

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3302

September 22, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue 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 this decision will mean for the health and safety of our constituents. We strongly urge you to maintain the Endangerment Finding to protect our people, communities, and environment in North Carolina and across the nation.

The Endangerment Finding requires the EPA to protect people from the pollution that causes climate change and its impacts. Denying the danger cannot change the facts: pollution from fossil fuels is heating our planet, making extreme weather disasters more severe, and harming families and communities across our state.

North Carolina has faced an unprecedented number of extreme weather events. In 2024 alone, our state experienced nine extreme weather events that each caused \$1 billion or more in damage, totaling over \$104 billion and at least 383 lives lost. Nearly a year after the storm, Western North Carolina continues to recover from the devastating impacts of Hurricane Helene, with over 100 lives lost and more than \$59.6 billion in damage, including thousands of homes destroyed and millions losing access to clean water, electricity, and healthcare facilities.

The state's coastline is disappearing at an alarming rate. Sea levels are expected to rise by one to two feet by 2050, and Wilmington has recorded seven inches of sea level rise since 2010—more than double the 2.7 inches seen from 1980 to 2009. Disruptions to our tourism and fishing industries due to hurricanes and extreme weather events are expected to cost the state as much as \$157 million per storm event by 2080.

Extreme heat is also a growing concern for North Carolinians. Five of North Carolina's top six warmest years have occurred since 2016, highlighting a trend in rising temperatures that will lead to increased rates of hospitalization. Throughout July 2025, hospitals reported more than a dozen cases of heat exhaustion each day due to record breaking heat. 2024 was the state's second warmest year on record and these issues will only continue to intensify as climate change worsens in the coming years.

By proposing to eliminate the Endangerment Finding, the Trump administration aims to undermine other protections against climate pollution: clean car and truck standards, power plant rules, oil and gas rules, landfill rules, and more. It means giving polluters a free pass to pollute at the expense of North Carolina families. It means our constituents will face more pollution, more health harms, and higher costs.

Again, we strongly urge you to maintain the Endangerment Finding and protect the health and welfare of North Carolina residents.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress