

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2026

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to rescind the Endangerment Finding. Repealing this determination abandons EPA's responsibility to protect public health and would put Illinois families at greater risk from harmful pollution and escalating climate impacts.

In 2007, the Supreme Court held in *Massachusetts v. EPA* that greenhouse gases are air pollutants subject to regulation under the Clean Air Act and that EPA must address emissions that endanger public health and welfare.¹ Following an extensive scientific review in 2009, EPA formally determined that six greenhouse gases pose such a threat, grounding that conclusion in evidence from the agency, the National Academies of Sciences, and the broader scientific community.

When industry groups challenged the Endangerment Finding in 2012, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit upheld it, concluding that EPA's determination was firmly grounded in the scientific record and consistent with the Clean Air Act.² The Supreme Court declined to review that ruling in 2013, leaving the finding intact. For more than fifteen years, it has provided the legal and scientific foundation for federal efforts to reduce harmful emissions. Repealing it would disregard settled law and undermine well-established science.

Illinois families are already experiencing the consequences of climate change. Between 2010 and 2024, our state endured 85 billion-dollar disasters, and in 2025 alone, seven such disasters caused approximately \$5 billion in losses.³ Extreme heat has grown more frequent and severe; during the June 2025 heatwave, Chicago hospitals saw a tenfold increase in heat-related admissions.⁴ With Illinois projected to enter an "extreme heat belt" by 2053, facing temperatures above 125°F, weakening greenhouse gas safeguards would only compound these escalating risks.⁵

Air pollution and climate impacts are already driving serious and chronic health conditions across Illinois. In 2025, more than 2.3 million adults in our state were living with at-risk health conditions, including over 936,000 with asthma and more than 779,000 with cardiovascular disease.⁶ Cook County ranks among the

¹ *Massachusetts v. EPA*, 549 U.S. 497 (2007).

² *Coalition for Responsible Regulation, Inc. v. EPA*, 684 F.3d 102 (D.C. Cir. 2012).

³ "U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters." *NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)*, 2025, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/>, DOI: 10.25921/stkw-7w73; "Disaster mapping – U.S. billion-dollar weather and climate disasters." *Climate Central*, 2025, <https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-services/billion-dollar-disasters/mapping?years=2025-2025>

⁴ "Health Impacts of an Extreme Heat Event in Chicago, IL." *Chicago Department of Public Health*, Jun. 2025, <https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/cdph/environment/reports/Extreme-Heat-Report-June-2025.pdf>

⁵ "Millions of people in Midwest to experience 'extreme heat belt' by 2053: Report." *ABC News*, 15 Aug. 2023, <https://abcnews.com/US/millions-people-midwest-experience-extreme-heat-belt-2053/story?id=88410076>

⁶ "Illinois: State of the Air." *American Lung Association*, 2025, <https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/states/illinois>

worst in the nation for premature deaths linked to coal-fired power plant pollution.⁷ Rolling back the Endangerment Finding would weaken critical guardrails and further compound these health risks, particularly for children, seniors, and working families.

The economic consequences of unmitigated climate change are already placing growing burdens on Illinois families and businesses. Electricity costs are projected to rise, with ComEd customers facing an average 7.7 percent increase in residential rates.⁸ Nearly one in five Illinois workers is employed outdoors, and extreme heat is projected to cost these workers up to \$4.1 billion annually in lost earnings.⁹

Flooding has likewise imposed significant and recurring costs. Since 1980, floods have caused an average of \$260 million in damage each year in Illinois.¹⁰ In 2025 alone, flooding in Northern Illinois resulted in more than \$500 million in losses, while the historic 2019 floods affected 34 counties and caused \$6.2 billion in damages.¹¹ Further, the rollback of federal vehicle emissions standards is projected to impose more than \$29 billion in additional health-related costs on Illinoisians by 2055.¹² Together, these mounting costs illustrate the long-term economic harm that would follow from weakening the safeguards designed to reduce climate risk.

The Environmental Protection Agency's core mission is to protect human health and the environment. Rescinding the Endangerment Finding abdicates that responsibility and disregards decades of settled science and established law. I urge you to reverse this decision and reaffirm the agency's commitment to safeguarding the health, safety, and economic security of Illinois families and all Americans.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

⁷ “Out of Control: The Deadly Impact of Coal Pollution.” *The Sierra Club*, 27 Feb. 2023, <https://www.sierraclub.org/articles/2023/02/out-control-deadly-impact-coal-pollution>

⁸ “Climate change could raise electric bills by \$10.9 billion, CUB research says.” *Citizens Utility Board*, 10 Jun. 2021, <https://www.citizensutilityboard.org/blog/2021/06/10/cub-research-climate-change-could-raise-electric-bills-by-10-9-billion/>

⁹ “Too Hot to Work, *Union of Concerned Scientists*.” 17 Aug. 2021, <https://www.ucs.org/resources/too-hot-to-work>

¹⁰ “Illinois Climate Impacts and Costs.” *Center for Climate Integrity*, 2024, <https://climateintegrity.org/uploads/media/CCI-Illinois-ImpactsAndCosts-2024.pdf>

¹¹ “The Summer 2025 Flash Flood Events in Northern Illinois and Northwestern Indiana.” *NWS Chicago*, 18 Dec. 2025, https://www.weather.gov/media/lot/events/2025/Summer_2025_N_Illinois_NW_Indiana_FlashFloods.pdf; “Illinois: Expanding clean energy and local jobs.” *The United Nations*, 2025, <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/illinois-expanding-clean-energy-and-local-jobs>

¹² “Trump revokes basis of US climate regulation, ends vehicle emission standards.” *Reuters*, 12 Feb. 2026, <https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/trump-administration-set-revoke-basis-us-climate-regulation-2026-02-12>