



TOWN OF WELLESLEY MASSACHUSETTS

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**Climate Action Committee Voices Support for Preserving the EPA's
Endangerment Finding**

Unusual Action Aims to Preserve Greenhouse Gas Emissions Regulations

September 29, 2025 (Wellesley, MA) – The Town of Wellesley's [Climate Action Committee](#) recently submitted a [letter](#) to express strong opposition to a proposal issued on July 29, 2025, by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to rescind a key finding regarding the dangers of greenhouse gas emissions – known as the Endangerment Finding – and to eliminate federal greenhouse gas emissions standards for motor vehicles. The Climate Action Committee does not generally comment on proposed federal actions, but members voted to submit comments in this instance given the foundational role of the Endangerment Finding in allowing the EPA to regulate greenhouse gas emissions to protect the public from the dangerous effects of climate change. The Climate Action Committee asserts that repeal of the Endangerment Finding would be arbitrary and capricious, would ignore the overwhelming body of scientific evidence, would fail to carry out the EPA's statutory duty under the Clean Air Act, and would disregard the interests of states, municipalities, and communities that have built climate policies around existing federal standards.

Issued by the EPA in 2009 under the Clean Air Act, the Endangerment Finding concluded that greenhouse gas emissions are a danger to public health and welfare. The finding provided the EPA with the legal authority to set and enforce regulations to limit emissions, including from new motor vehicles, power plants, and oil and gas facilities. In its comment letter, the Climate Action Committee points out that the Endangerment Finding is rooted in rigorous scientific evidence establishing climate change's causes and impacts. The Committee outlines the destructive effects that climate change has already had on Wellesley as documented in the Town's 2020 [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Summary of Findings Report](#) and 2023 [Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). These reports identified four primary hazards already evident in Wellesley: extreme heat, drought, flooding, and an increase in the frequency and severity of

intense storms, as well as the climate-related dangers of infectious disease and invasive species. Without significant action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, these impacts are projected to worsen, threatening human health and livelihoods, ecosystems, natural resources, infrastructure, and our economy.

Further, the Climate Action Committee notes that rescinding vehicle greenhouse gas standards would eliminate any meaningful regulation of transportation emissions. In the Town of Wellesley, transportation accounts for approximately 32 percent of townwide greenhouse gas emissions. National EPA data from 2022 show that transportation accounted for 28 percent of total emissions.

The Climate Action Committee concluded its comment letter by asserting that the EPA must uphold the Endangerment Finding and continue its regulatory obligations under the Clean Air Act. Any rescission would expose the public—particularly vulnerable communities—to clearly avoidable harm. Rolling back the legal underpinnings of a legal provision that is designed to protect health and welfare is both short-sighted and exacerbates danger to communities, including Wellesley, that are already suffering from the cumulative impact of climate change.

About the Climate Action Committee

The Climate Action Committee mission focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Wellesley, including emissions from municipal, residential, commercial, and institutional sectors. In April 2021, Wellesley's Annual Town Meeting voted to approve robust [targets](#) for reducing emissions in alignment with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts carbon neutrality goals and grounded in the latest climate science as reported by the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The goals are a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (as compared to 2007 levels); a 75% reduction in emissions by 2040; and net zero emissions by 2050. The Climate Action Committee is currently working with partners in every sector to implement the Town's 2022 [Climate Action Plan](#), which is a roadmap to achieving these goals.

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