

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 5, 2025

Administrator Lee Zeldin
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Administrator Zeldin:

We write to you today deeply alarmed by your recent recommendation to reconsider the EPA's 2009 endangerment finding, which determined that greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide endanger public health and welfare. As you know, this finding has been the cornerstone of the United States' legal and regulatory framework for addressing climate change under the Clean Air Act (CAA).

It is difficult to understand how the nation's lead official responsible for protecting human health and the environment could seriously entertain the idea of undoing a scientific finding that has been repeatedly upheld in court, reinforced by thousands of studies and decades of research, and is supported by the vast majority of the scientific community. Given the overwhelming scientific consensus and the increasingly dangerous and costly wildfires, droughts, and extreme storms that the American people are experiencing, we call upon you to reconsider any scientifically indefensible move to overturn this finding.

As the Administrator of the EPA, you are tasked with making decisions grounded in science, law, and the best interests of the American people. In light of these facts, we demand answers to the following questions regarding your reconsideration of the endangerment finding by March 15, 2025, before any further steps are taken to undo this foundational finding without complete transparency and undeniable scientific support:

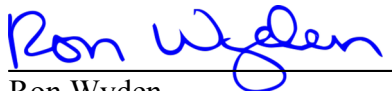
1. What new scientific evidence has the EPA found that justifies the reversal of the endangerment finding?
2. What new evidence does the EPA have that suggests reversing the endangerment finding would better protect the health and welfare of Americans and the environment, as is the EPA's mission?
3. How does the EPA plan to address the legal precedent set by the Supreme Court, particularly when courts have repeatedly upheld the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gases based on the endangerment finding?
4. Given that the endangerment finding has been repeatedly challenged by industry groups, fossil fuel companies, and climate change deniers over the years, do you believe that political or economic pressure is influencing your decision to revisit the finding, rather than an objective evaluation of the scientific facts?

5. How do you plan to ensure that the EPA's decision-making process remains rooted in scientific integrity?

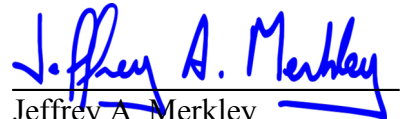
Scientific findings should never be tainted by political interference. Using political means to hinder, distort, or improperly steer the work of federal scientists or the communication of scientific facts undermines the public trust of key institutions and actively threatens the welfare of the nation. The scientific evidence in support of the endangerment finding is clear, compelling, and continues to grow stronger. Reversing this finding would be reckless and irrational. As such, we urge you to seriously reconsider any efforts to revisit, reverse, or rescind the endangerment finding, and instead reaffirm the EPA's commitment to protecting public health and the environment from all human-driven threats, including the growing threat of the climate crisis.

We look forward to your response and hope that you will prioritize scientific integrity in your decision-making.

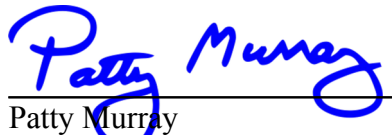
Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



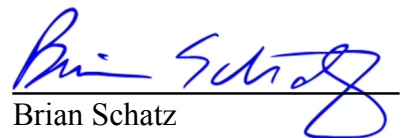
Patty Murray
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



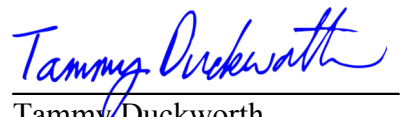
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



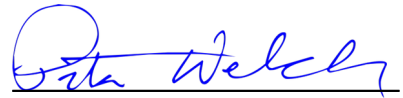
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



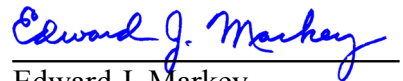
Tina Smith
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator