

China's First Public Interest Lawsuit Brought by a Grassroots NGO

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Outline

- Introduction
- Factual background
- Lawsuit
- Reasons the court accepted the case
- Remaining challenges

Environmental Law Professionals Exchange

- National Committee on United States-China Relations
- American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative
- Friends of Nature

Yunnan Province



Wikimedia Commons

Contaminated Water & Livestock Poisonings



Chromium Slag Heaps Totaling 5,000+ Tons



Image: Stringer/China/Reuters,
www.guardian.co.uk

Local Government Involvement



Clean-up Efforts



Media Coverage



www.theepochtimes.com

NGO Research and Advocacy



Two NGOs File Suit in the Public Interest

- Friends of Nature and Chong Qing Green Volunteer League asked the court to find the companies jointly liable and called for the companies to:
 - Stop polluting
 - Clean up the site
 - Pay attorney fees and litigation expenses
 - Contribute money to create a fund to pay for damages to the environment.

Why did the court accept this case?

- Yunnan provincial standing law
- NGO partnership with local EPB
- Media attention

Obstacles Remain

- Evidentiary challenges
- Pressure to go to mediation



Thank you!!

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