Kelsey Juliana enjoys and gains great educational, aesthetic, scientific, and other benefits from visiting the Oregon coast and return to the coast a few times each year to play in the sand, look for plants, hunt for sea creatures in tidal pools, and play in the waves. She frequently visits Newport and Yachats with her family. They also enjoy eating locally caught salmon, tuna, and clams. Their ability to engage in these activities is and will continue to be harmed by the State's failure to protect trust resources from the impacts of climate change and the resulting loss of beaches and shorelines from erosion, rising sea levels, and the heating of the ocean and consequent impacts on fisheries and other sea life.

Kelsey Juliana enjoys and gains great educational, aesthetic, scientific, and other benefits from cross-country skiing, sledding, and snowshoeing and visiting Gold Lake and Lang Pass to engage in these activities several times each winter. She also enjoys and gains great educational, aesthetic, scientific, and other benefits from rafting, swimming, and other water sports at Mount Pisgah or Goodman Creek nearly every week in the summer. She enjoys picking and eating local huckleberries, thimbleberries, and wild mushrooms and her family has an extensive garden at home in which they grow their own food. Kelsey Juliana would very much like to continue to live in Oregon and have a garden to support herself throughout her life. Kelsey Juliana's ability to engage in these activities is and will continue to be harmed by the State's failure to protect trust resources from the impacts of climate change and the resulting reductions in water availability, drought, increases in pests, rising temperatures, and weather changes.

11.

The above-described health, recreational, scientific, cultural, inspirational, educational, aesthetic, and other interests of Plaintiffs will be adversely and irreparably injured by Defendants' failure to protect public trust resources by establishing and enforcing adequate limitations on the levels of greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions that will reduce the level of carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere to provide a livable future for these Plaintiffs and all youth in Oregon.

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The harm to Plaintiffs' interests is caused by Oregon's failure to sufficiently cap and annually reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the State and will be redressed by a favorable order from the Court.

13.

Defendant John Kitzhaber is sued in his official capacity as the Governor of the State of Oregon.

14.

Defendant the State of Oregon, acting through the Governor John Kitzhaber, a public officer, has authority for administering the public trust in the State.

The Public Trust Doctrine

15.

In Oregon, the public trust doctrine stems from the common law and Constitutional and statutory provisions. The origin of the public trust doctrine is that by the law of nature these things are common to mankind -- the air, running water, the sea, and the shores of the sea.

16.

Under ORS section 537.525 the public trust doctrine applies to water resources and provides "the right to reasonable control of all water within the state from all sources of water supply belongs to the public." The State as a sovereign owns the navigable waters of the State as "a trustee for the public."

17.

The submerged lands under navigable waters and tidal lands are also held in trust for the citizens of the State.

The public trust doctrine has been extended beyond water to State owned lands, which under the Article VIII, § 5(2) of the Oregon Constitution, are "managed for the greatest benefit for the people of this state, consistent with the conservation of this resource under sound techniques of land management."

19.

Whether the public trust includes a particular resource is a question of law. The State's fiduciary duty under the public trust doctrine is to protect common uses, including, but not limited to navigation, fishing, recreation, and hunting, as well as commerce (via water and road ways) and energy production. The air or atmosphere is likewise necessary for health, welfare, and commerce in Oregon as a public trust resource that is not subject to alienation by the State.

Science Documenting The Climate Crisis

20.

For more than 200 years, the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, together with massive deforestation have caused a substantial increase in the atmospheric concentrations of heat-trapping greenhouse gases. These gases prevent heat from escaping to space, like the glass panels of a greenhouse. The extent of these gases in the atmosphere have changed and fluctuated over geologic time but have reached an equilibrium -- Earth's safe climate-zone -- which is necessary to life as we know it. However, as the concentrations of these gases continue to increase in the atmosphere, the Earth's temperature is climbing above Earth's safe climate-zone.

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 According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration ("NASA"), the Earth's average surface temperature has increased by about 0.8°C (1.4°F) in the last 100-150 years. The eight warmest years on record (since 1850) have all occurred since 1998. Coupled with the increase in the temperature of the earth, other aspects of the climate are also changing, such as rainfall patterns, snow and ice cover, and sea levels.

22.

Human-caused fossil fuel burning and the resulting climate change are already contributing to numerous adverse impacts to public health, including increased rates of asthma, cancer, cardiovascular disease and stroke, heat-related morbidity and mortality, food borne diseases, and neurological diseases and disorders.

23.

Climate changes are currently occurring faster than even the most pessimistic scenarios presented in the 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. A variety of studies conclude that a further increase of average annual temperatures of 2° C (3.6° F) above current levels would cause severe, widespread and irreversible impacts. Depending on the future rate of greenhouse gas emissions, the future is likely to bring increases of 3 to 11 degrees Fahrenheit above current levels.

24.

If the atmosphere passes certain thresholds or tipping points of energy imbalance and planetary heating, the existing climatic conditions that exist today cannot be restored. These thresholds include the melting of ice sheets and the thawing of tundra and permafrost. Each of

these events has catastrophic consequences on its own, such as the consequent rise in sea level after ice sheets melt. Each of these events also spurs further events with negative climatic effects. When sea ice melts the refractive capacity of the ice is lost and the heat energy is absorbed by the ocean. The thawing of permafrost will result in the release of large quantities of the greenhouse gas methane, which eventually converts into carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Current estimates place the amount of carbon sequestered in permafrost at around 900 gigatons worldwide. Release of such a large store would more than double the current amount of carbon in the atmosphere, resulting in further rapid warming and consequent effects.

25.

A failure to take appropriate action will result in the severe alteration and potentially the collapse of the earth's natural systems leaving a planet that is largely unfit for human life.

26.

There is still time to curb and reduce carbon dioxide emissions to avoid irrevocable changes to the atmosphere. To limit average surface heating to no more than 1° C (1.8° F) above pre-industrial temperatures, and to protect Oregon's public trust assets, the best available science concludes that concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide cannot exceed 350 parts per million or "ppm." As of 2011, atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations are at least 390 ppm and are projected to exceed 400 ppm by 2020. Current atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations are the highest in at least 650,000 years.

27.

To reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to 350 ppm by the end of the century, best available science concludes that carbon dioxide emissions must not increase and must begin to decline at a global average of at least 6 percent each year, beginning in 2013, through 2050.

After 2050, carbon dioxide emissions should decline at 5 percent per year. To further reduce greenhouse gas concentrations, carbon must also be sequestered by preserving and replanting forests and conserving soils, protecting oceans, and improving agricultural practices to capture the excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Climate Change in Oregon

28.

The Oregon legislature established the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI) in 2007 to foster climate change research. The OCCRI concluded in 2010 that "[t]he human race is profoundly altering the composition of Earth's atmosphere, chiefly by burning fossil fuels, and there is strong evidence that these changes are responsible for much of the global increase in temperature since the mid-20th century."

29.

The impacts in Oregon of human caused climate change are predicted to be severe if carbon dioxide emissions are not curtailed in the near term. The OCCRI, in its most recent Climate Assessment Report, predicted that increases in average annual temperatures of .2-1° F per decade would likely cause a wide range of adverse impacts that threaten Oregon's economy and environment, including, *inter alia*:

- a. A reduction of Cascade snow packs by 50 percent by mid-century along with reduced summer precipitation will result in significant decreases in summer stream flows and water supply;
- b. Impacts to Oregon's \$1.6 billion per year agricultural industry, including drought, disease and limitations on the availability, quality and costs of irrigation water as

well as the displacement of current agricultural zones resulting, for instance, in the Willamette Valley no longer being viable for growing pinot noir wine grapes;

- c. Increasing sea levels of at least 2-4 feet and greater storm intensity will result in severe coastal erosion, flooding, loss of beach areas and elevation, loss of coastal wetlands, and inundation and damage of coastal infrastructure.
- d. Changes to the marine environment including ocean temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen levels and acidity, which can inhibit the formation of calcium carbonate shell and skeletons for a wide range of marine organisms like oysters and plankton;
- e. Increased wildlife in both western and eastern Oregon, and an increase in pests and diseases affecting Oregon forest species.

30.

Climate change also poses risks to the health of all Oregonians. According to the OCCRI, "extreme weather (such as floods, droughts, severe storms, heat waves and fires) can directly affect human health as well as cause serious environmental and economic impacts." Among these impacts are the disruption of natural systems, which gives "rise to the spread or emergence of vector-, water-, and food-borne diseases in areas where they either have not existed, or where their presence may have been limited." Other impacts include "increase[d] cases of allergies, asthma and other respiratory conditions among susceptible populations" due to "[a]ir pollution and increases in pollen count" and the exacerbation of "lung health problems" due to "exposure to smoke from wild land and forest fires, as well as from the projected increases in air pollution levels in our region."

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Climate change will also "impose substantial costs to Oregonians." One example is the costs associated with fighting wild fires. In 2009 Oregon's Climate Leadership Initiative concluded that "there could be 50% more wildfire acreage by 2020 and 100% more wildfire acreage by 2040 in Oregon" and that "[u]sing linear projects based on a business-as-usual approach . . . firefighting costs in Oregon could increase to \$97 million in 2020, \$200 million in 2040, and \$444 million in 2080." Costs such as these "may be substantially reduced if global GHG emissions and thus climate changes (precipitation and temperature variability) are lessened through GHG mitigation policies and adaptation."

32.

In 2007, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 3543, which set the following goals for Oregon: by 2010, arrest and begin to reduce Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions; by 2020, reduce greenhouse gas levels to 10 percent below 1990 levels; and by 2050 reduce greenhouse gas levels that are at least 75 percent below 1990 levels. The goals set by the Oregon Legislature in 2007 are inadequate to meet the State's greenhouse gas reductions that will be required in order to protect Oregon's trust assets and attain carbon dioxide concentrations of 350 ppm.

33.

According to the Oregon Global Warming Commission, Oregon's per capita emissions in 2005 were 18 thousand metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent ("MTCO2e") or total gross greenhouse gas emissions of 69,591,000,000 tons. Though lower than the national average, these per capita emissions are "nearly double the European Community average."

According to the OCCRI, "[t]he sources of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions can be broadly listed as energy [including transportation], agriculture, industrial processes, and waste management."

35.

Oregon has the ability to curtail greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration, and take the steps necessary to protect the public trust assets of the State from the adverse impacts of climate change. In 2004, the Governor's Advisory Group on Global Warming developed a detailed plan to reduce Oregon's emissions at least 75 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. The plan called for investment in energy, land use, and materials efficiency; replacing greenhouse gas-emitting energy technologies with cleaner technologies; and increased biological sequestration (or carbon capture and storage). Although Oregon's targets are inadequate to achieve the necessary reductions mandated by the best available science, the State has already developed a detailed implementation plan that includes a majority of the necessary greenhouse gas reductions.

36.

Despite having a concrete greenhouse gas reduction and mitigation plan in place, Oregon is falling significantly behind the targets set by that plan. In 2008 and again in 2009, the Oregon Global Warming Commission found that Oregon is failing in its efforts to meet the 2020 and 2050 goals set by the Legislature, which even in themselves would fail to achieve the necessary greenhouse gas reductions according to the best available science. As the Global Warming Commission found in 2009, "the state will likely fall well short of meeting its 2020 emission reduction goal, and, by extrapolation, clearly is not on track to meet its 2050 goal."

 A zero-carbon energy system is still possible within the next thirty to fifty years. Actual physical emissions of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels can be eliminated with technologies that are now available or reasonably foreseeable and at reasonable cost. The phase out of fossil fuels by about 2050 is possible by implementing the following: 1) a cap on fossil fuel use that declines to zero by 2050 (or a gradually rising carbon tax); 2) increasingly stringent efficiency standards for buildings, appliances, and motor vehicles; 3) elimination of subsidies for fossil fuels, nuclear energy, and biofuels from food crops; 4) investment in a vigorous and diverse research, development and demonstration program that includes smart grid and storage technologies and electrification of transportation; 5) banning new coal-fired power plants and closing existing plants; 6) carbon-free state, local, and federal governments; and 7) adoption of energy standards that gradually shift Oregon over to renewable energy sources.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Declaratory Judgment -- Public Trust)

38.

Plaintiffs re-allege and hereby incorporate by reference herein all the preceding paragraphs.

39.

Defendants have a fiduciary obligation as a sovereign government to hold vital natural resources in trust for the benefit of their citizens. In Oregon, the res of the public trust includes Oregon's water resources, submerged and submersible lands, islands, shorelands, coastal areas, wildlife, and fish for the purposes of conservation, pollution abatement, maintenance and

enhancement of aquatic and fish life, habitat for fish and wildlife, ecological values, in-stream flows, commerce, navigation, fishing, recreation, energy production, and the transport of natural resources. The State, as trustee for the people, bears the responsibility of preserving and protecting the right of the public to the use of public trust assets for these recognized purposes.

40.

The atmosphere is a part of the public trust res and is therefore held in trust by the State for the benefit of the present and future citizens of Oregon. The atmosphere does not lend itself to private ownership and furthermore is necessary for humanity's survival. All Oregon citizens have a paramount right over private interests to use the atmosphere consistent with public trust purposes.

41.

The atmosphere is intricately linked with other public trust resources. Harm to the atmosphere negatively affects water resources, submerged and submersible lands, islands, shorelands, coastal areas, wildlife, and fish. Harm to the atmosphere also harms the public's ability to use trust resources for the purposes of conservation, pollution abatement, maintenance and enhancement of aquatic and fish life, habitat for fish and wildlife, ecological values, in-stream flows, commerce, navigation, fishing, recreation, energy production, and the transport of natural resources.

42.

Defendants, the sovereign trustees, have an affirmative fiduciary duty to prevent waste, to use reasonable skill and care to preserve the trust property and to maintain trust assets. The duty to protect the trust assets means that the sovereign must ensure the continued availability

1	and existence of healthy trust resources consistent with the purposes for which they are held in
2	trust for present and future generations.
3	43.
4	Defendants' failure to regulate and reduce carbon dioxide emissions violates its
5	fiduciary obligation to protect public trust assets.
6	44.
7 8	Defendants' failure to preserve and protect carbon sinks such as forests, soils and
9	agricultural land violates its fiduciary obligation to protect public trust assets.
10	45.
11	Defendants' waste of, and failure to preserve and protect the atmospheric trust and
12	additional trust assets has caused and will continue to cause imminent injuries described above.
13	Defendants' failure to protect these trust assets has interfered and will interfere with Plaintiffs'
14	and the public's use of trust assets for conservation, pollution abatement, maintenance and
15	enhancement of aquatic and fish life, fish and wildlife habitat, ecological values, in-stream
16 17	flows, commerce, navigation, fishing, recreation, energy production, and the transport of
18	natural resources.
19	46.
20	Defendants' failure to uphold their public trust obligations threatens the health, safety,
21	and welfare of Plaintiffs, as well as present and future generations of Oregon citizens.
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PRAYER FOR RELIEF

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WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment as follows:

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47.

A declaration that the atmosphere is a trust resource, and that the State of Oregon, as a trustee, has a fiduciary obligation to protect the atmosphere as a commonly shared public trust resource from the impacts of climate change for Plaintiffs and for present and future generations of Oregonians.

48.

A declaration that water resources, navigable waters, submerged and submersible lands, islands, shorelands, coastal areas, wildlife, and fish are trust resources, and that the State of Oregon, as a trustee, has a fiduciary obligation to protect these assets as commonly shared public trust resources from the impacts of climate change for Plaintiffs and for present and future generations of Oregonians.

49.

A declaration that Defendants have failed to uphold their fiduciary obligations to protect these trust assets for the benefits of Plaintiffs as well as current and future generations of Oregonians by failing adequately to regulate and reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the State of Oregon.

50.

An order requiring Defendants to prepare, or cause to be prepared, a full and accurate accounting of Oregon's current carbon dioxide emissions and to do so annually thereafter.

51.

An order requiring Defendants to develop and implement a carbon reduction plan that will protect trust assets by abiding by the best available science.

1	55.
2	For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.
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4	DATED this List day of May 2011.
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