

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 22, 2025

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

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

As members of the Georgia delegation, we write to express our profound concerns about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s proposal to eliminate the 2009 Endangerment Finding and how this action may adversely affect the health and safety of Georgians, especially our state's coastal, rural, and most vulnerable communities.

The Endangerment Finding is a science-based assessment that confirmed what many communities in Georgia have felt: greenhouse gas pollution endangers public health and welfare.<sup>1</sup> In accordance with this finding, the EPA has established regulations to advance its mission of protecting human health and the environment by addressing climate change.

Denying the danger cannot change the facts: greenhouse gas pollution is changing our climate,<sup>2</sup> making extreme weather disasters more frequent and severe,<sup>3</sup> and costing Georgia families money and lives.<sup>4</sup> In 2024, Georgians experienced thirteen extreme weather events that caused \$1 billion or more in damages, totaling \$111 billion and at least 432 lives lost.<sup>5</sup>

We are particularly concerned rolling back the Endangerment Finding will adversely affect Georgia's coastal, rural, and most vulnerable communities, who already disproportionately bear the risks of climate change. Seniors and children are most at risk of suffering from heat-related illnesses during extreme temperatures.<sup>6</sup> Alarming, extreme heat streaks are becoming more common across the state,<sup>7</sup> and during a June 2025 heat wave, hospitals in the Atlanta metro region saw surges in patients with heat-related illnesses, with one system reportedly seeing a 20 percent increase in heat illness cases.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases Under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act*, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2025), <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-findings-greenhouse-gases-under-section-202a>; Philip B. Duffey et al., *Strengthened Scientific Support for the Endangerment Finding for Atmospheric Greenhouse Gases*, Science (Dec. 13, 2018), <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aat5982>.

<sup>2</sup> *IPCC Sixth Assessment Report*, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2021), <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1>.

<sup>3</sup> Lauren Lindsey and Diana Logreira, *Extreme Weather and Climate Change*, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Oct. 23, 2024), [science.nasa.gov/climate-change/extreme-weather](https://science.nasa.gov/climate-change/extreme-weather).

<sup>4</sup> *Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters*, NOAA National Centers for Environmental (2025), <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/state-summary/GA>.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *People at Increase Risk for Heat-Related Illness*, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Feb. 20, 2024), <https://www.cdc.gov/extreme-heat/risk-factors/index.html>.

<sup>7</sup> Kristal Dixon and Alex Fitpatrick, *Heat Streaks Are Becoming More Intense in Georgia*, Axios (Jul. 30, 2025), [www.axios.com/local/atlanta/2025/07/30/heat-streaks-georgia-climate-change-macon-augusta-atlanta](https://www.axios.com/local/atlanta/2025/07/30/heat-streaks-georgia-climate-change-macon-augusta-atlanta).

<sup>8</sup> Tom Regan, *Metro Atlanta Hospitals See Surge of Heat Illness, Including 1 Death*, WSB-TV Channel 2 – Atlanta (Jun. 25 2025), [www.wsbtv.com/news/local/forsyth-county/metro-atlanta-hospitals-see-surge-heat-illness-including-1-death/W3VEOZHMINBBJOXU3TLBE2WWVU](https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/forsyth-county/metro-atlanta-hospitals-see-surge-heat-illness-including-1-death/W3VEOZHMINBBJOXU3TLBE2WWVU).

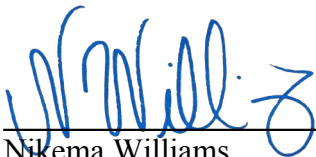
In addition, Georgia's coastal communities have already been among the first to experience the effects of climate change, which have caused flooding, saltwater contamination of drinking water systems, and millions' worth of infrastructure damages.<sup>9</sup> These same communities will bear the brunt of the damages from rising sea levels.<sup>10</sup>

What's more, Georgians know all too well how devastating increasingly severe natural disasters can be, especially for our rural communities. In 2024, Hurricane Helene, the deadliest storm in Georgia in more than 30 years,<sup>11</sup> caused an estimated \$6.46 billion-dollar hit to our state's agricultural economy.<sup>12</sup> This event wrecked the livelihoods of rural families and communities throughout Georgia who are still working to recover.

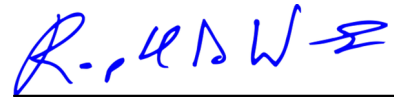
By proposing to rescind the Endangerment Finding, the Administration is choosing to strike at the foundation of the federal response to combat climate change and protect the health and safety of Georgians and their livelihoods. This choice would force Georgia's most vulnerable communities to endure more pollution, greater health risks, and higher costs.

We urge you to maintain the Endangerment Finding to protect the health and welfare of all Georgians.

Sincerely,



Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress

<sup>9</sup> *Coastal Hazards and Resiliency*, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (2025), <https://coastalgadnr.org/CoastalHazards>.

<sup>10</sup> *The Impacts of Climate Change and the Trump Administration's Anti-Environmental Agenda in Georgia*, Center for American Progress (Apr. 22, 2020), <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/impacts-climate-change-trump-administrations-anti-environmental-agenda-georgia>; Doug Marcy, Causes and Impacts of Local/Relative Sea Level Rise on GA and SC, NOAA Office of Coastal Management (2022). [https://coastalgadnr.org/sites/default/files/crd/CZM/CAC/Marcy\\_NOAA%20SLR%20presentation.pdf](https://coastalgadnr.org/sites/default/files/crd/CZM/CAC/Marcy_NOAA%20SLR%20presentation.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> Kann, Drew. "Hurricane Helene's Wind and Rain Inflicts Historic Damage Across Georgia." *Ajc*, 28 Sept. 2024, [www.ajc.com/atlanta-weather/hurricane-inflicts-historic-damage-across-georgia-atlanta-saw-unprecedented-rainfall/PM3FJNHKCJESNFZPN3CV2H2EG4](https://www.ajc.com/atlanta-weather/hurricane-inflicts-historic-damage-across-georgia-atlanta-saw-unprecedented-rainfall/PM3FJNHKCJESNFZPN3CV2H2EG4).

<sup>12</sup> Jay Ston and Jennifer Whittaker, *Helene Wreaks Havoc on Georgia Crops and Timber*, Georgia Farm Bureau (Oct. 13, 2024), <https://www.gfb.org/news/ag-news/post/helene-wreaks-havoc-on-georgia-crops-and-timber>.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucy McBath". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucy" and last name "McBath" clearly distinguishable.

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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress