



Protecting Earth's Climate for Future Generations

sign our guestbook



- [HOME](#)
- [ABOUT US](#)
- [LEGAL ACTION](#)
- [TRUST FILMS](#)
- [MEDIA](#)
- [TAKE ACTION](#)
- [RESOURCES](#)
- [BLOG](#)

Home

Legal Action

Atmospheric Trust Litigation and Petitions to enforce the Public Trust Duty of Government to Protect the Resources of Present and Future Generations.



The **ATMOSPHERIC TRUST Legal Effort** coordinated and supported by Our Children's Trust is grounded in the Public Trust Doctrine, which states that it is the duty of the government to protect the resources that are essential for our collective survival and prosperity. These resources-rivers, groundwater, the seashore and in this case, the atmosphere- cannot be privatized or substantially impaired because they belong to everyone equally, even to those not yet born.

The government has a legal obligation to preserve these trust resources and to manage them for the benefit of everyone, not just for the benefit of the wealthy and politically-connected corporations. The government cannot allow the privatization of the atmosphere. The Public Trust Doctrine is well-established in American law and in many other legal traditions throughout the world. The doctrine stretches all the way back to Roman times, long before anyone understood how important and fragile the atmosphere truly is. Fifteen hundred years ago the Emperor Justinian wrote, "The things which are naturally everybody's are: the air, flowing water, the sea, and the seashore." The legal actions apply this deep-rooted doctrine to our modern understanding of the atmosphere, demanding that the government recognize and protect our collective right to a stable, livable climate.

Climatologist **James Hansen** provided his work in support of the Atmospheric Trust Litigation campaign, accessible [here](#).

For more information on Atmospheric Trust, please visit the [Atmosphere as a Public Trust](#) section of our [Resources](#) page.

To get involved with the legal effort, [contact us](#).

For information on Petitions by State, click the state on the map to the right.

Lawsuits By State

Federal Lawsuit

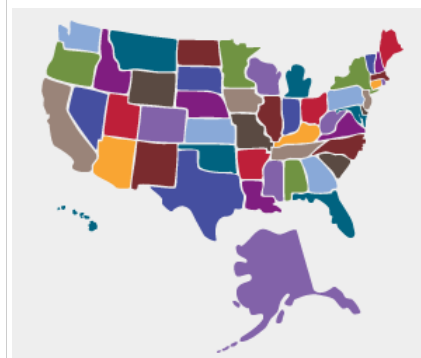
International Lawsuits

Upcoming Events

August 27: Release TRUST Oregon film

October 5: Fall Internship Applications Due!

SEARCH Legal Campaigns



[Federal Action](#) | [International Action](#)