

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

September 22, 2025

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

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

We are deeply concerned by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to rescind the 2009 Endangerment Finding and what that will mean for New York State and our constituents' health and safety. By undermining the scientific and legal basis for EPA to protect people from the pollution that causes climate change, this proposal will condemn New Yorkers to a less safe, less prosperous, and less livable environment for generations to come.

From Montauk to Niagara Falls and Prospect Park to Plattsburgh, New Yorkers across the state are already experiencing the consequences of climate change. These trends are projected to get much worse in the decades ahead unless we take actions to significantly and rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the global scientific consensus.

Since the Endangerment Finding was issued in 2009, New York has experienced numerous destructive, climate-fueled extreme weather events, including Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011, Superstorm Sandy in 2012, Hurricane Ida in 2021, and historic snowstorms in Western New York in November and December 2022. These natural disasters have caused devastation throughout the state, resulting in billions of dollars in damage to infrastructure, private property, and ecosystems. As extreme weather events become stronger and more frequent, New Yorkers will face rising health impacts and recovery costs with each storm, flood, and heat wave.

Increased precipitation, flooding, and sea-level rise are threatening property values and aging infrastructure. Sea levels along New York's coast and in the Hudson River have already risen more than a foot since 1900. These areas have been particularly susceptible to storm surges from extreme weather. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's interactive map tracking rising sea levels, parts of New York City could be underwater in less than 80 years. Non-coastal regions of the state are experiencing more instances of in-land

flooding due to increased precipitation, which is expected to continue to increase significantly in the decades ahead, resulting in costly damage to homes, roads, water systems, and other important infrastructure.

Average temperatures in New York State have increased by almost 2.6°F since 1901. This trend is expected to continue in all regions of the state with average temperatures projected to rise between about 5°F and 11°F by 2100. The impact of rising temperatures is particularly dangerous across New York City because of the urban heat island effect, which causes heat to get absorbed and trapped by tall buildings creating an “urban canyon” effect. This results in neighborhoods that may already lack adequate green spaces to be even hotter than other parts of the state on a normal summer day.

Cities across upstate New York like Albany, Rochester, Syracuse, and Binghamton are expected to see as much as a fifty-times increase in days over 95°F by the end of the century. Not only will this increased heat put more New Yorkers at risk, especially children, the elderly, and people working outside, but it could also significantly affect the region’s key agricultural industries, including apple orchards and dairy farms. Rising average temperatures, resulting in less snowfall and earlier snowmelt, are also affecting New York’s outdoor winter recreation industry, which includes more ski areas than any other state and the site of two Winter Olympics in Lake Placid.

New York’s ecosystems are experiencing the effects of these temperature and precipitation changes. Some types of plants, insects, and wildlife living in New York may no longer be supported under expected conditions in the future, particularly in high-elevation regions like the Catskills and Adirondacks. Warmer temperatures and greater humidity are creating conditions that allow ticks to thrive, especially on Long Island and throughout the Hudson Valley. Increased cases of tick-borne diseases, such as Lyme Disease, are having health consequences and raising healthcare costs in the state.

As one of the nation’s leading states working to address climate change and reduce in-state sources of greenhouse gas emissions, New York has conducted a comprehensive assessment of how climate change will affect natural systems and various sectors of the economy.<sup>1</sup> We urge you to consider this assessment, which has accounted for climate science and modeling that has been developed since the Endangerment Finding was issued in 2009, to better understand how climate change is threatening critical aspects of the state’s economy and infrastructure, as well as the health and safety of individuals.

By rescinding the Endangerment Finding, the Administration aims to undermine essential public health protections to reduce climate pollution, including standards on cars and trucks, power plants, oil and gas operations, landfills, and more. Pollution limits on power plants are of particular importance to the public health of New Yorkers. As of 2023, gas-fired power plants accounted for almost three-fifths of New York State’s generating capacity and provided 46% of

---

<sup>1</sup> Stevens, A., & Lamie, C., Eds. (2024). New York State Climate Impacts Assessment: Understanding and preparing for our changing climate. <https://nysclimateimpacts.org>.

the state's electricity net generation.<sup>2</sup> Revocation of the Endangerment Finding will eliminate the basis for many of these protections, leaving our constituents and the planet vulnerable to irreversible harm.

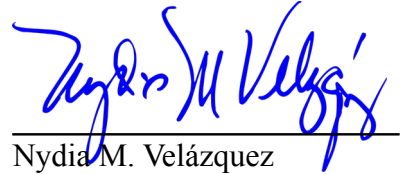
We urge you to abandon efforts to rescind the Endangerment Finding and maintain standards that are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the health and welfare of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,



---

Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



---

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



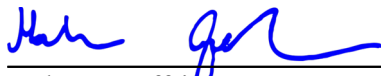
---

Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



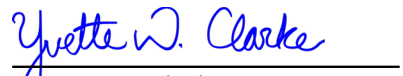
---

Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



---

Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress



---

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



---

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



---

Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress

---

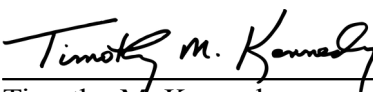
<sup>2</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration (2025). New York State Profile and Energy Estimates.  
<https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=NY>.



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



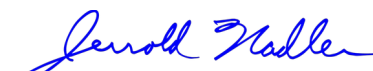
Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



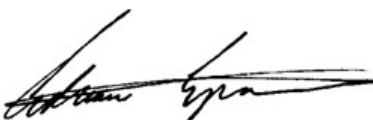
George Latimer  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



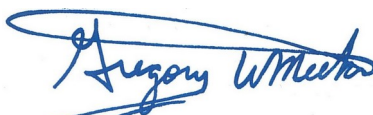
John W. Mannion  
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



Josh Riley  
Member of Congress