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Statement Rollup: Faith Organizations Denounce Repeal of Endangerment Finding

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Arizona Interfaith Power and Light

Rescinding the Endangerment Finding is a mistake that will harm our fellow Arizonans, especially the most vulnerable and anyone in the path of wildfires and flash floods. The effects of climate change are here now. In Arizona, wildfires, floods, and stretches of days above 115°F are becoming all too common. There is more than enough science to connect carbon pollution to climate change, and climate change to public health consequences. The Endangerment Finding is meant to protect us from the well-documented impacts of greenhouse gases. It's disheartening to see our government overturn its commitment to public health, the environment, and the economy. It is clear that this loyalty to the fossil fuel industry is not rooted in morality or faith, but rather greed and power.

As people of faith and conscience, we are called on to care for our neighbors, protect our Common Home, and care for Creation. On behalf of the many congregations who have collected hundreds of comments in opposition to the EPA's initial Endangerment proposal, we condemn the decision to rescind the Endangerment Finding.

Catholic Climate Covenant and Laudato Si' Movement

Catholic Climate Covenant and Laudato Si' Movement are deeply alarmed and disappointed by today's decision by the Environmental Protection Agency to rescind the 2009 Endangerment Finding.

This action abandons one of the most important public health safeguards in modern environmental law. Grounded in a 2007 Supreme Court ruling, the Endangerment Finding recognized that greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane are pollutants when they harm human

health and future generations. For more than fifteen years, it has provided the scientific and legal foundation for limiting pollution from vehicles, power plants, and industry.

Rescinding it places our country and our planet on a dangerous path.

Scientists have warned for decades that the burning of fossil fuels and the unchecked release of greenhouse gases would warm the planet and destabilize the climate. We are now living with the consequences: intensifying storms, prolonged droughts, crop failures, ecosystem collapse, rising health risks, and mounting economic losses. Even with the Endangerment Finding in place, we have not reduced emissions quickly enough to avoid worsening harm. Removing it signals retreat at precisely the moment when stronger action is needed.

The practical consequences of today's decision are far-reaching. Without the Endangerment Finding, the federal government will no longer have a clear mandate to enforce limits on car and small truck emissions, curb industrial pollution, or sustain progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions over recent decades. This will increase pollution, heighten uncertainty, and expose current and future generations to even greater risk.

While it is always appropriate to review and refine regulations, eliminating this foundational finding is not refinement — it is dismantlement.

“This action is akin to eliminating stop lights because you don't like the color red,” Catholic Climate Covenant Founder and Executive Director, Dan Misleh, told Kate Scanlon of OSV News. “...One can only imagine God reaching for the antacids as we ignore both scientific warnings and moral responsibility.”

The inconvenience of regulation cannot justify the chaos and harm that follow its removal. For Catholics and all people of faith, this is not primarily a political issue. It is a moral one.

We are called to be co-creators with God and to cherish and protect the gift of creation. Catholic Social Teaching makes clear that care for our common home and solidarity with the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized are central to our faith. Those who have contributed least to climate change — low-income communities, future generations, vulnerable nations — will suffer the most from today's decision.

The Covenant and Laudato Si' Movement have worked to preserve the Endangerment Finding since last September, when over a dozen multi-faith organizations worked together to collect nearly 10,000 comments from various religious congregations across the country, asking the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) not to rescind the Endangerment Finding.

The organizations, including Catholic Climate Covenant, Franciscan Action Network, Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action, Laudato Si' Movement – North America, NETWORK, the Sisters of Mercy, Ignatian Solidarity Movement, National Religious Partnership for the Environment,

Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns, as well as thousands of Black church leaders, worked with their supporters to collect comments delivered to the EPA on Sept. 17.

The role of government is to advance the common good, not to privilege the wealthy and well-connected. Rescinding the Endangerment Finding moves us further from that responsibility.

St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis, and now Pope Leo XIV, along with the U.S. Catholic bishops, have consistently urged bold action to confront climate change. In his apostolic exhortation *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis asked a haunting question: “What would induce anyone, at this stage, to hold on to power, only to be remembered for their inability to take action when it was urgent and necessary to do so?”

When we know what is required to reduce the risks of climate change and choose not to act, we fail in our duty as stewards of God’s creation. Catholic Climate Covenant and *Laudato Si’* Movement call on Congress, state leaders, and people of goodwill across the nation to redouble their commitment to climate solutions that protect human health, safeguard creation, and defend the most vulnerable.

Today’s decision is more than a setback — it is unconscionable. The Endangerment Finding should have stood. But our moral obligation to care for our common home remains unchanged.

Creation Justice Ministries

“The Endangerment Finding is not just a legal obligation, it is a moral recognition that pollution from greenhouse gases is harming people, ecosystems, and the sacred balance of life. To repeal this finding is to deny both overwhelming scientific evidence and our moral responsibility to protect public health and God’s Creation. Over seventy faith leaders submitted public comments urging the EPA to uphold the Endangerment Finding, protect existing GHG emission standards and strengthen our national commitments to caring for Creation.

Abandoning regulations that protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the future of our children is a grave injustice, especially when such action benefits only a few powerful polluters at the expense of all others. We lament the harm this repeal will cause for all of our neighbors and for all creatures.”

Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action

Rabbi Jennie Rosenn, Founder and CEO

“The decision to rescind the Endangerment Finding is a repudiation of science, the public will, and the very mission of the EPA to protect human health and the environment. This will go down in history as an act of immoral cowardice, the moment when the Trump administration sold our future to the fossil fuel industry, condemning us to a world that will be hotter, drier, and more dangerous.

Over half a million people spoke out about the urgency to protect the Endangerment Finding. From communities of faith to climate scientists to medical professionals to everyday Americans concerned about their kids and grandkids – we sent in public comments, testified at hearings, and showed up at the EPA offices.

This administration, tragically, does not care what we have to say. This administration is more interested in listening to corporate polluters and billionaires.

The Endangerment Finding was the very foundation that established the scientific truth that greenhouse gas emissions released by fossil fuels cause harm. It is the bedrock upon which the EPA was able to fulfill its mission.

Repealing the Finding is like tossing out the Ten Commandments. They are not only denying something that's fundamentally true about the world, but have eliminated what enables our federal government to live and act in alignment with our core values.

It is now incumbent on all Americans to redouble our efforts to encourage states and local policymakers to do all in their power to fill the void and advance the clean energy revolution that is necessary to build a just, safe, livable future for all of us.”

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. Amy Reumann, Senior Director, Witness in Society

“The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) expresses profound concern and disappointment regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's decision to rescind the endangerment finding on greenhouse gas emissions. This action undermines our collective responsibility to care for God's creation and protect the well-being of current and future generations.

As people of faith, we recognize the wisdom of science as a God-given gift that illuminates our path forward. The overwhelming scientific consensus on climate change compels us to act with urgency and moral clarity. We have declared this a "Kairos moment"—an ancient Greek term meaning a critical, decisive time when action is essential. The removal of this finding sets us back precisely when moving forward on climate action is imperative.

The ELCA's social teaching on climate change is grounded in our understanding that creation is a gift from God, entrusted to our care not for exploitation, but for stewardship. We are called to share this gift equitably and preserve it for those who come after us. Removing the endangerment finding eliminates a crucial regulatory framework necessary to fulfill this sacred responsibility.

The ELCA has consistently called for increased regulation of greenhouse gas emissions. We have also clearly rejected approaches that prioritize short-term economic considerations over the long-term social, economic, and ecological well-being of future generations. We oppose any

attempts to weaponize or distort scientific research or to misrepresent the intentions of those working to address this crisis.

This EPA decision does both of those things—it distorts scientific research and prioritizes the present over the future. We urge the EPA to reconsider this decision and to restore protections that honor both scientific truth and our sacred obligation to care for creation.

Faith in Place

Rev. Brian Sauder, Executive Director

"The issuance of this final rule marks a dark milestone for the Midwest and for our nation. With the stroke of a pen, the EPA has chosen to ignore science, silence communities, and dismantle one of the most important legal protections we have against climate harm. At Faith in Place, we see this for what it is: a moral failure.

To claim that greenhouse gases do not endanger human life is to deny the floods, heatwaves, and respiratory illnesses already ravaging our region. It is to deny the lived experience of families breathing polluted air, farmers facing climate instability, and neighborhoods repeatedly left to recover alone.

Our diverse faith traditions teach that breath is sacred. In Hebrew, ruach means spirit, wind, breath. What is at stake here is not an abstract policy debate—it is life itself. We will continue to organize, advocate, and build power until every community can breathe freely and live with dignity."

Green the Church

Rev. Dr. Ambrose Carroll, Sr., Founder and CEO

"With the finalization of this rule, the EPA has officially signed a decree that puts a price tag on the lungs of Black children. By rescinding the Endangerment Finding, this administration isn't just ignoring science; they are ignoring the screams of our communities, the 'sacrifice zones' where the air is thick with the very pollution they now claim is harmless.

For the Black Church, the fight for environmental justice is a fight for the right to breathe. We know that our communities are disproportionately located near power plants and highways. This move is a moral failure and a direct assault on the progress we have made. Green The Church stands with our ancestors and our children to say: you can repeal a finding, but you cannot repeal the truth of our lived experience. We will see you in court, and we will see you in the streets."

Ignatian Solidarity Network

"The Ignatian Solidarity Network is deeply concerned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to repeal the Endangerment Finding, a longstanding scientific

determination that greenhouse gas pollution threatens human health and welfare. This action disregards well-established science and weakens essential protections for the health of our communities and our common home.

Through our work accompanying and forming young people across Catholic schools, universities, and ministries, we see firsthand that today's youth understand the urgency of the climate crisis and the moral responsibility to respond. Young people are inheriting a world marked by increasing environmental instability, extreme weather, and growing inequities caused by climate change. Decisions that weaken environmental protections place an unjust burden on future generations and disproportionately harm communities already on the margins.

Rooted in the Catholic tradition and inspired by the call to care for creation, we affirm that environmental stewardship is inseparable from the pursuit of justice and the protection of human dignity. As Pope Francis reminds us, the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are one. Public policies must reflect this moral responsibility by safeguarding clean air, protecting vulnerable communities, and preserving a livable planet for current and future generations.

The Endangerment Finding has provided a critical foundation for limiting pollution and protecting public health for more than a decade. Weakening this safeguard undermines efforts to address the climate crisis at a time when bold action is urgently needed.

We urge policymakers to listen to the voices of young people, respect scientific evidence, and uphold their responsibility to protect both people and the planet. The decisions we make today must reflect our commitment to the common good and to future generations.”

Michigan Interfaith Power and Light

Leah Wiste, Executive Director

Our wisdom traditions teach us that human beings are stewards of Creation—endowed with a special responsibility to tend and manage the living Earth. This is a sacred relationship and a two-way street. We are caretakers who are also dependent and reliant on the gifts of Creation: fresh water, clean air, and the fruits of life. When we fail to uphold our duty to protect and restore Creation, we diminish our own wellbeing. And when we keep failing—in spite of everything science and common sense tell us—we put into motion our own demise.

Here in Michigan, the increasing prevalence of extreme weather events is impossible to ignore. Historically, our state experiences an average of 15 tornadoes a year. In 2025, we had 30. Power outages and flooding are now commonplace in Southeast Michigan. With infrastructure that is both disinvested and strained beyond capacity, it is only a matter of time before we see more catastrophic water main breaks like the one that displaced hundreds of households and caused \$8-10million worth of damage in Southwest Detroit last February. The ice storm that rocked Northern Michigan in March left 300,000 customers without power and damaged nearly 3million acres of forest, harming the lives and livelihoods of so many of our neighbors. Recovery is still in progress.

Rolling back the Endangerment Finding, and knee-capping the EPA's ability to regulate climate pollution and to advance climate solutions, is an affront to the sanctity of life. It will deepen the harms Michiganders are already experiencing. We condemn this action in the strongest possible terms.

National Religious Partnership for the Environment

“In repealing the Endangerment Finding, the Environmental Protection Agency has chosen to abdicate its responsibility to protect public health and the environment from the pollution that causes climate change. As people of faith, we see this clearly for what it is: a moral failure.

In September, over 18,000 lay members and leaders representing diverse faith communities across the country submitted comments to the EPA rejecting the repeal and reaffirming our sacred calling to be stewards of God's creation, workers of justice, and defenders of life. As a unified faith community, we denounce this repeal and stand in solidarity with our vulnerable neighbors and all of God's creation who will suffer from the resulting increased greenhouse gas emissions.”

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director

“We condemn the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent decision to rescind the Endangerment Finding, a critical federal policy that enables the EPA to regulate greenhouse gases. This decision flies in the face of science, which for decades has told us that human-produced greenhouse gas emissions contribute to the climate crisis, endangering public health and welfare.

The RAC has long been a leading faith voice advocating for strong clean air protections. Under the Biden administration, we successfully advocated for the EPA to adopt the strongest possible soot rule to limit harmful particulate matter pollution, recognizing that air quality is inseparable from climate justice and public health. We bring that same commitment to defending the Endangerment Finding.

Since 2009, the EPA's Endangerment Finding, which holds that carbon dioxide, methane, and four other greenhouse gases pose a serious threat to public health, has provided the legal basis for the EPA to regulate climate-warming pollutants under the Clean Air Act. Congress, the Supreme Court, and the vast majority of scientists agree that greenhouse gases endanger public health by destabilizing weather systems and ecosystems, increasing famine and poverty, and promoting the spread of infectious diseases. By rescinding the Endangerment Finding, the EPA has abdicated its legal mandate under the Clean Air Act to protect communities and the planet itself from the growing threats of climate change. Repealing the Endangerment Finding will disproportionately harm Communities of Color—who are 40 percent more likely to live in areas with the highest projected climate-related mortality rates—ensuring those least responsible for climate change suffer its worst consequences.

As Reform Jews, we know that the climate crisis is a moral one. When God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, God commanded them "l'ovdah ul'shomrah"—to till it and to keep it (Genesis 2:15). We are but temporary caretakers of the Earth, called not to dominate as controlling managers but to nurture as loving gardeners. To reject the science detailing the crisis facing our planet is to reject our moral responsibility of tikkun olam, to repair what has been broken in the world.

Even as the EPA abdicates its responsibility to protect our environment, we will not stop fighting. We will continue demanding action at all levels of government and ensure our communities reduce emissions and prepare for a warming world."