HIGHLIGHTS OF EARTHJUSTICE’S WORK

PRESERVING THE WILD

From our earliest days, Earthjustice has fought to protect wildlands, wildlife, and oceans, which sustain the web of life.

Wildlands. Our very first victory helped save the majestic Mineral King Valley in California’s Sierra Nevada mountains from being turned into a ski resort and set a crucial legal precedent by confirming the right of citizens to take environmental disputes to court. Now we are in court fighting the president’s decision slashing Utah’s spectacular Bears Ears and Grand Staircase–Escalante national monuments.

Wildlife. Our successful litigation to obtain and enforce Endangered Species Act protections for the northern spotted owl led to landmark federal protection for the Pacific Northwest’s old-growth forests where the owl lives. Today we are defending on appeal our court victory that reinstated ESA protections for grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, safeguarding them from trophy hunts.

Oceans. Years of Earthjustice legal work has helped advance more sustainable fishing practices in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. To protect marine ecosystems and the climate, we are now fighting the administration’s actions promoting massive new offshore oil and gas drilling in the Arctic, Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico.

Toxic Chemicals. Thanks to Earthjustice litigation, the EPA must impose new safety standards to protect families against neurotoxic lead-based paint and lead dust. Now we are fighting to strengthen rules governing how the agency will evaluate the health risks posed by more than 80,000 chemicals in the marketplace.

ADVANCING CLEAN ENERGY

To rein in climate change, we must make a swift and equitable transition from fossil fuels to 100 percent clean energy. Earthjustice has built the largest bench of public-interest energy litigators in the world to help catalyze this essential transformation.

Clean Energy. Our attorneys are litigating before public utility commissions in more than 20 states, where we are fighting discriminatory rules that favor fossil fuels, defending rooftop solar from utility attacks, and helping to secure visionary grid and utility rate reforms that pave the way for the clean energy grid of the future.

Coal Plants. Our successful litigation to compel coal-fired power plants to internalize the costs of their air, water, and waste pollution has contributed to decisions, as of 2017, to shut down more than half of U.S. coal-fired generation. We continue to drive coal plant retirements and carbon pollution cuts, and we are helping groups in Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, and other key countries use the law to fight coal dependence.

Oil and Gas. We secured a precedent-setting court victory upholding the right of Dryden, New York, to ban oil and gas fracking, opening the way for New York state to ban fracking. Today we are litigating successfully to block the construction of new oil and gas plants and pipelines that would lock in fossil fuel dependence.

DEFENDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The right to seek justice in our courts is at the core of our democracy and at the core of our power to protect the environment. But the Trump administration and its allies in Congress are trying to make it more difficult for people to use the civil justice system to challenge government and corporate wrongdoing. In partnership with progressive organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union, Public Citizen, and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Earthjustice has launched the Access to Justice campaign to defend the public’s inalienable right to take our grievances to court. For more information, see accesstojusticereport.org

PROMOTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Earthjustice partners with communities to ensure the law safeguards their right to breathe clean air, drink untainted water, eat safe foods, and work and live in a toxic-free environment.

Air and Water. Our decades of litigation to enforce the Clean Air Act has secured stronger federal limits on harmful air pollutants such as ozone, soot, and mercury, saving thousands of lives and billions of dollars in health-related costs each year. Today we are fighting to defend federal clean water protections for 60 percent of the nation’s streams and wetlands and to ensure life-saving air health standards remain intact.

Healthy Communities. Across the country, we are partnering with communities that are most overburdened by industrial pollution to enforce clean air, water, and waste regulations to protect people’s health.

Sustainable Farming. Our litigation led to new nationwide restrictions on the use of sulfoxaflor, one of the neonicotinoid pesticides linked to the mass die-off of bee colonies. Today we are fighting to end the use of the neurotoxic pesticide chlorpyrifos and to rid our food of toxic additives.