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Dear President Obama,

I hope this letter finds you a few more points up in the 4th quarter of the campaign. So hope this. I write to you today because there are three critical insights that I haven't yet shared with you about courtroom 117 at the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Insights that I think will help you understand why I write to you about *Alec L. et al. v. Jackson et. al.*

Most of all, it's about the image I see when I walk into Courtroom 117 to listen to the hearings on the case. Since cameras are not allowed, I can only describe for you the picture I see from the gallery. As we all sit quietly, while the judge presides over the arguments, I constantly wonder what America would think if they could see what I see. On one side of the courtroom are America's youth calling on our government to fulfill its obligation as a trustee responsible to protect our essential shared resources - in this case the atmosphere - because our youth realize that climate change will be the defining issue for their generation and generation to follow.

On the other side of the courtroom, I see the attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice sitting side-by-side, literally side-by-side, with the attorneys for the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM). NAM self-describes as the lobbying arm for "more than 12,000 leading members of the coal, oil and natural gas

sectors, petroleum refiners, and petrochemical producers, as well as thousands of manufacturing companies that are heavily reliant on the availability of reasonably-priced energy, and which themselves emit greenhouse gases." NAM sought to intervene as defendants in *Alec L. et. al. v. Jackson et. al.*, "to ensure that the abrupt and economically devastating policy mandates the Plaintiffs seek are not imposed on the NAM's member and the entire U.S. economy through this case." In other words, NAM seeks to ensure our country places profits before our children.

I would have expected the fossil fuel industry to be sitting side-by-side with government against our children under the Bush administration but not now. It just doesn't make sense to me now. I know we have never met but I just believe... I just sense that you would rather be sitting across the aisle, side-by-side with our Nation's youth.

I think it's also critical that you know why NAM has a seat at the table in Courtroom 117. NAM moved to intervene in the case arguing that the members of the fossil fuel industry it represents have a legally protected interest in the right to pollute in an unrestrained manner. I would be happy to send the transcripts of their argument if you would like. This alleged legal protected interest in unrestrained pollution flies

Squarely in the face of our youth's legally protected right to a clean and healthy environment and a livable future. I know you see this conflict.

And then there is the surprising lack of conflict and argument over the science. The youth plaintiffs submitted twelve declarations from our world's top climate scientists. While NAM is not expressly agreeing with the science set forth in the declarations, they are also not seriously challenging the science. I assume they are not making a serious effort to undercut the science in court because: first, there is strong evidence-based consensus on climate change; second, the NAM lawyers are under oath in Courtroom 117; and third, they are arguing in front of a Harvard-educated judge. Yet, outside the courtroom, when not under oath, industry representatives do not hesitate to unequivocally state that human-induced climate change is a hoax.

So I hope this gives you a small window into what I see in Courtroom 117. But I also hope for more than just to share my view from the gallery...

I hope, that when you are re-elected you will meet with the youth that are bringing atmospheric trust litigation against your administration along with the climate scientists who are supporting them and settle this case by committing to develop a national Climate Recovery Plan based on the best-available science.

I hope that during your second term you will set our country on a path to climate recovery that is so solid - it can not be turned around should a Romney-esque candidate be elected in 2016. And I hope, at your inauguration you will surround yourself with America's youth, calling them into the spotlight, looking them in the eyes & saying to the world, that these kids have taken your administration to court to protect their futures, that adverse climate impacts are happening in their lives now, and that you are going to work with them and our nation's top climate scientists to chart a course for the U.S. to address climate change. And that this is your first order of business because they are the future of our country and we need to do everything we can to set them up to succeed in leading our country for ~~the~~ decades to come.

If my hopes come true, and I feel they will as I honestly believe you do not have a choice but to lead the world onto the path of climate recovery (my guess is that this is really what the Nobel was foreshadowing) please count <sup>on</sup> me and the youth I work with to support you, every minute of every day.

Here's to overtime and seeing how the game will end.

Endless support,  
Kelly Matheson