



City of Bloomington Common Council

2nd Post-Meeting Packet

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Regular Session at 6:30pm

September 22, 2025

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Proposed Rule, “Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards,” 90 Fed. Reg. 36, 288 (Aug. 1, 2025)

Docket No.: EPA–HQ–OAR–2025–0194; FRL–12715–01–OAR

To Whom It May Concern:

The undersigned local government and local government officials respectfully submit this joint comment in opposition to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)’s proposed rule “Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards.” A proposal to reconsider or rescind the Endangerment Finding for greenhouse gases (GHGs) and to eliminate federal GHG standards for motor vehicles would endanger the health, safety, and welfare of our residents. We urge EPA to maintain the Endangerment Finding and the vehicle GHG standards that are critical to lessening the impacts of climate change in local communities.

I. The Endangerment Finding Is Grounded in Evidence and Sound Science, Including Federal Climate Assessments.

EPA’s 2009 Endangerment Finding rested on an extensive body of peer-reviewed science, which has only grown stronger since. Over a decade and a half ago, EPA determined that global concentrations of greenhouse gases from all foreign and domestic sources “constitute the largest anthropogenic driver of climate change.”¹ The agency found that “climate change can increase the risk of morbidity and mortality” through increased global temperature and air quality effects and changes in extreme weather events, and thus has indirect net impacts on food production, forestry, water resources, sea level rise, energy infrastructure and ecosystems.² It concluded that greenhouse gases constitute air pollution that endangers the public health and welfare of current and future generations.³

¹ Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases Under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act, 74 Fed. Reg. 66496, 66517 (Jan. 14, 2010) (to be codified at 40 C.F.R. ch. I).

² *Id.* at 66517, 66524.

³ *Id.* at 66516, 66524-36 (explaining EPA’s detailed reasoning regarding threats to public health and welfare).

And that is still true—the scientific basis for the EPA’s Endangerment Finding is even more robust now. An assessment of evidence accumulated between 2009 and 2018 found that “the amount, diversity, and sophistication of the evidence has increased markedly, clearly strengthening the case for endangerment.”⁴ A comprehensive literature review showed that in almost every category, the evidence for the impacts and the confidence in attribution of human-caused climate change has grown stronger.⁵ Indeed, the assessment found a body of new and emergent harms including “nutritional security, effects on mental health, and increased risk of population displacement and conflict.”⁶ It is no surprise then that EPA’s approach under the current, not proposed, rule also aligns with recommendations by the most well-regarded scientists in the field.⁷

II. Local Governments Rely on EPA Regulation of Greenhouse Gases and the Proposed Rule Fails to Consider the Significant Harms to Local Communities.

Local governments are on the front lines of the consequences of climate change. Addressing these climate impacts requires a multi-faceted approach—local, regional, and national working together. EPA’s withdrawal from this coordinated effort will undermine local efforts to reduce climate impacts. Climate change is already harming our residents as communities experience increased risks from climate hazards including extreme heat, drought, flooding, sea level rise, and wildfires.⁸ Infrastructure designed for past climate conditions is increasingly vulnerable, leading to rising costs for municipalities and residents.⁹ Local governments rely on federal regulations to mitigate harms to communities across the country. The proposed rule all but ignores the dangers of GHG emissions to communities, local economies, and, most crucially, to human health and life.

A. EPA Failed to Consider the Major Harms and Effects that Will Flow Inevitably from its Reversal.

Cities and counties of all sizes across the U.S. rely on EPA to accurately and holistically assess the significance of GHG emissions and to regulate accordingly. Yet, as first responders to weather-related events such as flooding, extreme heat, and fires, cities and counties bear the brunt of the repercussions of climate change. Rising temperatures, heavier rainfall, and more frequent extreme weather events are straining public infrastructure, causing harms to residents and communities, and increasing costs for local governments. EPA has failed to consider how the

⁴ Phillip B. Duffy et. al., *Strengthened Scientific Support for the Endangerment Finding for Atmospheric Greenhouse Gases*, 363 SCIENCE eaat5982 (2019), <https://perma.cc/Q9DY-6CQB>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ See generally Courtney Lindwall, *IPCC Climate Change Reports: Why They Matter to Everyone on the Planet*, NATURAL RES. DEF. COUNCIL (April 14, 2023), <https://perma.cc/9J8U-RRWR>.

⁸ ERIC K. CHU ET AL., U.S. GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM, *Built Environment, Urban Systems, and Cities*, in FIFTH NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT, 12-1, 12-5 (2023), <https://perma.cc/3Y25-LSAZ>.

⁹ *Id.* at 12-12.

loss of federal support will only exacerbate existing difficulties and make municipal progress on addressing climate change close to impossible. For example:

B. Extreme Heat Is Now Commonplace.

Cities and counties are experiencing deadly heat waves made longer, more severe, and more frequent by greenhouse gas-induced climate change. Average summer temperatures are rising. According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), last year was the hottest year for the planet since recordkeeping began in the 1880s.¹⁰ And the ten warmest years on record have all occurred in the last decade.¹¹ Climate scientists predict that “[w]ith future warming, >200 U.S. cities face increased risk of aggregated premature mortality.”¹²

Higher summer temperatures and longer heat waves means more demands on local governments—including, but not limited to, increased emergency room visits for heat-related illness, higher utility bills for cooling, and more frequent electricity service outages—with vulnerable populations, including seniors, younger people, and outdoor workers at particular risk. Local communities are recognizing the need to combat extreme heat. For example, in 2021, Phoenix, Arizona created the nation’s first Office of Heat Response and Mitigation.¹³ In 2022, Miami-Dade County in Florida appointed its first Chief Heat Officer, and subsequently released an Extreme Heat Action Plan to reduce the health and economic impacts of increasingly frequent extreme heat.¹⁴ Coping with the extraordinary threats presented by extreme heat has required cities to invest in new systems and infrastructure.

Indeed, in certain extreme heat jurisdictions, death has become an all-too-common occurrence—especially for children, the elderly, and other vulnerable populations. This summer, more than 400 residents of Maricopa County, Arizona died from extreme heat.¹⁵ In Clark County, which includes Las Vegas, Nevada, the county coroner reported 115 heat-related deaths in 2025

¹⁰¹⁰ *Temperatures Rising: NASA Confirms 2024 Warmest Year on Record*, NASA (2025), <https://perma.cc/RG6M-GJFS>.

¹¹¹¹ Rebecca Lindsey & Luann Dahlman, *Climate Change: Global Temperature*, CLIMATE.GOV (May 29, 2025), <https://perma.cc/8V25-BUAJ>.

¹²¹² Duffy, *supra* note 4.

¹³¹³ See *Office of Heat Response and Mitigation*, CITY OF PHOENIX, <https://perma.cc/3DRV-3L6B>.

¹⁴ MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, *EXTREME HEAT ACTION PLAN 7* (2022), <https://perma.cc/L2PS-Y7WL>. “[O]ur summers are getting hotter and longer due to climate change and urban development. On average, the Miami area has 51 more days per year with temperatures over 90 degrees Fahrenheit than it did 50 years ago and we’re expected to have the highest increase of dangerously high heat days with a heat index over 100 degrees Fahrenheit of any county in the United States by mid-century. The economic and health risks associated with extreme heat are also increasing and disproportionately impacting our most vulnerable populations, including outdoor workers who are up to 35 times more likely to die of extreme heat than the general population.” *Id.* at 2.

¹⁵ Nina Lakhani, *More Than 400 People Suspected to Have Died from Extreme Heat in Arizona County*, THE GUARDIAN (Aug. 13, 2025), <https://perma.cc/Z4Z8-5KW9>.

thus far.¹⁶ And there are no signs of abatement; in fact, the highest temperatures on record keep increasing—this August is on track to be hottest on record.¹⁷

C. Transportation Emissions and Air Pollution Are Worsening Across the U.S.

Transportation emissions are the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S., accounting for 28 percent of total emissions in 2022.¹⁸ In certain communities, that percentage is far higher. In Los Angeles County, for example, transportation accounts for between 35-41 percent of all GHGs emitted within county boundaries.¹⁹ That is true even where local governments, like LA, have committed to bold action on greenhouse gas mitigation through local planning and aggressive efforts. Communities cannot lower emissions sufficiently without a coordinated regional and federal approach. EPA’s own analysis found that its 2024 Motor Vehicle Emissions standards could yield up to \$1 trillion in benefits over the next three decades while resulting in improved air quality nationwide.²⁰

The impact of fossil fuel emissions on health can be dire. On an 85-mile stretch of the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, air pollution from byproducts and emissions from fossil fuel and petrochemical production plants have lent the area the nickname “Cancer Alley.”²¹ The surrounding communities’ air, water, and soil are so contaminated that the documented risks to maternal, reproductive, and newborn health harms, respiratory illnesses, and cancer are likely an underestimate—even as the risk of cancer is more than seven times the national average.²²

Local governments rely on EPA to set and enforce motor vehicle GHG standards for the health and safety of our residents. Despite the outsized role of the transportation sector in state national and local GHG emissions, Section 209 of the Clean Air Act preempts states and cities from setting our own new motor vehicle GHG standards. If EPA withdraws both the Endangerment Finding and the federal vehicle GHG standards, cities and counties will be left without any recourse to address this dominant source of emissions and the resulting impacts as described above. EPA’s repeal of existing GHG standards for new motor vehicles would not

¹⁶ Justine Verastigue, *Nearly 115 Heat-Related Deaths Reported by Clark County Coroner So Far in 2025*, FOX 5 VEGAS (Aug. 21, 2025), <https://perma.cc/KR6E-TC95>.

¹⁷ Lakhani, *supra* note 15.

¹⁸ *Fast Facts on Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, U.S. EPA (June 6, 2025), <https://perma.cc/3UQN-VCVH>.

¹⁹ Joe Linton, *Tailpipe Emissions Account for Around 40 Percent of L.A. County Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, STREETS BLOG LOS ANGELES (Nov. 8, 2022), <https://perma.cc/4BWG-VBSL>.

²⁰ Press Release, U.S. EPA, Biden-Harris Administration Finalizes Strongest-Ever Pollution Standards for Cars that Position U.S. Companies and Workers to Lead the Clean Vehicle Future, Protect Public Health, Address the Climate Crisis, Save Drivers Money (Mar. 20, 2024), <https://perma.cc/YY5H-W6KM>.

²¹ Public Health on Call, *Louisiana’s ‘Cancer Alley’ Is More Deadly Than Previously Imagined*, JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCH. OF PUB. HEALTH (Aug. 4, 2025), <https://perma.cc/MTL3-8545>.

²² *Id.*

empower local governments; it would leave us powerless to regulate transportation-related emissions, despite bearing the costs of their impacts.

And any repeal would affect air quality in our communities. Hotter summers and increased vehicle emissions worsen smog and particulate pollution, exacerbating asthma and other respiratory conditions. Local governments have made some progress combatting these conditions, but we cannot make meaningful improvements alone. Our efforts to reduce particulate matter, ozone, and other pollutants through transportation policy and investments in renewable energy rely on standards set and enforced by the federal government.

For example, Springfield, Massachusetts was once the asthma capital of the U.S., recording the highest incidence of emergency department visits due to asthma, as well as high rates of asthma-related fatalities.²³ Springfield has fought hard to lower its rating to the fourth-worst city for asthma.²⁴ The city has made great strides and invested in improving conditions, but like other communities, EPA's proposed rule would be a major setback in its efforts to combat the public health impacts of climate change through pollution-reduction measures.²⁵

D. Flooding and Major Weather Events Are Bringing Grave Consequences.

Local governments already struggle to respond to and prevent damage from flooding and storms, but as climate change intensifies weather events, local governments and our communities are bearing the brunt. Climate change has turned ordinary storms into major weather events with grave consequences.²⁶ This summer, for example, extreme flooding in Kerr County, Texas took over 100 lives and left countless traumatized.²⁷ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that climate change has already “detectably influenced” the severity of

²³ ASTHMA & ALLERGY FOUND. OF AM., *ASTHMA CAPITALS 2018* 8, 35 (2018), <https://perma.cc/9TEA-LLKP>.

²⁴ Vivian La, *What Springfield Lost When the Feds Clawed Back a \$20 Million Grant*, WBUR (July 23, 2025), <https://perma.cc/Z2YT-6D6U>; Asthma & Allergy Found. of Am., *2024 Asthma Capitals Report: How Location Can Impact Asthma* (Sept. 10, 2024), <https://perma.cc/2X4H-8YML>.

²⁵ For examples of local efforts, see, e.g., Press Release, Climate Mayors, Climate Mayors Announces Major New Commitment from Nearly 350 Mayors to Accelerate US Electric Vehicle Transition (Aug. 13, 2024), <https://perma.cc/Q9MD-CSH5> (announcing a nearly 350-mayor commitment to electrify 50% of municipal fleets and increase EV chargers by 500% by 2030); Rachel Golden & Leah Louis-Prescott, *How Local Governments and Communities Are Taking Action to Get Fossil Fuels Out of Buildings*, ROCKY MOUNTAIN INST. (Oct. 2, 2023), <https://perma.cc/TLH7-RNZZ> (noting that as of 2023, 131 local governments had adopted policies that require or encourage building electrification, affecting 37 million residents); *Local Government Climate and Energy Goals*, AM. COUNCIL FOR AN ENERGY-EFFICIENCY ECON. (2021), <https://perma.cc/7YS4-GDJQ> (logging climate-related goals adopted by local governments across the U.S.).

²⁶ Arcelia Martin, *Climate Change Helped Fuel Heavy Rains that Led to Devastating Hill Country Flood*, TEX. OBSERVER (July 8, 2025), <https://perma.cc/P5E8-VJR7>.

²⁷ *Kerr County Flood Deaths Surpass 100 as Search for Missing Continues*, FOX 7 AUSTIN (July 12, 2025), <https://perma.cc/K6QL-WTZU>.

flooding in communities, with devastating results.²⁸ These events will only worsen without federal intervention.

On the coasts, home to 40% of the total U.S. population, villages, cities and counties face existential threats.²⁹ Flooding due to sea level rise has claimed core community buildings, infrastructure, and even portions of villages.³⁰ The Village of Shishmaref in Alaska, for example, was forced to hold a vote to decide whether to relocate due to erosion threatening to claim the entire village.³¹ The Native Village of Kipnuk, only slightly further inland, faces the same dilemma.³² Flooding in certain coastal cities occurs five times as often as it did in the 1950s.³³

E. Local Communities Are Bearing Unprecedented Infrastructure Costs.

As weather events worsen, local governments are scrambling to build infrastructure that can withstand such unprecedented conditions and emergent climate-related threats. This becomes especially trying when the federal government has frozen or terminated billions of dollars in federal infrastructure grants.³⁴ Roads, bridges, drinking water systems, and power infrastructure were not built for current (and worsening) conditions, necessitating costly repairs and premature replacement needs throughout communities in the country.³⁵

Climate-related incidents carry with them immediate harm to buildings and people, but also indirect dangers including release of toxic chemicals and sewage into waterways and bacteria and mold growth from flooding.³⁶ Hurricane Helene, for example, caused \$78.7 billion in damages and mitigation costs.³⁷ Twenty Florida counties remained under a boil advisory for

²⁸ Melissa Denchak, *Flooding and Climate Change: Everything You Need to Know*, NATURAL RES. DEF. COUNCIL (Nov. 3, 2023), <https://perma.cc/MLM9-HQGE>.

²⁹ Office for Coastal Management, *Coastal Fast Facts*, NAT'L OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN., <https://perma.cc/6BUA-B3LZ>.

³⁰ Greg Kim, *Southwest Alaska Community on Bering Sea Coast Experiences Severe Flooding*, ALASKA PUB. MEDIA (June 27, 2021), <https://perma.cc/ULM8-CET5>.

³¹ *Leaving Their Ancestral Home: Alaska Village Votes to Move Due to Climate Change*, ABC NEWS (Aug. 18, 2016), <https://perma.cc/WEW5-JTZ8>; Amy Martin, *An Alaskan Village is Falling into the Sea. Washington is Looking the Other Way*, THE WORLD (Oct. 19, 2018), <https://perma.cc/Z7B6-YJSN>.

³² Ames Alexander, *Floods are swallowing their village. But for them and others, the EPA has cut the lifeline.*, FLOODLIGHT (July 7, 2025), <https://perma.cc/WC5L-GWLW>.

³³ *Climate Change Indicators: Coastal Flooding*, U.S. EPA (Sept. 2024), <https://perma.cc/8MWK-7BKT>.

³⁴ Georgetown Climate Center, *Understanding Recent Federal Actions: Transportation Funding & Programs*, GEORGETOWN LAW (Aug. 11, 2025), <https://perma.cc/TPZ4-7XGA>; Georgetown Climate Center, *Understanding Recent Federal Actions: Offshore Wind Development* (June 25, 2025), <https://perma.cc/QHR7-G6HN>.

³⁵ ERIC K. CHU ET AL., *supra* note 8, at 12-12.

³⁶ Denchak, *supra* note 28.

³⁷ Office for Coastal Management, *Hurricane Costs*, NAT'L OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN., <https://perma.cc/4U47-BCTP>.

several days after Hurricane Helene,³⁸ and St. Petersburg, Florida had to shut down its sewer system.³⁹ These disruptions will only worsen if EPA undermines efforts to reduce emissions. Experts estimate that “in a scenario where emissions keep rising unabated and infrastructure is not adapted to a changing climate, hundreds of billions of dollars of infrastructure damage per year is expected by 2090.”⁴⁰

F. EPA’s Proposed Rule Will Disproportionately Impact At-Risk Communities.

EPA’s proposed rollback will disproportionately harm our most vulnerable residents.⁴¹ Older adults in particular are at a higher risk for heat-related illness and death. One 2023 study found that Virginia ZIP codes with higher percentages of residents sixty-five and older saw significantly greater increases in heat-related hospital admissions and emergency room visits during heat events.⁴² Pregnant people, infants, and young children are also more vulnerable to negative health outcomes during extreme heat.⁴³

Communities of color and lower income communities have continuously bore disproportionate burdens from climate related incidents and GHG emissions, while having fewer resources to adapt.⁴⁴ For example, after flooding damaged a water treatment plant in Jackson, Mississippi, the city’s 150,000 residents lost access to drinking water for weeks.⁴⁵ Decades of state and federal disinvestment in Jackson’s water infrastructure compounded the flood’s effects. Similarly, harms from vehicle pollution—which leads to thousands of premature deaths each year and increases the incidence of lung diseases like asthma, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis⁴⁶—disproportionately affect cities’ lower-income residents and residents of color, who are more likely to live near major roadways.⁴⁷ Communities across the U.S. “do not share a city’s

³⁸ Lianna Norman & Samantha Neely, *St. Petersburg Residents: Avoid Flushing Toilets, Taking Showers Due to Sewage Treatment Plant Closure*, HERALD-TRIB. (Sept. 28, 2024), <https://perma.cc/4T6W-2RQS>.

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ See James E. Neumann et al., *Climate Effects on US Infrastructure: The Economics of Adaptation for Rail, Roads, and Coastal Development*, 167 CLIMATIC CHANGE 44 (2021), <https://perma.cc/5VCS-U39X>.

⁴¹ Dennis Valera, *Maryland’s 29 Recorded Heat-Related Deaths Is the State’s Most in More than a Decade*, CBS NEWS (Aug. 17, 2025), <https://perma.cc/7NZK-RQW3>.

⁴² Marquisha Johns, Beth Almeida & Jill Rosenthal, *Protecting Older Adults from the Growing Threats of Extreme Heat*, CTR. FOR AM. PROG. (Aug. 22, 2024), <https://perma.cc/8RSX-QDAC>.

⁴³ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Protecting Children and Maternal Health from Extreme Heat*, U.S. EPA, <https://perma.cc/EV3D-5V3D>.

⁴⁴ J. JASON WEST ET AL., U.S. GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM, *Air Quality*, in FIFTH NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT, 14-1, 14-5 (2023), <https://perma.cc/B5FN-WLGP>.

⁴⁵ Nicole Greenfield, *America’s Failing Drinking Water System*, NATURAL RES. DEF. COUNCIL (Oct. 5, 2023), <https://perma.cc/N4FU-B4P2>.

⁴⁶ Calvin A. Arter et al., *Mortality-Based Damages Per Ton Due to the On-Road Mobile Sector in the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic U.S. by Region, Vehicle Class and Precursor*, 16 ENV’T RSCH. LETTERS 065008 (2021), <https://perma.cc/8X5A-ZY2J>.

⁴⁷ Mary Angelique G. Demetillo et al., *Space-Based Observational Constraints on NO₂ Air Pollution Inequality from Diesel Traffic in Major US Cities*, 48 GEOPHYSICAL RSCH. LETTERS e2021GL094333 (2021), <https://perma.cc/YV9G-QVMZ>.

extreme heat burden equally”—neighborhoods with higher proportions of lower income residents and residents of color experience significantly more extreme heat than their wealthier counterparts.⁴⁸ A study of heat disparities in Columbus, Ohio, for example, revealed a fourteen-degree differential across the city based on income, prompting new measures to increase the urban canopy and mitigate the disparate harms of heat exposure.⁴⁹

III. Conclusion

No sound science or reasoning requires the Federal government to unleash even more climate-related incidents and harms to our communities. Protecting the health, well-being and welfare of our residents and our communities requires continued recognition of the dangers posed by GHG emissions and decisive action to mitigate them. The undersigned local governments and local government officials strongly urge EPA to withdraw this proposal and retain the Endangerment Finding and federal vehicle GHG standards in their current form.

Respectfully submitted,

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⁴⁸ Susanne Amelie Benz & Jennifer Anne Burney, *Widespread Race and Class Disparities in Surface Urban Heat Extremes Across the United States*, 9 EARTH'S FUTURE e2021EF002016 (2021), <https://perma.cc/5JNK-EWYE>.

⁴⁹ State Climate Office of Ohio, *How Climate Change is Already Impacting Ohio, and What's Ahead*, THE OHIO STATE UNIV., <https://perma.cc/BD8E-8LAW>.

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