

# Weakening Climate Protections Will Increase Pollution, Cost Americans More than a Trillion Dollars

EPA's repeal of the Endangerment Finding and all greenhouse gas standards ever adopted will mean Americans in states across the country are paying more for fuel, breathing dirtier air, and are more vulnerable to climate change

By 2055, EDF analysis found repealing the Endangerment Finding would:

- Produce between **7.5 and 18 billion metric tons of climate pollution**
- Result in between **15,400 and 58,000 premature deaths**
- Lead to between **9 and 37 million asthma attacks**
- Deliver fuel costs between **\$680 billion and \$1.4 trillion**
- Cause health harms between **\$170 and \$500 billion** and climate harms between **\$1.5 and \$4.2 trillion**
- Fuel and maintenance cost increases alone for cars and passenger vehicles outweigh decreases in technology costs by **\$41 to \$450 billion**

metric tons. That is between 1.4 and 3.4 times the total amount of climate pollution the [U.S. emitted last year](#). This will cause between \$1.5 and \$4.2 trillion in climate harm.

## HEALTH HARMS

Repealing the Endangerment Finding and rolling back all vehicle GHG standards will increase soot and smog causing air pollution across the country leading to more premature deaths, asthma attacks, hospital and ER visits, and lost school and work days. In total, the U.S. will suffer between \$170 and \$500 billion of health harms by 2055. These health harms include:

- Between 15,400 and 58,000 premature deaths
- Between 9 and 37 million asthma attacks
- Between 26,000 and 92,000 ER and hospital visits
- Between 5 and 15 million lost school and work days

All states<sup>1</sup> will suffer substantial health harms as detailed in the table below. 26 states will see more than \$5 billion of health harms between now and 2055 due to this action and five states will see more than \$20 billion.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This excludes Hawaii and Alaska since it was not possible to calculate the health impacts in those states.

<sup>2</sup> These values are for the High Scenario

## BACKGROUND

In July 2025, EPA Administrator Zeldin proposed repealing the Endangerment Finding, the bedrock determination made in 2009 that climate pollution is a threat to human health and welfare, and the administration has said it will finalize that repeal soon. EDF conducted analysis to quantify the harmful pollution, health, and economic impacts Americans will experience due to this damaging repeal. We have also included state-by-state breakdowns of the fuel costs and health harms Americans will experience. All of the impacts we present below are substantial and the ranges reflect differences in potential vehicle fleet composition going forward. More information about the methodology can be found [here](#).

## CLIMATE POLLUTION

Climate change is already impacting every state in the nation and eliminating the Endangerment Finding will only worsen the impacts communities are feeling. Between now and 2055, this action will increase climate pollution by 7.5 to 18 billion

## FUEL COSTS

EPA's damaging action will result in higher-polluting vehicles that will be more expensive for Americans to fuel. Overall, fuel costs will increase between \$680 billion and \$1.4 trillion cumulatively between now and 2055. 36 states will see their fuel costs increase by more than \$10 billion between now and 2055 and eleven states will see an increase of more than \$40 billion.<sup>3</sup>

All of the above data includes expected Trump administration repeals of standards for both light- and medium-duty vehicles (cars, SUVs, and passenger trucks) and heavy-duty vehicles (including freight truck and buses). In addition, data for only the light- and medium-duty vehicle standards show that increases in fuel and maintenance costs alone outweigh any decreases in vehicle technology costs by between \$41 and \$450 billion. When the significant increase in health and climate harms are considered, the net societal costs of this action are staggering.

**Table 1: Cumulative Increase in Fuel Costs and Health Harms Americans will Experience from Repeal of Vehicle GHG Standards Through 2055 (High Scenario)**

<b>State</b>	<b>Fuel Costs (2024\$B)</b>	<b>Health Harms (2024\$B)</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Fuel Costs (2024\$B)</b>	<b>Health Harms (2024\$B)</b>
Alabama	\$27.49	\$3.11	Montana	\$8.59	\$3.19
Alaska	\$2.68	-	Nebraska	\$11.86	\$16.19
Arizona	\$46.02	\$1.60	Nevada	\$27.56	\$0.87
Arkansas	\$18.80	\$1.59	New Hampshire	\$3.35	\$0.20
California	\$123.11	\$50.94	New Jersey	\$30.68	\$16.13
Colorado	\$19.42	\$5.97	New Mexico	\$16.97	\$4.56
Connecticut	\$5.14	\$2.64	New York	\$36.46	\$8.33
Delaware	\$3.52	\$2.38	North Carolina	\$70.13	\$7.24
Dist. of Col.	\$0.93	\$0.27	North Dakota	\$5.60	\$10.27
Florida	\$92.68	\$1.55	Ohio	\$44.57	\$13.74
Georgia	\$52.36	\$4.01	Oklahoma	\$21.15	\$5.27
Hawaii	\$1.93	-	Oregon	\$36.10	\$2.21
Idaho	\$14.09	\$0.75	Pennsylvania	\$56.81	\$12.23
Illinois	\$40.58	\$29.09	Rhode Island	\$2.10	\$0.43
Indiana	\$30.89	\$15.80	South Carolina	\$26.06	\$1.13
Iowa	\$13.37	\$30.40	South Dakota	\$5.97	\$8.04
Kansas	\$12.18	\$10.18	Tennessee	\$37.94	\$5.78
Kentucky	\$24.38	\$5.79	Texas	\$109.77	\$104.80
Louisiana	\$29.08	\$38.78	Utah	\$17.16	\$3.87
Maine	\$6.02	\$0.32	Vermont	\$2.92	\$0.26
Maryland	\$23.05	\$5.08	Virginia	\$51.52	\$7.13
Massachusetts	\$7.53	\$2.69	Washington	\$72.63	\$11.28
Michigan	\$29.68	\$6.12	West Virginia	\$8.58	\$0.59
Minnesota	\$21.44	\$15.82	Wisconsin	\$18.81	\$5.24
Mississippi	\$19.21	\$6.26	Wyoming	\$5.78	\$2.87
Missouri	\$30.23	\$3.47	<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>\$1,425</b>	<b>\$497</b>

\*EPA's COBRA model only includes state health impacts from emissions changes from the contiguous U.S. so health impacts in Hawaii and Alaska were not calculated.

<sup>3</sup> These values are for the High Scenario

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