
Toolkit: Stopping Trump's Power Plant Endangerment Finding Repeal

How to Use This Toolkit

This toolkit provides a guide for testifying at public hearings and taking action to defend climate action, clean air, and public health.

Earlier this year, Donald Trump eliminated the EPA's Endangerment Finding for motor vehicles, wiping out the bedrock scientific determination that greenhouse gases emitted through tailpipe pollution harms human health and the planet by driving climate change. On September 14, the administration proposed to do the same for power plants. At the same time, EPA has finalized a separate rule that repeals the Biden administration's 2024 Carbon Pollution Standards, which would have required many coal and gas plants to cut 90% of their carbon emissions by 2032. **The EPA's announcement can be viewed [HERE](#).**

Together, these actions are designed to permanently strip EPA of its authority to limit climate pollution under the Clean Air Act, leaving the agency legally unable to act on the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the country, no matter what a future administration might want to do.

These reckless rollbacks are a massive giveaway to the fossil fuel industry that will lead to more pollution, higher energy bills, extreme weather, and preventable deaths.

Use the information in this toolkit to educate yourself and engage your community. The more people who have access to these resources, the stronger our collective impact. Whether you're testifying, organizing a local action, or launching a digital push, this toolkit is designed to meet you where you are and help you move fast.

Points of Contact

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Submitting Comments & Register to Testify

- **Written comments to EPA must be submitted by Monday, November 2, 2026.** Federal agencies are required to read and respond to every substantive public comment they receive.

A flood of comments from real people – especially those sharing personal stories – creates a powerful legal and public record.

- Submit a written comment [HERE](#) through [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) or at sc.org/Endangerment
- Write in your own words – original comments carry more weight than form letters. Use the talking points below as a guide, but make it personal.
- Share your story: How has air pollution, extreme weather, or climate change affected you, your family, or your community.
- Encourage friends, family, and colleagues to submit their own comments before the deadline.

Use this QR code to drive the public to comment on the proposal:



- **Virtual public hearing online on Thursday, October 1, 2026 from 11am-3pmET.** More details and how to register [HERE](#). The last day to register to speak at the hearing will be September 29, 2026. This is the only scheduled hearing to present public testimony to the agency. It is critically important that community voices are heard! Register today.

What's at Stake

What is the Endangerment Finding?

The Endangerment Finding is the EPA's formal scientific conclusion – issued in 2009 – that greenhouse gas pollution from burning fossil fuels harms human health and the environment. That determination gave the EPA both the legal authority and the obligation to limit that pollution under the Clean Air Act.

What is the EPA Proposing?

In February 2026, the EPA moved to repeal the Endangerment Finding for motor vehicles. EPA is also proposing to now repeal its similar finding for fossil fuel-fired power plants.

In advancing this proposal, EPA is arguing that carbon pollution emissions from fossil fuel-fired power plants do not “contribute significantly” to harmful air pollution and do not “endanger health and welfare.” The agency thus claims that these emissions cannot be regulated under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act, despite the Supreme Court's ruling in *Massachusetts v. EPA* that greenhouse gases do qualify as pollutants under the statute.

Critically, this particular finding is driven by politics, not science: the proposal redefines “significant contribution” to incorporate cost and policy considerations, allowing the EPA to effectively declare that regulation is not warranted because the administration prioritizes fossil fuel energy production and believes the costs of regulating CO2 emissions from the power sector are ultimately not worth it.

The EPA is also arguing that, in any event, it would be “futile” to regulate power plants’ CO2 emissions because many other sources around the world continue emitting greenhouse gases, and U.S. power plant standards wouldn’t make a noticeable difference. These claims are based on deeply flawed modeling results that were not even presented to the public for comments before the final rule was issued.

What Would a Repeal Mean?

Repealing the Power Plant Endangerment Finding would:

- Wipe out *all* federal carbon pollution standards for power plants: including not just a 2024 Biden-era EPA rule that would have required many coal and gas plants to cut 90% of their carbon emissions by 2032, but also the 2015 Obama-era EPA New Source Performance Standards for new coal and gas plants that would otherwise survive the Carbon Pollution Standards repeal.
- Prohibit EPA from issuing any new GHG standards for the power sector going forward, unless:
 - Congress passes a new law;
 - A future administration first reverses this finding through a new lengthy rulemaking; or
 - A court rules that EPA’s action is unlawful.
- With the so-called *Chevron* deference eliminated by the Supreme Court, the EPA is aiming to lock in its narrow reading of Section 111 of the Clean Air Act as the only legally correct one, making it significantly harder for any future administration to reclaim this regulatory authority.

Messaging Points on EPA’s Proposal

Core Message

- Trump is handing coal and gas companies a free pass to keep polluting – and you’re going to pay for it. More fossil fuel pollution means more extreme weather. More extreme weather means higher electricity bills, higher insurance rates, and more disaster costs passed on to families. Meanwhile, the clean energy that was lowering your utility bill gets pushed aside for more expensive coal power. This is not just garden variety deregulation. It’s a subsidy for the fossil fuel industry, paid for by your family and our planet’s future.

Talking Points

The Endangerment Finding Matters

- The Endangerment Finding is simple: in 2009, EPA scientists formally concluded that greenhouse gas pollution from burning fossil fuels in vehicles harms human health and the environment. A few years later, they began extending this finding to certain stationary source categories, such as power plants and oil and gas operations. That conclusion – grounded in decades of science – gave EPA both the authority and the legal obligation to limit climate pollution from those sources.
- It's been the legal backbone for over a decade of climate protections: limits on pollution from cars and trucks, coal and gas plants, and oil and gas operations.
- The science behind the finding has only gotten stronger since it was first issued: the nonpartisan National Academies of Sciences confirmed just last year that the finding “was accurate, has stood the test of time, and is now reinforced by even stronger evidence.”
- The Trump Administration has not disputed the science behind climate change itself: it's simply decided that protecting the fossil fuel industry matters more than protecting people, and that it's pointless to limit our own CO2 emissions when the rest of the world emits climate pollution too.

Killing the Endangerment Finding is a Giveaway to the Coal and Fossil Fuel Industry

- Let's be clear about who benefits from this repeal: the coal industry, oil and gas companies, and the utilities that profit from burning fossil fuels. They have lobbied for years to escape accountability for their pollution. This gives them exactly what they wanted.
- And let's be clear about who pays: families and communities – through heat waves, wildfires, more frequent and costly extreme weather events, higher energy bills, and dirtier air.

More Pollution. More Extreme Weather. More Expensive Energy.

- Burning fossil fuels doesn't just produce carbon pollution – it produces soot, smog, and toxic air pollutants that cause asthma attacks, heart disease, lung cancer, and premature death. Climate pollution and conventional air pollution go hand in hand. When you gut the rules on one, you make the other worse too.
- A warmer climate means more intense hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and heat waves. These disasters are expensive. They drive up costs for home insurance, food, health care, and energy. The communities least able to afford these costs – working and low-income families, communities of color, folks in rural areas – will be hit hardest. And if we don't take action now to ramp down our greenhouse gas pollution, these problems will get far worse.
- Rolling back pollution standards doesn't lower energy prices – it locks in a dependence on volatile fossil fuel markets and delays the transition to cleaner, cheaper, and more stable energy sources, like wind and solar power and battery storage. Americans are already seeing that renewable energy is the lowest-cost option in most of the country. This repeal puts a thumb on the scale for fossil fuels.

Public Hearing Testimony

- Testimony is limited to 4 minutes.

- Remember this formula: 1 minute = 150 words
- In-Person Public Hearing: Write your comments down or bring notes. Practice your testimony so that you know it is no longer than five minutes. An average person can read 750 words in five minutes.
- Virtual Public Hearing: Follow the same tips as above. You can read your comments into the speaker on your computer or your phone.
- Make it personal.
 - Speak about your experiences and those of your community.
 - Express your personal concerns.
 - Don't worry if your comments aren't "technical" – you don't need to be a scientific expert for your comments to matter.
 - Do tell EPA your specific concerns – about your community, about a particular coal plant, or concerns related to climate change and to impacts to air, drinking water, health, or recreation.
- End with an "ask."
 - Demand that EPA do its job to protect you, your community, your environment, and the health and environment of the generations that will follow you.

Sample Testimony

Introduction

"My name is [NAME], and I am a resident of [CITY, STATE]. I am here today on behalf of [myself, my family, my community, my organization] to oppose the EPA's proposed rule declaring that greenhouse gas emissions from power plants do not endanger public health and welfare."

Background

"The proposed rule for power plants would formally declare that greenhouse gas emissions from power plants do not significantly contribute to harmful air pollution. If finalized, it would:

- Eliminate every federal GHG standard for power plants, including the 2024 Biden-era rule and the Obama-era 2015 standards.
- Permanently bar EPA from issuing new power plant GHG standards without a new law from Congress. Any future administration would face years of litigation just to reclaim this authority.
- Leave the power sector – responsible for 25% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions – with zero federal carbon pollution standards in place.

Your Personal Story

Insert 2-3 sentences about why this issue matters to you personally. Examples: a wildfire, flood, or heat wave that affected your community; a concern about the kind of future your children or grandchildren

will inherit; a family member with asthma or heart disease made worse by air pollution; . Be specific and personal.

General Talking Points:

Please see the key messages above.

Conclusion

Here is the place for YOUR ASK.

- “I urge this agency to withdraw this proposed rule. The law requires the EPA to protect public health – not to surrender that responsibility to the fossil fuel industry. Do your job. Protect our health. Protect our climate. Reject this repeal.”

Additional Ways to Take Action

Call and Write Your Members of Congress

Congressional pressure is one of the most effective tools we have. Lawmakers need to hear directly from constituents – especially those in swing districts and states.

What to do:

- Call your Senators and Representatives and ask them to publicly oppose the power plant Endangerment Finding repeal and the Carbon Pollution Standards rollback.
- Send a written letter or email – personal, handwritten letters carry particular weight with congressional offices.
- Request an in-person meeting with your member’s district office staff. Bring your personal story and our talking points.
- Ask your member to co-sign a congressional letter to the EPA Administrator opposing the proposed rule.

Flood Social Media and Local News

Public pressure campaigns work – and social media and local press are powerful tools for reaching people who may not yet know what is at stake.

What to do:

- Share our content on social media and tag your elected officials. Use the hashtags **#ProtectCleanAir** and **#EPADoYourJob** to amplify the message.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Personal, community-focused letters are far more likely to be published than generic ones. Focus on local impacts: climate impacts you have experienced, recent extreme weather events, your community's air quality, or local health concerns.

- Record a short video sharing your personal story and post it to social media – authentic voices from real community members cut through in ways that polished content cannot.
- Tag us in your posts so we can amplify your voice across our networks.

Organize a Local Event or Action

Grassroots visibility puts pressure on elected officials and keeps this issue in the public eye. Local events build community and recruit new advocates.

What to do:

- Organize a rally or demonstration outside your member of Congress's district office – especially when they are home during recess.
- Host a community meeting or house party to educate neighbors about the rollbacks and recruit them to take action.
- Partner with local health organizations, faith communities, environmental justice groups, and labor unions to build a broad coalition.
- Invite local media to cover your event and amplify your message beyond those who attend.