

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

We write in opposition to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s proposal to eliminate the 2009 endangerment finding, which establishes that greenhouse gas emissions threaten public health, and can be regulated under the Clean Air Act as a result. Climate change, fueled by greenhouse gas emissions, is already impacting Texans with more extreme heat waves, torrential precipitation, severe hurricanes, and rising sea levels.<sup>1</sup> Eliminating the basis for federal regulation of emissions could eliminate key health protections and stymie further action to mitigate worsening natural disasters and toxic pollution.

The climate crisis is not a far-off event or a theory—it is already here and endangering our constituents. Extreme storms and temperatures create dangerous conditions for Texans. This July, Central Texas floods exacerbated by climate change<sup>2</sup> killed at least 137 people.<sup>3</sup> Greenhouse gas emissions worsened the damages of Hurricane Harvey, as half of residential flooding was attributed to climate change.<sup>4</sup> Rising temperatures lead to rising deaths, with the number of heat-related deaths in Texas breaking state records consecutively from 2020 to 2023.<sup>5</sup> Tick- and mosquito-borne tropical diseases further threaten Texans' health as diseases move

<sup>1</sup> Luke Henkhaus, "Texans Should Prepare For Hotter Temperatures, Greater Risk of Fire and Flooding," *Texas A&M*, April 30, 2024, <https://stories.tamu.edu/news/2024/04/30/texans-should-prepare-for-hotter-temperatures-greater-risk-of-fire-and-flooding/>

<sup>2</sup> Erin Douglas and Alejandra Martinez, "I don't wish this on anyone': Two families mourn their losses after a record year for Texas heat deaths," *Texas Tribune*, January 12, 2024, <https://www.texastribune.org/2024/01/12/texas-heat-deaths-2023-record-climate-change/>

<sup>3</sup> Kat Cosley Trigg, "Stats for stories: Disasters and climate change in Houston," *Rice University Office of Public Affairs*, June 2, 2025, <https://news.rice.edu/news/2025/stats-stories-disasters-and-climate-change-houston>

<sup>4</sup> Jayme Lozano, "Texas ag agency, says climate change threatens state's food supply," *Houston Public Media*, January 4, 2025, <https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/economy/2023/01/04/440403/texas-ag-agency-says-climate-change-threatens-states-food-supply/>

<sup>5</sup> Abraham Lustgarten, "How Climate Change is Contributing to Skyrocketing Rates of Infectious Disease," *ProPublica*, May 7, 2020, <https://www.propublica.org/article/climate-infectious-diseases>

northward and threaten our health infrastructure.<sup>6</sup> It is clear that regulating greenhouse gas emissions is necessary to protect human health and the environment.

In 2024, Texas experienced 20 disasters with losses exceeding \$1 billion. In Harris County alone, over 75% of surveyed residents identified severe weather as a key reason for high housing costs. Almost 80% of respondents had to throw away at least \$250 worth of food following prolonged power outages during Hurricane Beryl in 2024.<sup>7</sup> Across Texas, home insurance premiums continue to skyrocket as neighborhoods' disaster risks increase, with homeowners paying 50% more compared to 2021 premiums.<sup>8</sup> Worsening droughts, wildfires, and floods destabilize Texas's climate, contributing to increasing crop failures and food insecurity.<sup>9</sup> The cost of climate change is far greater than the cost of the endangerment finding. Overturning the endangerment finding would create a complex, piecemeal regulatory landscape and expose Texans to high costs resulting from unregulated greenhouse gas emissions.

We oppose the administration's attempt to eliminate the endangerment finding and subsequently additional protections based upon it, including clean car and truck standards, power plant rules, oil and gas rules, and landfill rules. There was a clear scientific consensus in 2009 that greenhouse gases endanger human health, and this consensus has only strengthened in the years since. The EPA has continued to affirm and act upon the endangerment finding. Now, this attempted repeal denies the reality of climate change.

We urge you to maintain the endangerment finding and protect the health and wellbeing of Texans and communities in all parts of the country.

Sincerely,

<sup>6</sup> Maria Mendez, "Texas Hill Country floods: What we know so far," *Texas Tribune*, July 11, 2025, updated July 31, 2025, <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/07/11/texas-hill-country-floods-what-we-know/>

<sup>7</sup> Faranda Davide, Ginesta Mireia, Alberti Tommaso, "Heavy rain in July 2025 Texas floods locally intensified by human-driven climate change," *ClimaMeter, Institut Pierre Simon Laplace*, July 22, 2025, <https://www.climameter.org/20250704-texas-floods>

<sup>8</sup> Jason Wheeler, "My home insurer is quitting me. It's not me – it's my climate risk." *WFAA*, July 23, 2025, <https://www.wfaa.com/article/money/business/right-on-the-money/my-home-insurer-quitting-me-climate-risk/287-67bb4f56-ba30-4ae1-97f5-f40a75222bc3>

<sup>9</sup> Kevin Smiley, Ilan Noy, Michael Wehner, Dave Frame, Christopher Sampson, Oliver Wing, "Social inequalities in climate-change attributed impacts of Hurricane Harvey," *Nature Communications*, August 25, 2022, <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-022-31056-2#citeas>



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



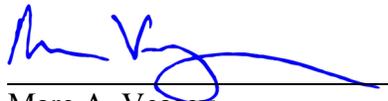
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