



Endangerment Finding Proceeding

Testimony of Catalina Gonzalez

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My name is Catalina Gonzalez I am a Senior Policy Analyst at the Center for Progressive Reform, and I am based in Los Angeles, California. We believe government institutions need to be strengthened to be more fair, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of working-class Americans, and especially marginalized and environmental justice communities that are feeling the earliest and most severe impacts of climate change.

EPA is responsible for fulfilling its mandate to protect Americans and for mitigating harm from greenhouse gas emissions caused by polluting industries, and it should not aid and abet the fossil fuel industry to maximize its profits while externalizing known harms — that they have been aware of for decades — to the public.

We ask EPA to withdraw its proposal to repeal the 2009 Endangerment Finding and keep strong standards in place for vehicle emissions. An overabundance of evidence disproves the arguments presented in this proposal, which are false, unserious, and not supported by the global scientific community, economists, or the public.

EPA must recognize scientific facts. Since 2009, the evidence has been unequivocal that heat-trapping pollutants from combustion of fossil fuels cause harm to human health and premature deaths, and the evidence has only grown. New data also shows glaciers are melting, subarctic lakes are dying, and sea levels are rising globally and threatening fresh water supplies due to fossil fuel combustion, which generates heat trapping gases.

The transportation sector is the single largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions, and it is also a known fact that PM 2.5 particle pollution and ground-level ozone from vehicle emissions are directly responsible for preventable deaths, respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, and maternal and developmental illnesses.

Communities across the U.S. are experiencing a higher number of triple-digit degree days, or extreme heat days, and poor air quality days. Americans can see with their own eyes examples of more extreme weather: fires and drought in the West, floods and extreme heat in the Northeast and South.

The impacts of climate change are being felt now. The southern California region where I live is becoming more and more like a desert with each passing year. We also have the worst air quality in the country that consistently fails to meet federal air quality standards.

According to data from polls and surveys, there is also growing evidence climate change is already affecting young people in direct ways and is having detrimental effects on their mental health. In a county-wide youth assessment conducted in Los Angeles County in 2024, over 90% of young people under age 24 said that they are feeling the impacts of climate change in their household and that thinking about the future causes them to feel fear or anxiety because of climate change. Air quality was also their number one concern and priority.

Please protect the American people and withdraw this unscientific proposal.