

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 17, 2025

The Honorable Lee M. Zeldin  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

Nearly two decades ago, Massachusetts fought and won the landmark Supreme Court case *Massachusetts v. EPA*, which led the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue its 2009 Endangerment Finding—the legal and regulatory foundation for climate protection. Now, the climate change denying Trump EPA, under your leadership, is proposing to rescind the Endangerment Finding and turn the EPA into the Environmental Destruction Agency. We condemn and urge you to halt this dangerous and unjustified attack on the Endangerment Finding, which threatens the health and safety of our constituents in Massachusetts.

Rising global temperatures from climate change contribute to stronger hurricanes, more intense wildfires, extreme heat, and rising sea levels, all of which will grow worse without limits on greenhouse gas emissions. In 2007, in its decision in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, the Supreme Court determined that these emissions qualify as “air pollutants” under the Clean Air Act, and directed the EPA to assess whether those pollutants endanger public health or welfare.<sup>1</sup> Two years later, based on the overwhelming scientific evidence of their impact on climate change, the EPA confirmed that greenhouse gases pose such a threat.<sup>2</sup> This finding required that EPA regulate greenhouse gas emissions from cars, power plants, and other sources, all of which contribute to climate change.

There can be no reasonable dispute that climate change is real and consequential. Over the last year alone, the United States spent nearly \$1 trillion on recovery from climate-related disasters, including Hurricanes Helene and Milton and the Los Angeles wildfires.<sup>3</sup> Massachusetts has also faced increasingly severe weather. Hotter summers and more intense storms are straining infrastructure and putting residents at risk of public health emergencies.<sup>4</sup> In just the last five years, Massachusetts has experienced 14 extreme weather events, each causing more than \$1 billion in damages and totaling \$121.8 billion; at least 271 lives were lost.<sup>5</sup> Extreme heat is also a growing threat: between 1950 and 2013, Massachusetts averaged just 4 days per year above 90 degrees Fahrenheit—by 2050, that number is expected to rise to 25 days and to 55 days by 2090.<sup>6</sup>

Flooding is another constant and worsening risk for Massachusetts, fueled by sea level rise and stronger storms brought about by our changing climate. According to the most recent National Climate Assessment, the Northeast has seen a 60% increase in the number of extreme precipitation events since the 1950s.<sup>7</sup> Flooding contributes to coastal erosion and disproportionately affects communities of color and low-income populations, which make up 55% of the state’s coastal

---

<sup>1</sup> *Massachusetts v. EPA*, 549 U.S. 497 (2007).

<sup>2</sup> Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases Under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act; Final Rule, 40 C.F.R. Chapter I (2009).

<sup>3</sup> *The Climate Economy: 2025 Outlook*, Bloomberg Intelligence (June 16, 2025), [https://assets.bbhub.io/promo/sites/16/ClimateEconomyDeepDiveFINAL\\_PRINT.pdf](https://assets.bbhub.io/promo/sites/16/ClimateEconomyDeepDiveFINAL_PRINT.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Extreme weather events: Climate hazard adaptation profile, <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/extreme-weather-events#how-will-climate-change-make-things-worse> (last visited Aug. 18, 2025).

<sup>5</sup> National Centers for Environmental Information, *Massachusetts Summary* (2025), <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/state-summary/MA>.

<sup>6</sup> *Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment*, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (Dec. 2022), <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-climate-change-assessment>.

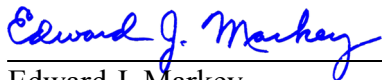
<sup>7</sup> Barbara Moran, *8 takeaways for Mass. From the National Climate Assessment*, WBUR (Nov. 14, 2023), <https://www.wbur.org/news/2023/11/14/fifth-national-climate-assessment-nca-massachusetts-new-england>.

population.<sup>8</sup> Nearly 2.5 million Massachusetts residents live in coastal communities, and approximately 20% of the state's residential land lies within a Federal Emergency Management Agency designated floodplain, putting homes and safety at continual risk.<sup>9</sup> In 2023, deep freezes, heavy rains, and severe flooding affected more than 100 farms in western Massachusetts, destroying 3,000 acres of crops and causing an estimated \$15 million in damages.<sup>10</sup> In December 2023, intense rain and wind left nearly 300,000 homes and businesses without power and caused more than 100 flight cancellations and hundreds of delays at Logan International Airport.<sup>11</sup>

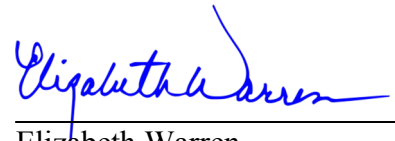
Rescinding the Endangerment Finding would dismantle the very safeguards that curb climate pollution and protect public health. By setting standards for vehicles, power plants, and aircrafts, the EPA fulfills its mission of protecting human health and the environment. Repealing the Endangerment Finding would go against Supreme Court precedent and congressional intent to regulate greenhouse gas emissions while stripping the EPA of its mandate, giving polluters a free pass to harm American families. For Massachusetts, this means more climate chaos, higher levels of pollution—especially in already overburdened communities—and greater economic and health costs.

We urge you to uphold the Endangerment Finding and protect the health and welfare of Massachusetts residents and communities nationwide. Ignoring danger does not change the science and facts: pollution from fossil fuels is heating our planet, worsening extreme weather, and imposing devastating costs.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



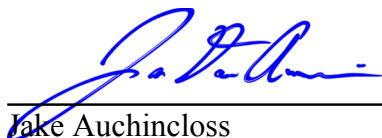
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> Press Release, Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, *Healey-Driscoll Administration Launches Statewide Coastal Resiliency Strategy*; Maya Mitchell, *Flooding in Massachusetts drains money, energy, and resources*, Commonwealth Beacon (May 20, 2025), <https://commonwealthbeacon.org/environment/flooding-in-massachusetts-drains-money-energy-and-resources/>.

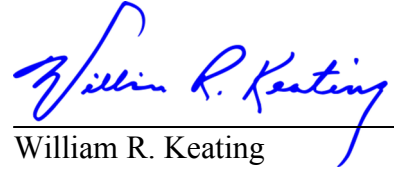
<sup>10</sup> Barbara Moran, *Slammed by climate emergencies, Mass. Farmers ask, 'Now what?'*, WBUR (Aug. 9, 2023), <https://www.wbur.org/news/2023/08/09/massachusetts-farms-2023-frost-floods-climate-change>.

<sup>11</sup> Rain and Wind Whip Through New England, Leaving 2 Dead and Hundreds of Thousands Without Power, WBUR (Dec. 18, 2023), <https://www.wbur.org/news/2023/12/18/power-outages-massachusetts-storm-impacts>.



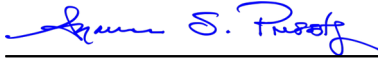
---

Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



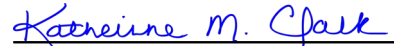
---

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



---

Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



---

Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress



---

Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress