

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 17, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin  
Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

We write to express our profound concern over the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to reconsider the 2009 endangerment finding and demand that you withdraw the proposed rule immediately. Dismantling the life-saving determination will have dire long-term consequences for the people of Connecticut and our nation, especially our children and grandchildren.

The EPA's endangerment finding is the agency's scientifically-backed determination that greenhouse gas emissions pose a risk to peoples' health and wellbeing.<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the Clean Air Act, this determination requires the EPA to regulate these emissions to protect people from the dangerous impacts.<sup>2</sup> The endangerment finding underpins longstanding, commonsense measures the EPA has enacted to address climate change. Rescinding the agency's determination does nothing to change the fact that climate change harms human health, and this action will put lives at risk.

Climate change is a significant threat to Connecticut, and our residents are already feeling its effects in the forms of sea level rise and extreme weather. Sixty-one percent of our state's population lives in coastal communities, and Long Island Sound is expected to rise 1.5 feet by 2050, further exacerbating the risk of floods and deadly storm surges.<sup>3</sup> Just last year, flash flooding in Northwestern Connecticut tragically took two lives while causing millions of dollars in damage to homes, businesses, roads, and bridges.<sup>4</sup> Over the last 15 years, Connecticut has

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<sup>1</sup> "Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases Under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act," EPA, last modified February 27, 2025, <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-findings-greenhouse-gases-under-section-202a>.

<sup>2</sup> Clean Air Act § 202(a)(1), 42 U.S.C. § 7521.

<sup>3</sup> Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "Connecticut: Our Changing Climate," <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/education/kellogg/ct-changing-climate-booklet.pdf> (accessed August 20, 2025); "Connecticut Summary," NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, last modified January 10, 2025, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/state-summary/CT>.

<sup>4</sup> Kelsey Hubbard Rollinson, "Connecticut grapples with the effects of climate change and the impact on aging infrastructure," *Connecticut Public Radio* (Hartford, CT), August 21, 2024, <https://www.ctpublic.org/news/2024-08-21/connecticut-grapples-with-the-effects-of-climate-change-and-the-impact-on-aging-infrastructure>.

been impacted by 24 "billion-dollar" disasters.<sup>5</sup> In the absence of an endangerment finding that allows EPA to take commonsense steps to protect against climate change, disasters like those we have experienced in Connecticut will only continue to grow in scope and severity.

Connecticut also suffers from some of the worst air quality in the country, an issue only exacerbated by climate change. Poor air quality is a profound public health risk, especially to young children, the elderly, and those with respiratory diseases.<sup>6</sup> Last year, three of Connecticut's cities—Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport—were all included in the top 100 most challenging cities in the country to live in with asthma.<sup>7</sup> Just last year, Fairfield County recorded over 20 unhealthy air quality days, making it the worst county in the New York City Metro area for smog.<sup>8</sup> The consequences for bad air quality add up. They mean more hospital visits and associated healthcare costs, more missed school and workdays, and ultimately, more premature deaths.<sup>9</sup> Undermining commonsense efforts to combat climate change at the federal level will only exacerbate the challenges Connecticut faces from air pollution.

Rescinding the endangerment finding does not change the facts— climate change threatens lives. If you follow through with this rulemaking, EPA will be walking away from its fundamental duty to protect human health and the environment, and the people of Connecticut and the country will be more vulnerable than ever to climate change's deadly and costly effects. We strongly urge you to keep the endangerment finding in place and stand on the side of people and the planet – not polluters.

Thank you for your attention to this critically important matter.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
United States Senate



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY  
United States Senate

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<sup>5</sup> "Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters: Connecticut Summary," National Centers for Environmental Information, last modified January 10, 2025, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/state-summary/CT>.

<sup>6</sup> "Climate Change Impacts on Air Quality," EPA, last modified August 11, 2025, <https://www.epa.gov/climateimpacts/climate-change-impacts-air-quality>; "Poor Air Quality Expected for parts of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire on May 22, 2024," EPA, last modified May 22, 2024, <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/poor-air-quality-expected-parts-connecticut-massachusetts-maine-and-new-hampshire-may>.

<sup>7</sup> Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, "2025 Allergy Capitals: The Most Challenging Places to Live with Allergies," <https://aafa.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/aafa-2025-allergy-capitals-report.pdf> (accessed August 20, 2025).

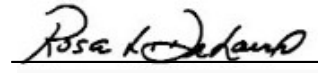
<sup>8</sup> "New Report Finds New Haven-Hartford-Waterbury Air Quality Worsens, Now Among Worst in Northeast for Smoke; Fairfield County Retains Title for Worst Ozone in New York City metro area," American Lung Association, last modified April 22, 2025, <https://www.lung.org/media/press-releases/ct-sota-25>.

<sup>9</sup> "Climate Change and Health: Air Quality." NRDC, last accessed August 20, 2025, <https://www.nrdc.org/resources/climate-change-and-health-air-quality#/map>.




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JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress



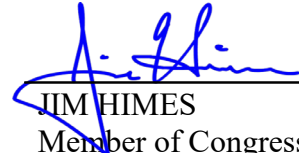
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ROSA L. DELAURO  
Member of Congress



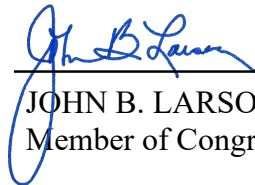
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JAHANA HAYES  
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