

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 3, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

We are deeply concerned about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to eliminate the 2009 Endangerment Finding and what that will mean for Louisiana and our constituents' health and safety. This year marked the twentieth anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, when over 1800 lives were lost. In acknowledging that milestone, we renew our commitment as Members of Congress to make Louisiana more resilient and ensure communities everywhere are better protected from devastating extreme weather events.

We are troubled that, instead of taking actions to protect people and communities, the Trump administration is gutting FEMA, weakening disaster response, and repealing climate protections. The current administration's actions are making Americans less safe and more vulnerable to climate-driven extreme weather events.

New Orleans is still rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina [flooded 80 percent of the city](#) and caused [\\$161 billion in damages](#). Unfortunately, the state continues to face deadly and costly extreme weather disasters annually, heightened by the climate crisis. Since 2021, nearly half a million Louisiana households have applied for FEMA disaster assistance.

It is well-documented how climate change fuels extreme weather. Rising global temperatures due to [climate change contribute to](#) stronger hurricanes, more intense wildfires, and more extreme heat, among other impacts. These threats have never been more dire to our constituents and communities across the country than now. Eliminating the Endangerment Finding will exacerbate the devastating effects of future extreme weather events and put constituents' public health and our climate at risk, as well as increase the need for further disaster relief and the financial burden of each disaster for states and the federal government.

The Endangerment Finding requires the EPA to protect people from the pollution that causes climate change and its detrimental impacts. Denying the climate crisis cannot change the facts: greenhouse gas pollution is heating our planet, making extreme weather disasters more severe, and impacting us all, especially the most vulnerable.

While Louisiana is frequently affected by extreme weather, the state is at an increased risk of more severe and costly storms, as climate change [intensifies and increases the frequency](#) of these events. In 2024 alone, Louisianians experienced [10 extreme weather events](#) that each caused \$1 billion or more in damages, totaling over \$29.8 billion, and led to at least [202 lives lost](#). By 2050, Louisiana will face more than [\\$4 billion in annual property damage](#) due to extreme weather, as rising waters put coastal communities at increased risk of flooding and damages. We cannot afford to undo the protections meant to mitigate these risks.

Extreme heat is also a growing concern for Louisianians, as the state faces record heat waves and hazardous weather conditions each year due to climate change. In 2023, record-breaking heat swept across the state, and Baton Rouge and New Orleans witnessed their [warmest summers on record](#), reaching highs of over 100°F for more than half of August. These extreme highs are becoming more common, and a majority of the state is expected to experience more than [35 days of extreme heat a year](#) by 2050. Dangerous temperatures heighten the health risks for everyone, but especially vulnerable communities, including seniors, children, and those without access to air conditioning. Extreme heat increases the risk of hospitalization for heat-related illnesses, leading to over [100 heat-related deaths](#) and over 10,000 emergency department visits in Louisiana between 2023 and 2024 alone.

Rescinding the Endangerment Finding means giving polluters a free pass to pollute at the expense of families across the country. It means our constituents will face more climate chaos and more pollution, especially in communities already overburdened by pollution, more health harms, and higher costs.

We urge you to maintain the Endangerment Finding and protect the health and welfare of Louisianans and communities in all parts of the country.

Sincerely,



Troy A. Carter Sr.
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress