

WHY FILE A LAW SUIT?

We believe in the transformative power of law and are inspired by the enduring American values of democracy, justice, freedom, and equality.

There are a lot of things to fight for today, and the court system has proven more powerful than ever in safeguarding the rights of the underdog. The best litigation may surprise us and exposes wrongdoing we didn't already know about.

The military and the DoD have recently, with the Navy's Record of Decision, expanded the number of jets and operations of Growler jets from their NASWI location. This unsustainable decision, not based on historical flight operations, has created a totally unbalanced access to the land, air and water resources of NW Washington, the Salish Sea, and the communities of this region. It has made the people of this region collateral damage for the military's warfare training of all EA18G-Growler jets, now at 118.

In 2013, the Citizen's of Ebey's Reserve (COER) filed suit against the U.S. Navy to complete and Environmental Impact Statement per the National Environmental Policy Act, as well as an injunction to stop the Growler jet flight trainings. The result was that the Navy complied with our request for an EIS and the federal court held the Navy to 6120 flight operations at OLF Coupeville - a decision that held for 6 years.

We have forged a way to encourage change. It is based on the belief that lasting social change comes from the creation of smart policy innovation driven by a motivated public. In contrast to our earlier efforts, that began by filing a lawsuit to address an injustice, we now believe that it is necessary to win in the court of public opinion and to win in a court of law. Judges rule against the 'status quo', when the status quo has in fact already shifted and is transforming into something else. The 'national security bucket' – can't be the military's final reason for EVERYTHING that they want to do.

COER helped found the Sound Defense Alliance, a regional organization, who will be the lead organization engaged in the ongoing conversations and negotiations with Washington's elected leaders.

No one should be subjected to mistreatment, such as the noise levels people are being subjected to by the Growler jets. But you have to use your voice if you want your voice to be heard. Think about the most productive way to achieve your desired outcome. Then execute as soon as possible. Help us fund this campaign, do research, write letters and make calls. COER will be using every means available to us to challenge the Navy's jet expansion in NW Washington.

There's an old adage that provides us with inspiration to keep fighting. If you don't stand for something, you stand for nothing. "If you don't keep fighting, you become part of the problem.

Meagan Burton at Earthjustice's office, Manhattan.