

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 17, 2025

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

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

We are alarmed by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to rescind the 2009 Endangerment Finding and its impact on Rhode Island and our constituents' health and safety. Eliminating the Endangerment Finding contradicts the EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment.<sup>1</sup>

The Endangerment Finding states that "greenhouse gases in the atmosphere endanger both the public health and the environment for current and future generations."<sup>2</sup> This finding is rooted in science— the overwhelming majority of the scientific community agrees that pollution from fossil fuels is warming our planet. Rising global temperatures driven by climate change cause more intense wildfires, stronger hurricanes, more extreme flooding, and more extreme weather disasters.<sup>3</sup>

Allowing polluters to pump our atmosphere full of planet-warming greenhouse gases will not only make Rhode Islanders' lives shorter and sicker; it will cost them billions. Extreme weather disasters have cost Rhode Island up to \$500 million over the last five years alone.<sup>4</sup> In the next 15 years, defending Rhode Island's infrastructure, homes, businesses, and communities from more frequent and intense storms and flooding could cost the state \$2.9 billion.<sup>5</sup>

In 2021, Hurricane Ida caused \$84.6 billion in damage from Louisiana to Rhode Island.<sup>6</sup> In the Ocean State, Hurricane Ida flooded roads, damaged vehicles, and forced the evacuation of an apartment building in North Kingston.<sup>7</sup> Sea levels along Rhode Island's 400-mile coastline are expected to rise by up to four feet by 2100, increasing the likelihood and severity of major flooding events like Hurricane Ida.<sup>8</sup> The threat of climate change is not science fiction, it is here.

Rescinding the Endangerment Finding is the first step towards rolling back clean car and truck standards, oil and gas rules, power plant rules, landfill rules, and other regulations that protect against climate change. This is yet another giveaway to corporate polluters on the backs of Rhode Islanders' health and wellbeing. Repealing

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/our-mission-and-what-we-do>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-08/documents/endangermentfinding\\_legalbasis.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-08/documents/endangermentfinding_legalbasis.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://science.nasa.gov/climate-change/extreme-weather/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/state-summary/RI>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.climatecosts2040.org/files/state/RI.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/state-summary/RI>


<sup>7</sup> <https://www.providencejournal.com/story/news/local/2021/09/02/ida-bring-3-5-inches-rain-numerous-roads-flooded-warning-extended/5692765001/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://climatechange.ri.gov/climate-science#:~:text=Sea%20Levels,-Along%20Rhode%20Island's&text=As%20glaciers%20and%20ice%20sheets,another%2012%E2%80%9D%20%E2%80%93%2048%E2%80%9D>

the Endangerment Finding will add fuel to the already raging fire of climate change, triggering more extreme weather, putting our constituents' lives at risk, and costing billions of dollars in damages.

We urge you to preserve the Endangerment Finding and protect the health and wellbeing of Rhode Islanders and communities across the country.

Sincerely,



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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



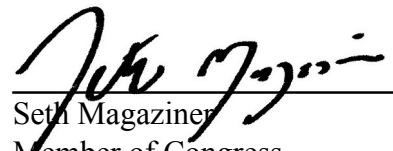
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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and  
Public Works



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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress