CLIMATE DEFIANCE

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Youth Climate Activists Announce Plan to Peacefully Blockade the White House Correspondents' Dinner

Call on President Biden to Keep His Campaign Promise
to End Fossil Fuel Production in Time to Avoid Irreversible Catastrophe

Today, youth climate activists announce they will peacefully blockade the White House Correspondents' Dinner, demanding President Biden follow through on his campaign commitment to end fossil fuel production in time to keep global temperatures below 1.5 degrees centigrade.

To date, however, Biden has approved 258 more oil and gas drilling permits on federal land than President Trump had at this point in his presidency. This is despite Biden's pledge to do the exact opposite.

In this week's State of the Union address, Biden said "we're still going to need oil for at least another decade - and beyond." It appears that this is his excuse for failing to deliver on his campaign promise. Meanwhile, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's leading body of climate scientists, has said we must cut emissions in half *this* decade. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has cited the need for "disruption" in order to press governments and corporations to speed up their action to reduce carbon pollution immediately in order to avoid irreversible and catastrophic consequences.

In 2022, young voters under 30 turned out at the second-highest rate for a midterm in 30 years. These voters favored Democratic candidates by a 28-point margin. A recent Harvard study found climate change is a top-four issue for youth voters, ranking higher than gun control, immigration, crime and even student loan debt. Young people are a key building bloc in Biden's coalition. Mobilizing young people en masse for disruptive action, Climate Defiance will show this constituency cannot be taken for granted.

In a statement, Noah Vinogradov, a sophomore at Georgetown University said: "Young people delivered Democrats a historic midterm so President Biden could continue delivering on the climate promises he made to us. It's now on him to make good on those promises."

Earth Scientist Rose Abramoff said: "Burning just the current fossil fuel reserves would drive warming over the Paris agreement goal of 1.5 degrees Celcius. This level of warming brings us closer to dangerous feedbacks that accelerate the breakdown of our natural life-support systems. We simply cannot afford to keep drilling."

- Who: masses of youth climate activists, rebelling against Biden's record on fossil fuels
- What: a peaceful disruptive direct action at the White House Correspondents' Dinner
- Where: Washington Hilton
- When: April 29, 2023