

September 19, 2025

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

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to overturn the 2009 Endangerment Finding. Overturning this bedrock finding for U.S. climate regulations disregards scientific consensus on climate change and threatens the health and safety of the people of Nevada.

On December 15, 2009, EPA issued a final rule finding that six greenhouse gases in combination endanger the health and welfare of current and future generations. EPA also reviewed the scientific evidence supporting the finding in 2016 and found that it was sound and reflected the consensus of the climate research community.¹

The Endangerment Finding has underpinned many U.S. climate regulations that are helping to decarbonize key sectors such as transportation and energy production. Combined, the transportation and electricity sectors make up over half of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.² We cannot afford to lose all the progress we have made in our fight against climate change.

Rising global temperatures due to climate change contribute to stronger hurricanes, more intense wildfires,³ and hotter and more frequent heat waves.⁴ In Southern Nevada, extreme heat is one of the biggest threats to our constituents' lives and livelihoods.

Extreme heat results in more fatalities each year than hurricanes, tornados, and floods combined.⁵ In 2024, there were 526 heat-related fatalities in Southern Nevada alone.⁶ Populations most vulnerable to extreme heat include children, people with disabilities, pregnant

¹ *Finding That Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Aircraft Cause or Contribute to Air Pollution That May Reasonably Be Anticipated To Endanger Public Health and Welfare*, EPA (August 15, 2016), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/08/15/2016-18399/finding-that-greenhouse-gas-emissions-from-aircraft-cause-or-contribute-to-air-pollution-that-may>

² *Fast Facts on Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, EPA (June 6, 2025), <https://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/fast-facts-transportation-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

³ *Extreme Weather and Climate Change*, NASA, <https://science.nasa.gov/climate-change/extreme-weather/>

⁴ *Climate Change and Health: Extreme Heat*, NRDC (accessed August 11, 2025) <https://www.nrdc.org/resources/climate-change-and-health-extreme-heat/#/map>

⁵ *How Congress Can Protect Families From Dangerous Heat and Ensure Cool and Healthy Homes for All*, Center for American Progress (October 28, 2024), <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/how-congress-can-protect-families-from-dangerous-heat-and-ensure-cool-and-healthy-homes-for-all/>

⁶ *Clark County reports 526 heat-related deaths in 2024*, KLAS (February 6, 2025), <https://www.8newsnow.com/news/local-news/clark-county-reports-524-heat-related-deaths-in-2024/>

people, people who work outside, people with chronic illnesses, and older adults.⁷ It also impacts our infrastructure by softening asphalt and making concrete expand, crack, and buckle.⁸ It thereby undermines our economy and decreases overall productivity.

Researchers have also found a link between rising temperatures due to climate change and megadroughts which are threatening our water security in Nevada and in other Western states.⁹ Lake Mead has already operated under drought conditions for most of the past decade. Now, new projections show that it could reach a record low by June 2027.¹⁰

Finally, wildfires greatly diminish our air quality in Nevada. Wildfire smoke exposure may be associated with asthma onset and long-term impairment of lung function.¹¹ In its 2025 “State of the Air” report, the American Lung Association found that the Las Vegas metro area is the 12th worst in the United States for ozone pollution.¹²

Overturning the endangerment finding means giving polluters a free pass to release harmful emissions into our air at the expense of families across the United States and would have consequences for decades to come. I urge you to maintain the Endangerment Finding and protect the health and welfare of our constituents.

Sincerely,



Dina Titus
Member of Congress

⁷ *Who Is Most At Risk to Extreme Heat?* National Integrated Heat Health Information System (accessed August 11, 2025), <https://www.heat.gov/pages/who-is-at-risk-to-extreme-heat>

⁸ *Why is extreme heat causing roads to buckle in multiple states?*, NPR (June 26, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/06/26/nx-s1-5443646/hot-weather-humidity-effects-roads>

⁹ *How Climate Change Spurs Megadroughts*, Yale Climate Connections (August 25, 2022) <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2022/08/how-climate-change-spurs-megadroughts/>

¹⁰ July 2025 Most Probable 24-Month Study, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (July 10, 2025) <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/24mo.pdf>

¹¹ *Understanding the Impact of Wildfire Smoke on Asthma and COPD* (January 24, 2025), <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38338192/>

¹² *New ‘State of the Air’ Report Finds Las Vegas Metro Area Residents Are Breathing Some of the Most Ozone-Polluted Air in the Country*, American Lung Association (April 23, 2025), <https://www.lung.org/media/press-releases/nv-sota-2025-lasvegas-release#:~:text=Today%2C%20the%20American%20Lung%20Association,unhealthy%20levels%20of%20air%20pollution.>