

Comments from Laura Kate Bender
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Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards
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As prepared for delivery

My name is Laura Kate Bender and I'm the vice president for nationwide advocacy and public policy at the American Lung Association. Our mission is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

We appreciate this public hearing. However, it's not enough. This proposal is sweeping in a way that I've not seen in my 13-plus years responding to EPA actions. It incorporates overturning the Endangerment Finding and overturning all greenhouse gas emissions standards for all types of vehicles into one action. We urge EPA to extend the comment period further to allow for everyone to meaningfully weigh in on a proposal of this scale.

I want to highlight the robustness of the current record of science on the impacts of climate change. Let's look at the National Climate Assessment, a report that is required by Congress. It's a combined effort from hundreds of experts to assess and summarize current scientific knowledge, including incorporating uncertainty. It doesn't have a political agenda. It's just a huge group of experts coming together to assess past and present climate trends and their impacts.

As you're hearing loud and clear, the science linking climate change to human health harms was overwhelming when EPA issued the Endangerment Finding, and it's only gotten more robust since.

The most recent National Climate Assessment found risks to the lungs everywhere. Mold in flooded houses. Extreme heat. Wildfire smoke. And the scientific evidence of those harms matches the lived experiences of the people we work with. For example, the science shows that wildfire smoke can increase the risk of preterm birth. And physicians we work with tell us how they're seeing more newborns in the NICU after wildfire events. The science shows that older people and people who work outdoors are at greater risk of death from extreme heat. And we hear from health professionals who lose patients during heat waves.

EPA has a strong track record of basing its decisions on science. That's why it's so disappointing that the agency has issued this proposal. And what's more, it's based in part on a report from the Department of Energy that couldn't be more different from the

National Climate Assessment. It's authored by just five people. It hasn't gone through peer review. And its conclusions are not only absurd in the context of the scientific community, they're in direct contrast with the experience of people all over the country that climate change is making them and their families sick.

We urge EPA: Fulfill your mission to protect human health and the environment and abandon this proposed repeal. Thank you.