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**Attorney General Connors Joins Amicus Brief
Opposing the Federal Government's Request for Emergency Stay of
Preliminary Injunction in *Sierra Club v. Trump***

HONOLULU – Attorney General Clare E. Connors, as part of a 20 state coalition, filed an amicus brief before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in support of *Sierra Club, et al. v. Trump, et al.*, a case challenging President Trump's unlawful diversion of funds toward construction of a border wall. The ACLU represents the Sierra Club and Southern Border Communities Coalition in the lawsuit. The brief urges the court to deny the federal government's emergency motion for a stay of the preliminary injunction granted by the district court in Sierra Club's case, blocking President Trump from commencing border wall construction in New Mexico and Arizona with funds that were unlawfully diverted. The federal government has now appealed that ruling.

"The federal government's request for a stay of the preliminary injunction is without merit and should be denied," said Attorney General Connors. "The diversion of funds violates both federal statutes and constitutional principles, and for these reasons, should be stopped."

Attorney General Connors is part of a coalition of 20 states in a related lawsuit and has a direct interest in seeing the preliminary injunction maintained. The coalition is led by California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and includes the attorneys general of Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Both lawsuits allege that the Trump Administration's actions in diverting funding for construction of a border wall exceed statutory authority and violate the U.S. Constitution. In the brief, the attorneys general support the Sierra Club in their claim that President Trump's action to unilaterally divert \$1 billion of Department

of Defense funds for construction of a border wall in New Mexico and Arizona was both unlawful and unconstitutional and warrants a preliminary injunction until the case is resolved.

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