
ORIGINAL

U.S. EPA VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
RECONSIDERATION OF 2009 ENDANGERMENT FINDING AND
GREENHOUSE GAS VEHICLE STANDARDS

DATE: August 22, 2025
TIME: 9:29 a.m. EST to 3:58 p.m. EST
REPORTED BY: Juliana M. Cary
Stenographic Court Reporter
Notary Public, State of Florida

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Pages 1 - 181

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. LEONARD: Good morning. This is the
3 Virtual Public Hearing for the United States
4 Environmental Protection Agency's Reconsideration
5 of 2009 Endangerment Finding and greenhouse gas
6 vehicle standards. We will begin shortly.

7 Good morning. The time is 10 a.m. Good
8 morning and welcome to the United States
9 Environmental Protection Agency's, or EPA, Virtual
10 Public Hearing for the Reconsideration of 2009
11 Endangerment Finding and greenhouse gas vehicle
12 standards.

13 My name is Colleen, and I will serve as your
14 meeting facilitator for today's hearing. Please
15 note, we are transcribing today's hearing, and you
16 can turn on live captioning if you would like to
17 read the verbal dialogue. To turn on closed
18 captions, click on the CC icon that says Live
19 Transcript at the bottom of your screen. Then
20 click Show Subtitles to view the closed captioning
21 and hide subtitles to turn them off. If you have
22 any questions, please contact the meeting host.

23 I'll turn it over to Aaron Szabo, Assistant
24 Administrator in the Office of Air and Radiation,
25 for a few opening remarks, followed by Bill

1 Charmley, Director of the Assessment and Standards
2 Division in the Office of Transportation and Air
3 Quality, who will serve as the presiding officer
4 for today's hearing. Thank you.

5 MR. SZABO: Thank you so much, Colleen, and
6 welcome to Day Four. Good morning. On behalf of
7 the Environmental Protection Agency and the Office
8 of Air and Radiation, I'd like to welcome you to
9 today's virtual public hearing. I'm grateful for
10 everyone who's taking the time out of their day to
11 testify and participate today and those who have
12 participated over the past three days.

13 I am Aaron Szabo, Assistant Administrator for
14 EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. With me today
15 is Bill Charmley, Director of the Assessment and
16 Standards Division within EPA's Office of
17 Transportation and Air Quality. Bill will be the
18 presiding officer for today's hearing.

19 In addition, with me today and listening to
20 the testimony on this proposed rule are several of
21 my EPA colleagues from the Office of Air and
22 Radiation. EPA is also being assisted by our
23 contractor, ICF, in the running of today's virtual
24 public hearing.

25 On August 1st, we published an important

1 proposal to rescind the 2009 Greenhouse Gas
2 Endangerment Finding and remove greenhouse gas
3 emission regulations from on-highway engines and
4 vehicles. This proposed rule, titled
5 Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and
6 greenhouse gas vehicle standards, is the subject of
7 today's hearing. The 2009 Greenhouse Gas
8 Endangerment Finding is a prerequisite for
9 regulating emissions from new motor vehicles and
10 new motor vehicle engines.

11 Absent this finding, EPA lacks statutory
12 Authority under Section 202 of the Clean Air Act to
13 prescribe standards for greenhouse gas emissions.
14 Therefore, we also propose to remove greenhouse gas
15 regulations for light, medium, and heavy-duty
16 on-highway vehicles and engines. If finalized as
17 proposed, engine and vehicle manufacturers would no
18 longer have any future obligations for the
19 measurement, control, and reporting of greenhouse
20 gas emissions for any highway engine and vehicle,
21 including model years manufactured prior to this
22 proposal.

23 This proposal responds to Administrator
24 Zeldin's March 2025 announcement that has been
25 lauded as the greatest and most consequential day

1 of deregulation in the history of the United
2 States. In his announcement, Administrator Zeldin
3 included a formal reconsideration of the 2009
4 endangerment finding in prior regulations and
5 actions that rely on the endangerment finding.
6 These were announced in conjunction with a number
7 of historic actions to advance President Trump's
8 Day One Executive Orders and Power the Great
9 American Comeback. While accomplishing EPA's core
10 mission of protecting the environment, the Agency
11 is committed to fulfilling President Trump's
12 promise to unleash American energy, lower costs for
13 Americans, revitalize the American auto industry,
14 restore the rule of law, and give power back to
15 states to make their own decisions.

16 Today we look forward to hearing additional
17 input through your comments on our proposal. EPA
18 will consider all the comments we hear today from
19 the many stakeholders participating in this hearing
20 as we develop the final rule. We also look forward
21 to considering additional written comments that we
22 received during the public comment period, which is
23 open until September 22nd, 2025.

24 Thank you all for attending this important
25 public hearing and thank you to everyone who will

1 provide testimony throughout the hearing. I now
2 will turn it over to Bill Charmley, the Presiding
3 Officer for today's hearing. Thank you.

4 MR. CHARMLEY: Thank you, Assistant
5 Administrator. As the Assistant Administrator
6 stated, the purpose of this hearing today is to
7 receive comments from interested parties and the
8 proposed rulemaking titled Rescission of the 2009
9 Endangerment Finding and greenhouse gas vehicle
10 standards, which was published in the Federal
11 Register on August 1st of 2025.

12 This hearing provides interested parties the
13 opportunity for the oral presentation of views and
14 arguments. Witnesses will be allowed to make oral
15 statements, which they may later expand in writing
16 for the official record of the hearing. When you
17 are finished with your comments, members of this
18 panel may ask clarifying questions.

19 This hearing is not intended to be a
20 discussion of the proposed rulemaking. While we
21 might ask questions or request additional data or
22 supporting materials, we will not respond to
23 comments in this forum. Instead, we will provide a
24 written response to comments as part of the process
25 of finalizing this proposed rulemaking.

1 I would like to remind everyone that in
2 addition to today's hearing, there is also an
3 opportunity to send EPA written comments. The
4 written comment period closes on September 22nd,
5 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. The details on
6 where and how to submit written comments can be
7 found in the Federal Register notice that announced
8 the proposal as well as on our EPA website.

9 Now I'd like to go over how we will be
10 conducting today's hearing. Today's hearing will
11 be conducted informally. Formal rules of evidence
12 will not apply. I will be serving as a presiding
13 officer for today's hearing, and as such, I am
14 authorized to apply reasonable limits on the
15 duration of the statement of any witness.

16 When I am not available, my EPA colleague Mike
17 Olechiw will be serving as presiding officer for
18 this hearing. We each -- excuse me. We ask that
19 each person limit their verbal testimony to 2
20 minutes and 30 seconds. Given the number of
21 testifiers for this hearing, we will need to hold
22 speakers to that time limit. Our contractor, ICF,
23 will be facilitating the lineup of speakers and
24 helping to keep testimony to two and a half
25 minutes. We appreciate everyone's cooperation,

1 which will help to ensure that everyone who is
2 registered has an opportunity to speak.

3 A written transcript of this hearing will be
4 available electronically on EPA's website and at
5 the regulations.gov website under the docket for
6 this rulemaking, which is docket number
7 EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0194. The official record of this
8 hearing will be kept open for 30 days after the
9 last date of the hearing to provide, which is
10 today, provide opportunity to submit rebuttal and
11 supplemental testimony. You may submit this
12 additional testimony to the same docket for this
13 action by using one of the methods described in the
14 Federal Register notice announcing the proposal.

15 Please note that EPA has distributed a list in
16 a tentative order of those registered to speak
17 today and will be making adjustments throughout the
18 hearing as needed to provide every individual an
19 opportunity to speak. Finally, while the EPA
20 representative speaking today will attempt to
21 ensure the accuracy of any descriptions that we
22 provide to the proposed rulemaking, the official
23 version of the proposal is that which was published
24 in the Federal Register on August 1st of 2025, and
25 it controls in any case of conflict between it and

1 what you may hear today. Please refer to the
2 official version in developing your written
3 comments on this proposal.

4 Should there be any members of the press that
5 have further questions about today's hearing, we
6 ask that they please contact the EPA press office
7 at press@epa.gov. Thank you very much.

8 And with that, I'm going to turn it back over
9 to Colleen and our facilitators from ICF, who is
10 going to go over some logistics for today's virtual
11 public hearing. Thank you.

12 MS. LEONARD: Thank you, Aaron and Bill. I
13 would now like to go over today's agenda. Today's
14 public hearing is scheduled to last until all
15 testifiers who wish to speak have had an
16 opportunity to do so. Because we are meeting in
17 the virtual space instead of in person, we'd like
18 to go over some logistics for today's public
19 hearing.

20 Today's hearing is being recorded for the
21 court reporter, and the recording will not be
22 posted publicly; however, a written transcript
23 excuse me, will be publicly available. Therefore,
24 do not include any information you consider to be
25 confidential business information or proprietary

1 business information or medical information about
2 someone other than yourself, or other information
3 whose disclosure is restricted by an applicable
4 authority in your testimony.

5 Please note that all attendees' microphones
6 are muted and cameras are turned off automatically.
7 Each speaker will have two and a half minutes to
8 speak. Please speak slowly and clearly for the
9 benefit of the court reporter and closed captioning
10 team. There will be an on-screen timer for those
11 who are online, and if we have anyone on the phone,
12 I will give phone participants a 30-second warning
13 when you need to wrap up.

14 Due to the large volume of registered speakers
15 and registrants already on the waitlist to provide
16 oral testimony during this hearing, we will be
17 strictly enforcing the two and a half minute time
18 limit for each speaker. Thank you in advance for
19 your cooperation to ensure we hear from as many
20 attendees as possible.

21 If you have any additional comments you would
22 like to provide, you can also submit them through
23 the docket at www.regulations.gov using docket ID
24 EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0194.

25 We will display the list of registered

1 speakers arranged by panels so you know
2 approximately when your turn to speak is coming up.
3 If you are speaking today, you will receive a
4 notification on your screen that you are being
5 promoted to panelist shortly prior to your speaking
6 time. You must click to accept that invitation to
7 be able to unmute when you are called to testify.
8 This will also allow you to turn on your camera,
9 which we encourage you to do.

10 Speakers connected by phone should unmute
11 their phones by pressing star 6 when called to
12 testify. When called upon, please state your name
13 and any affiliation and then begin your testimony.
14 If you need to change your name that appears on
15 Zoom so it's easier for us to find you, you can do
16 that by clicking the Participant button on the Zoom
17 toolbar at the bottom of your screen, hover the
18 mouse over your name, which will appear at the
19 right of your screen, and click on More. A window
20 will open allowing you to edit or correct how your
21 name is displayed. When done, click Ok.

22 If at any time during the hearing you are
23 having technical difficulties, please use the Chat
24 feature located at the bottom of your screen to
25 message the meeting host or contact EPApublic

1 hearing@icf.com or call 805-697-4398. Please make
2 a note of the phone number for this hearing. That
3 phone number is 669-254-5252, webinar id
4 1612886000.

5 If you are having trouble with your Internet
6 connection at any point during the hearing, you can
7 call this number to listen to the hearing.
8 Additionally, individual Internet connections and
9 bandwidths vary and may impact your viewing
10 experience. We recommend closing all apps and
11 programs and limiting other streaming or downloads
12 while you're participating in this hearing.

13 If you are not registered to speak today, but
14 you would like to do so, please send an email to
15 EPA Public Hearing, so EPA
16 P-U-B-L-I-C-H-E-A-R-I-N-G, @icf.com or call
17 805-697-4398.

18 We will now begin accepting public testimony.
19 Please note that an EPA representative may ask
20 clarifying questions at the end of your testimony;
21 otherwise, we will immediately move on to the next
22 speaker. The expected speaking order is currently
23 displayed on screen. Again, we ask that each
24 person limit their verbal testimony to 2.5 minutes,
25 two and a half minutes.

1 If you have additional comments which you are
2 not able to provide orally today, you can submit
3 them through www.regulations.gov using docket ID
4 EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0194. I will be calling on each
5 speaker one at a time in the order displayed on
6 screen. Please speak clearly so our court reporter
7 can record these proceedings accurately. I
8 apologize in advance for mispronouncing anyone's
9 name.

10 With that, our first speaker will be Panelist
11 2, Melissa Everett.

12 MS. EVERETT: Good morning. I'm just
13 unmuting, and thank you very much for this
14 excellent organization and the seriousness of these
15 proceedings. I speak on behalf of Sustainable
16 Hudson Valley, which serves a 10-county region of
17 4.2 million people whose health and safety, food
18 security, economy, and well-being are already
19 impacted by climate change, which we are
20 experiencing on a daily basis. You too serve these
21 people.

22 The proposal to reverse the endangerment rule
23 flies in the face of public sentiment as well as
24 fully resolved science connecting greenhouse gases
25 in the atmosphere with climate change and its

1 hazards. This issue is on many minds.

2 Recent research by the Environmental Voter
3 Project shows that people are thinking about
4 climate change more often than either abortion or
5 immigration issues. EPA's -- one of your stated
6 rationales that vehicles are not solely at fault is
7 irrelevant and disingenuous. EPA itself has upheld
8 this rule in numerous petitions. The U.S. Court of
9 Appeals has also upheld it. Stop this clearly
10 political reversal of a reasonable rule based on
11 settled science. Thank you.

12 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comment.

13 MS. EVERETT: I set a precedent for tightness.
14 Here we go.

15 MS. LEONARD: Thank you so much for your
16 comments.

17 Our next panelist will be Rita Joan Beving.

18 MS. BEVING: Good morning. My name is Rita
19 Beving, and I work with Liveable Arlington in
20 Tarrant County, Texas, home to the second most
21 fracked county in America for urban gas drilling.

22 Within the county, there are more than 400 gas
23 wells with almost 1 million out of 2.1 million
24 residents living less than 1/2 mile from a fracking
25 site. Today, I am asking the EPA as an agency to

1 maintain, not rescind, the Endangerment Finding
2 established 16 years ago. Doing so would deny that
3 climate change exists and that pollution causes no
4 harm to public health or the environment.

5 Texas is the worst state in the union for
6 greenhouse gas emissions, producing more greenhouse
7 gases than the next two states combined. As the
8 number one oil and gas producing state, it has also
9 made our state the worst in the nation for methane.
10 All contribute to climate change.

11 The Endangerment Finding is the backbone for
12 nearly every climate pollution protection.
13 Negating it would make weather events more extreme
14 with more drought and more floods. Like the deadly
15 and tragic example we just had in Kerrville and
16 elsewhere. Denying climate change will threaten
17 agriculture and our food supply. Texas is already
18 dealing with the encroachment of screwworm near the
19 border that threatens to wipe out entire herds of
20 cattle. It would also increase the threats of Zika
21 and West Nile virus.

22 The DFW region has not been in compliance with
23 the Clean Air Act since 1991. Rescinding this
24 finding would only exasperate the situation and
25 make matters worse. More air pollution, more

1 heat-related illness, more deadly extreme weather,
2 this would be the result if we rescind the
3 Endangerment Finding. I ask that this agency
4 maintain this important finding for the sake of the
5 people you are charged to protect. Thank you.

6 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

7 The next speaker is Catherine Hamlin.

8 MS. HAMLIN: Hello. Good morning. My name is
9 Catherine Hamlin. I live in Vermont. Thank you
10 for the opportunity to speak today.

11 As a private individual, I oppose repealing
12 the Endangerment Finding. Today, I will focus my
13 comments on how climate change has impacted my life
14 in rural Vermont.

15 In my neighborhood, we have had two major
16 floods over the past 14 years. Tropical Storm
17 Irene in 2011 resulted in 8 inches of rainfall in
18 less than 24 hours, causing over \$700 million in
19 damage. My town was an isolated community where my
20 neighbors could not get outside their hillside
21 homes.

22 The National Guard and emergency responders
23 brought food, water, and medicine to them using
24 helicopters and ATVs. Roads were literally washed
25 away. Multiple businesses closed, never to reopen.

1 My neighbors had to evacuate to our home two
2 years ago during another flood. Vermont homes have
3 historically been built on floodplains, and now the
4 owners can't afford flood insurance to protect from
5 losses from the inevitable next flood. We have had
6 many more rainy days in winter than I ever
7 experienced growing up three hours south of here.
8 Rain in December? Are you kidding me? This has
9 become a norm.

10 Our local ski mountain mitigates climate
11 change by making snow with machines. Regional
12 trends show that ski seasons are shrinking due to
13 climate change despite such efforts.

14 Climate change has affected me as a gardener
15 and hiker. We are experiencing more ticks.
16 Several family members have been diagnosed with
17 Lyme disease. When smoke from wildfires arrives in
18 New England, which it increasingly does, hiking is
19 discouraged due to health risks. If one hikes
20 anyway, the views are compromised by haze.

21 There is a domino effect of climate change on
22 ecosystems due to the interconnections between
23 organisms. One example is our local moose
24 population becoming sickened from excessive ticks.
25 If the Endangerment Finding is repealed, climate

1 change will accelerate, leading to harms to the
2 health of individuals and ecosystems.

3 Final thought. You are the Environmental
4 Protection Agency. Please do your job and protect
5 the environment. Let's make America's lands and
6 waters healthy again. Please do not repeal the
7 Endangerment Finding.

8 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
9 The next speaker is Megan Horst.

10 MS. HORST: Good morning. My name's Megan,
11 and I'm both a private citizen in Oregon and I'm
12 also a consultant with Cascadia Consulting, where
13 we work on climate adaptation planning and other
14 environmental planning. And I'm also affiliated as
15 an affiliate professor at Portland State
16 University.

17 And I'm very moved by the earlier testimony of
18 people's lives being impacted by climate change,
19 and I echo that. I live in a state, Oregon, and in
20 the west, that is known for its moderate climate
21 historically and its beautiful natural resources,
22 mountains, rivers, glaciers, and forests. And
23 those are all being very negatively impacted by
24 climate change, and we may have a west that is no
25 more beautiful in the very near future.

1 The west is already experiencing lots of
2 wildfires. There's been over 60 homes lost in
3 Oregon this year. And that's not -- there'll
4 probably be more coming ahead. There's worth
5 hundreds of deaths in June 2021 to the heat dome,
6 unprecedented Heat dome event. And we today kick
7 off five days in a row of 100-degree weather here
8 in Portland, Oregon, which has historically never
9 experienced such high temperatures.

10 Flooding and drought impacts farmers. Rising
11 energy costs affect all of us, and they're rising
12 exponentially right now. Cost of insurance, cost
13 to rebuild and particularly concerning to me is
14 wildfire smoke affects children. Their little
15 lungs can't handle the small PM2.5 that gets in
16 them.

17 So, your job, as many people have said, is to
18 reject this proposal because your job is to protect
19 the environment and our health, particularly of our
20 children. So, I urge you to make America green
21 again.

22 This proposal was written by a small number of
23 scientists who are well known for their viewpoints
24 on climate change that don't match 99.9 percent of
25 the global scientists community, and the proposal

1 contains a wide number of factual errors and false
2 statements. I say this as somebody with a PhD who
3 studies climate change and works on it daily.

4 In my role as a consultant, I work with small
5 towns, rural counties and cities across the Pacific
6 Northwest and country. I host community events,
7 lead surveys, and just talk to people daily, people
8 living and business leaders and government
9 officials at the local level, across the political
10 spectrum, and across economic classes and all other
11 personal traits.

12 I can tell you almost everyone is really
13 worried about the impacts of climate change and
14 wants our different levels of government to enact
15 smart, thoughtful, clear, and kind regulation.
16 They want us to check businesses and help people.
17 They know that's their job.

18 And Americans also understand the green global
19 economic revolution is already underway in America.
20 If it goes this route, we'll get left behind.
21 Electric vehicles and zero-emission vehicles will
22 be the norm. They're already becoming the norm, as
23 will decarbonize --

24 MS. LEONARD: That's time. Thank you for your
25 comments.

1 The next speaker will be Reverend Carol
2 Devine.

3 MS. DEVINE: Good Morning. I'm Reverend Carol
4 Devine, an ordained Christian minister, and I live
5 in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Holy Bible of
6 my faith says that the Earth is the Lord's and that
7 humans are called to have dominion, which means we
8 are given the great responsibility to protect and
9 care for creation on which all of us depend for
10 life.

11 Likewise, the Environmental Protection Agency
12 has a duty to uphold its mission to protect the
13 environment and human health, to ensure clean air,
14 water, and soil, and a healthy climate. All things
15 people must have to live. From Asheville to Los
16 Angeles to Camp Mystic and here in Kentucky, God's
17 creation is groaning under the weight of excessive
18 climate warming, greenhouse gas pollution, taking
19 lives and impacting livelihoods.

20 I urge the EPA to rescind its proposal to
21 repeal the 2009 Endangerment Finding and greenhouse
22 gas pollution standards for vehicles. Over 97
23 percent of climate scientists have determined that
24 pollution dirties our air, water and fuels more
25 extreme weather events that threaten the safety of

1 our communities and increase the risk of health
2 harms including asthma, poor birth outcomes for
3 mothers and babies, heat-related health impacts and
4 deaths, and vector-borne illnesses, like Lyme
5 disease.

6 Without regulations for new motor vehicles and
7 engines, pollution will increase, dirtying our air
8 and water, warming our world, and fueling extreme
9 weather across the country. The EPA is abandoning
10 the American people, especially children and future
11 generations.

12 This repeal will not make America communities
13 greater or safer or ensure a strong energy future.
14 Rather, it will be a setback for our nation. The
15 EPA must hold true to its mission and do its job to
16 defend American lives and livelihoods from
17 pollution and climate-warming greenhouse gas
18 emissions.

19 I urge the EPA to rescind its proposal to
20 repeal the Endangerment Finding and protections
21 against carbon pollution from vehicles and engines.
22 Thank you very much.

23 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

24 The next speaker will be Kathy Lindquist.

25 We will take a moment to reach out.

1 MS. LINDQUIST: Good morning and thank you for
2 having me. My name is Kathy Lindquist, and I'm
3 from Massachusetts.

4 40 years ago I worked with a firm that gave
5 testimony on corporate average fuel efficiency,
6 CAFE, standards, and then and now the mission of
7 the EPA is to set pollution standards for vehicles
8 under the Clean Air Act. Specifically, you're
9 required to set standards at a level that protects
10 public health and welfare. The proposed
11 reconsideration of the 2009 Endangerment Finding
12 and greenhouse gas vehicle standards threatens to
13 not only reverse gains, but undermine the health
14 well being and wallets of the American people.

15 Back in October of 2023, a group of well-known
16 national health organizations notified the EPA that
17 today more than one out of every three people in
18 the United States live in a community impacted by
19 unhealthy levels of air pollution. The combustion
20 of fossil fuels in the transportation sector is a
21 leading source of the harmful emissions causing air
22 pollution and climate change impacts. Maintaining
23 fuel economy standards have the potential to
24 significantly benefit the public health and
25 maintain a healthy climate.

1 You know, the National Highway Safety
2 Administration itself says in 2017 the U.S.
3 transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions
4 surpassed all other sectors accounting for 29
5 percent of the country's emissions. And 60 percent
6 of those emissions come from light-duty vehicles.
7 Those vehicles account for about 91 percent of all
8 gas consumed in the U.S. That gas and its
9 emissions not only increase pollution that drives
10 and drives costly health issues, it costs
11 individual consumers dearly, over 2,500 a year, a
12 number that would likely rise without continued
13 fuel efficiently -- fuel efficiency standards, and
14 nationally, that number would rise to the
15 trillions.

16 So, the open question is how can EPA possibly
17 find there is no endangerment in vehicle greenhouse
18 gas emissions? I urge the EPA to remember their
19 mission to protect America's public health and
20 welfare. Let reason rule.

21 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

22 That concludes Panel 1. The first speaker
23 from Panel 2 will be Chris DiGiulio.

24 MS. DiGIULIO: Hello. Can you hear me?

25 MS. LEONARD: Yes.

1 MS. DiGIULIO: Thank you. Thank you for the
2 opportunity to testify. My name is Chris DiGiulio,
3 and I am the Director of Environmental Science
4 Investigations with Physicians for Social
5 Responsibility of Pennsylvania.

6 In my work, I analyze the ways environmental
7 exposures, especially air pollution and greenhouse
8 gases, impact the health and well-being of
9 communities. I want to emphasize clearly the 2009
10 Endangerment Finding was correct then and it
11 remains correct today.

12 Greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and
13 methane, endanger public health and welfare, and
14 the evidence for this has only strengthened over
15 the past 15 years. The chemistry is simple and
16 unchanging. Fossil fuel combustion releases
17 greenhouse gases that accumulate in the atmosphere,
18 trap heat and drive climate change. This is not
19 speculation. It is established science backed by
20 data.

21 The consequences are not abstract. Rising
22 temperature worsens ground-level ozone formation,
23 aggravating asthma and other respiratory diseases.
24 They increase the frequency and intensity of heat
25 waves, which place children, older adults, and

1 people with chronic illnesses at grave risk.
2 Extreme weather, flooding, and wildfires, all
3 linked to climate disruption, threaten the safety
4 and stability of entire communities.

5 Physicians for Social Responsibility has long
6 warned that these impacts are severe for vulnerable
7 populations, low-income families, communities of
8 color, and people living near major transportation
9 corridors or industrial sites. They bear the
10 greatest health burdens from greenhouse gas
11 pollution despite contributing the least to the
12 problem.

13 The EPA was created to protect the public, not
14 industry. Its duty as a public service and
15 regulatory agency is to safeguard health, welfare,
16 and the environment based on the best available
17 science. To reconsider or weaken the Endangerment
18 Finding would be a declaration -- a dereliction of
19 that duty. It would mean ignoring decades of
20 evidence, dismissing the warming -- the warnings of
21 health professionals and placing political
22 convenience above the lives of the American people.

23 On behalf of Physicians for Socially
24 Responsibility, Pennsylvania, I urge the EPA to
25 uphold endangerment findings in its entirety and to

1 move forward with the strong greenhouse gas vehicle
2 standards. Anything less would put public health
3 and the very mission of this agency at risk.

4 And as an individual, I am also somebody who
5 has chronic Lyme disease, and that is a part of
6 health impacts of climate. So, I've had the
7 personal experience. So, please uphold this, the
8 findings. Thank you.

9 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

10 The next speaker will be Christine Kirby.

11 MS. KIRBY: Good morning. I am Christine
12 Kirby, Assistant Commissioner of the Massachusetts
13 Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of
14 Air and Waste. MassDEP strongly opposes the
15 proposed reconsideration of the Endangerment
16 Finding and repeal of the greenhouse gas vehicle
17 standards.

18 The 2007 Supreme Court decision in
19 Massachusetts versus EPA concluded that EPA has the
20 authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from
21 new motor vehicles and greenhouse gases are within
22 the Clean Air Act's unambiguous definition of air
23 pollution.

24 In 2009, EPA issued the finding that
25 greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare

1 and motor vehicles contribute to greenhouse gases
2 and later adopted the vehicle standards. These
3 standards have resulted in significant reductions
4 in emissions nationally. The proposal to repeal
5 these standards will undoubtedly result in
6 increased emissions and heightened threats to
7 public health and welfare.

8 The IPCC recently concluded that greenhouse
9 gas emissions have unequivocally caused global
10 warming and that global temperatures have already
11 increased by more than 1 degree Celsius, causing
12 significant harm. The Massachusetts Department of
13 Public Health has identified a range of health
14 impacts related to climate change in a dozen
15 categories, including hot weather, drought,
16 flooding, bacterial and mold growth, and degraded
17 air quality.

18 Rising global temperatures caused by increases
19 in greenhouse gas emissions are worsening regional
20 ozone levels, which has led to the degradation of
21 air quality, increased risks of respiratory
22 infection, aggregation of asthma, and premature
23 deaths. In recent years, Massachusetts has seen an
24 increase in days with unhealthy levels of ozone and
25 particulate matter. Hotter temperatures accelerate

1 ozone formation and lead to more frequent wildfire
2 smoke that travels into Massachusetts.

3 For almost a decade, Massachusetts has
4 experienced just one day with an exceedance of the
5 daily fine particulate matter standard. But since
6 2021, there have been multiple days and exceedances
7 every year due to wildfire smoke, with a record
8 nine days in 2023. That same year, there were 10
9 days with unhealthy ozone levels, double the number
10 of days in the previous four years total.

11 The increase in air quality alerts have raised
12 public health concern, requiring MassDEP to focus
13 its messaging on how the public health can better
14 protect themselves from unhealthy air. The
15 reconsideration of the Endangerment Finding and the
16 repeal of the vehicle standards will increase
17 emissions and further exacerbate climate related
18 and environmental health impacts in Massachusetts.
19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

20 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

21 The next speaker will be Seth Joseph Rogers.

22 MR. ROGERS: Hello. My name is Seth Joseph
23 Rogers. Hi?

24 MS. LEONARD: We can hear you.

25 MR. ROGERS: You can hear me. Awesome. My

1 name is Seth Joseph Rogers. I'm a private
2 scientist from Santa Barbara, California. I
3 studied at UC Berkeley from 1998 to 2003
4 conservation biology and atmospheric chemistry.

5 I greatly urge the EPA to reconsider their
6 stance on repealing the 2009 Endangerment Finding
7 and greenhouse gas standards. New vehicles have
8 the ability to create a safer world, a safer nation
9 due to decreased contribution to CO₂ and methane
10 levels in the atmosphere. It is our job to be
11 stewards to the environment. It is our job to
12 decrease health risk.

13 The interconnection of greenhouse gases and
14 increased climate change is outstanding. The
15 problem that we mostly face -- in biology, we call
16 it positive feedback loop. It's an amplification
17 where the -- the farther that we put ourselves into
18 risk has to do with how much we're giving off.
19 It's amplified. It's not linear. It's becoming
20 more towards exponential. We need to ground the
21 curve and decrease acceleration.

22 If we repeal the 2009 Endangerment Finding and
23 greenhouse gas vehicle standards, we are increasing
24 the rate of cancer. We are increasing fire damage,
25 especially in California. We stand to lose

1 property. We stand to lose human life. We stand
2 to lose the quality of our lives.

3 I greatly urge the EPA to rescind the repeal
4 of this 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse
5 Gas Standards. It is our responsibility to do
6 something about the problem. Reckless law lifting
7 is not doing something about the problem. It's
8 exacerbating the problem. I urge the EPA to highly
9 reconsider the repeal and stick to the 2009
10 Endangerment Finding.

11 MS. LEONARD: Thank you. That's time. Thank
12 you for your comments.

13 The next speaker is Margaret Wineburgh-Freed.

14 MS. WINEBURGH-FREED: Thank you for the
15 opportunity to comment on this. My name is
16 Margaret Wineburgh-Freed.

17 Since the Endangerment Finding was made by the
18 EPA in 2009, that greenhouse gases like carbon
19 dioxide and methane pose a threat to public health
20 and welfare has been the basis of standards such as
21 the gas vehicle standards that have helped make our
22 air cleaner and kept us healthier. The EPA's own
23 website states, quote, motor vehicle emissions
24 contribute to ambient levels of air toxics known or
25 suspected as human or animal carcinogens. Asthma

1 and other respiratory diseases are the most obvious
2 results of the air pollution from vehicles. And
3 the EPA greenhouse gas emissions standards have
4 been critical in reining this in.

5 As the EPA website itself also explains,
6 quote, Burning fossil fuels like gasoline and
7 diesel releases carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas,
8 into the atmosphere. The buildup of carbon dioxide
9 and other greenhouse gases, like methane, nitrous
10 oxide, and hydrofluorocarbons, is causing the
11 earth's atmosphere to warm, resulting in changes to
12 the climate we are already starting to see today,
13 end quote.

14 These climate changes are endangering us all
15 from more extreme storms, floods, fires, droughts,
16 and extreme heat, which are exacerbated by
17 greenhouse gas emissions. I'm thinking of the Los
18 Angeles fires in January where hundreds of homes
19 were destroyed, along with the devastation of the
20 lives of many of my friends.

21 I'm an active member of the Los Angeles Faith
22 and Ecology Network, and this issue is important to
23 me as a person of faith. The warming planet's
24 effects hit poor and marginalized communities more
25 seriously, and these communities have fewer

1 resources to save them. For example, when
2 temperatures rise into the 90s and 100s, as they
3 have done this week here in Los Angeles, it puts
4 their health and their lives at risk. I want my
5 children, my grandchildren, and potential great
6 grandchildren to have a livable environment.
7 Excuse me.

8 It is personal and also a matter of justice.
9 I urge you to retain the Endangerment Finding and
10 greenhouse gas vehicle standards. Thank you.

11 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
12 The next speaker is Nicole Waltermire.

13 MS. WALTERMIRE: Good morning. Can you hear
14 me?

15 MS. LEONARD: Yes, I can hear you.

16 MS. WALTERMIRE: Hi. Good morning. Thank you
17 for the opportunity to speak today. My name is
18 Nicole Waltermire, and I'm joining as a private
19 citizen from the town of Las Cruces in Southern New
20 Mexico.

21 In the 17 years that we've lived here, we've
22 watched our beloved river, the Rio Grande, dry up
23 to the point where it's now dry for most of the
24 year. Like most of our neighbors, my husband and I
25 worry about how climate change, water scarcity,

1 drought, and extreme weather will affect our
2 family's future, and we're really worried for our
3 children.

4 Our son sees a breathing specialist, and every
5 year we have an alarming number of poor air quality
6 days when our stunning Oregon mountains are
7 obscured due to dust storms or smoke from
8 wildfires. Our son just started his senior year
9 and he has a bright future ahead of him. But not
10 if we don't do more to reduce greenhouse gas
11 emissions.

12 The cost of inaction on climate change are
13 already steep. New Mexican families are already
14 paying a high price. High health care costs will
15 continue to increase as more people suffer from the
16 effects of air pollution and extreme heat. Energy
17 bills are rising as we try to cool our homes during
18 longer summer seasons.

19 Our neighbors in Southern New Mexico are
20 burdened with property damage from extreme flooding
21 and worse. They struggle to find affordable home
22 insurance as nonrenewal rates skyrocket in our
23 fire- and flood-prone state. My family's trying to
24 do our part for our kids' futures. The used
25 electric vehicle our son drives is powered by the

1 solar panels on our house. Both the vehicle and
2 the panels were made affordable because of tax
3 credit incentives.

4 But we need the federal government to do more.
5 We need the EPA to protect our children and our
6 planet. I implore the public servants of the EPA
7 to stand by their mission to protect human health
8 and the environment. I'm calling upon you today to
9 preserve the Endangerment Finding and the clean car
10 standards. Thank you.

11 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

12 The next panelist is Paige Kincaid.

13 MS. KINCAID: Good morning and thank you for
14 the opportunity to speak today. My name is Paige
15 Kincaid, and I come to you today not only as
16 someone who cares about policy, but as someone who
17 has seen the real health impacts of pollution in
18 our frontline communities.

19 When we talk about greenhouse gas emissions,
20 we're not just talking about numbers on a chart.
21 We're talking about children in our communities
22 with asthma struggling to breathe, grandparents who
23 can't walk to the corner store without breathing
24 difficulties, and families who live next to
25 highways where the air is already thick with

1 exhaust. These are the human faces of vehicle
2 emissions.

3 Frontline communities, lower-income families,
4 communities of color, and neighborhoods near busy
5 roadways carry the heaviest burdens. They are more
6 likely to visit the emergency room for asthma
7 attacks, more likely to miss work or school because
8 of respiratory illness, and are more likely to
9 suffer from heart and lung diseases linked to these
10 vehicle emissions. When extreme heat makes the air
11 even harder to breathe, it's these same communities
12 that feel the impact first and worst.

13 The Endangerment Finding in 2009 recognized
14 that greenhouse gases threaten our health and
15 welfare. That truth has only become more urgent
16 today. Weakening vehicle standards would mean more
17 children with inhalers, more families paying for
18 preventable hospital visits, and more lives cut
19 short.

20 We have a responsibility to strengthen, not
21 roll back, protections that reduce emissions.
22 Strong vehicle standards mean cleaner air, fewer
23 sick kids, and healthier futures for communities
24 that have been too long been treated as sacrifice
25 zones. Every parent deserves to watch their

1 children run and play without fear of respiratory
2 distress. Every person deserves to live without
3 constant strain of polluted air.

4 This is not just about climate. This is about
5 dignity. It's about justice. It's about our
6 future generations. And indeed, it's about life
7 itself.

8 You are the EPA, the highest agency in the
9 United States in charge of protecting the
10 environment. This status is both an honor and a
11 privilege, and this status is very much in jeopardy
12 today in the global community. I urge you to
13 uphold the Endangerment Finding and protect the
14 communities who need it the most. Thank you again
15 for the opportunity today to provide comment.

16 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

17 The final speaker from Panel 2 will be Craig
18 Nazor.

19 MR. NAZOR: Craig Nazor. Sierra Club, Texas.

20 This is not really about science. Atmospheric
21 CO2 has already been found to be a pollutant.
22 Anticipating this, your request for repeal falls to
23 the argument that even if CO2 is a pollutant,
24 regulating it can't be worth the damage it will
25 cause to the economy.

1 The damage done will be to the fossil fuel
2 industry. Renewables are already cheaper than
3 fossil fuels. Battery technology is rapidly
4 advancing. Electric cars are increasing in market
5 share because they have lower energy and
6 maintenance costs.

7 Fossil fuel companies now receive corporate
8 welfare estimated at \$760 billion annually through
9 subsidies and tax breaks and unpriced
10 externalities. Direct government subsidies alone
11 account for over \$50 billion annually.

12 So, what is going on? The history of Western
13 culture is one of elite groups of individuals using
14 technology to coerce the masses to work for the
15 benefit of that elite group. Two thousand years
16 ago, the players were royalty, courtiers, and
17 peasants. In early America, it was white
18 landowners, poor immigrants, and slaves. We ended
19 slavery and ended up with robber barons,
20 sharecroppers and blue collar workers.

21 After the Great Depression, wealth became
22 distributed more fairly. We instituted income tax,
23 Social Security and the National Labor Relations
24 Act. The Civil Rights era finally started to undo
25 the many lingering effects of racism.

1 But advancing technology has ushered in the
2 age of the 1 percent. Repealing the CO2
3 Endangerment Finding will help keep our society
4 addicted to dirty fossil fuels that are increasing
5 in price. The resulting pollution damages the
6 health of the 99 percent who struggle to afford
7 living in places with clean air and water.

8 As the earth grows hotter, more energy and
9 therefore more money is needed to keep cool and
10 produce food. As fossil fuel energy costs continue
11 to rise, a new underclass is once again trapped
12 into the working for the largest corporations that
13 have ever existed in the entire history of the
14 known universe.

15 By slowing the development of cheap renewable
16 energy, repealing the CO2 Endangerment Finding will
17 allow Americans to slide into a techno oligarchy
18 that runs over our democratic republic. It's
19 already happening. The EPA should not be aiding
20 the demise of America. Thank you.

21 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

22 The first speaker from Panel 3 will be Gary
23 Usrey.

24 MR. USREY: Good morning. My name is Gary
25 Usrey, and I'm one of the leaders of the Virginia

1 chapter of Elders Climate Action, a national
2 nonpartisan group of elder citizens concerned about
3 climate change and the threat it poses to our
4 children, grandchildren and future generations.

5 I am 76 years old and have lived in Northern
6 Virginia for over 60 years. During that time, I've
7 seen our summers become hotter, our storms more
8 violent, and the level of the nearby Chesapeake Bay
9 rise inexorably, slowly submerging its low-lying
10 islands.

11 In 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency
12 issued its official Endangerment Finding, ruling
13 the greenhouse gases threaten the public health and
14 welfare of current and future generations. This
15 finding was based on solid scientific evidence that
16 carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide,
17 hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur
18 hexafluoride contribute to climate change and
19 therefore endanger human health and the
20 environment.

21 This finding provided the legal foundation for
22 EPA to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the
23 Clean Air Act. There is strong international
24 consensus on the causes of climate change. The
25 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to which

1 U.S. experts contribute, has stated with high
2 confidence that human activities are the primary
3 drivers of recent global -- recent global warming.
4 Scientific academies worldwide, including the U.S.
5 National Academy of Science, the UK's Royal
6 Society, and counterparts in dozens of countries,
7 have endorsed this view. It is hard science, not
8 conjecture.

9 Therefore, repeal of the 2009 finding would
10 move the U.S. away from an internationally agreed,
11 scientifically-based position on climate change.
12 But more importantly, it would expose Americans to
13 increased danger from destructive fires such as we
14 have seen recently in California, and from
15 catastrophic floods like the recent disaster in
16 Texas.

17 I urge the EPA to uphold the Endangerment
18 Finding. Doing so would be good public policy and
19 comply with the EPA's core legislative mission of
20 protecting our nation's health and environment.
21 Thank you.

22 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
23 The next speaker is George Hasapidis.

24 MR. HASAPIDIS: I'm George Hasapidis, and I'm
25 speaking to you from Rhode Island, where we are

1 already directly experiencing negative impacts from
2 climate change. Our climate in Rhode Island has
3 warmed 3 degrees over the past century, and that
4 trend is accelerating. The water temperature in
5 Narragansett Bay, which touches our state's most
6 populous areas, has also increased nearly 3
7 degrees. These rising temperatures mean more
8 moisture and energy in our air, so now our summer
9 rains are usually downpours.

10 Nearly 40 years ago, I served with the army in
11 Panama, and the rain there was usually extremely
12 intense and heavy. Starting about 10 years ago,
13 I'm seeing the same rain patterns here in New
14 England.

15 In July 2023, the state's main airport
16 received nearly 8 inches of rain in three days.
17 Last year, one of my fields was flooded for --
18 nearly knee deep for three months. Just last
19 month, my farm received over 4 inches of rain in
20 two days.

21 Heavy rains combined with rising sea levels,
22 Narragansett Bay has risen about a foot in the past
23 hundred years and that rate is increasing has led
24 to regular inundation of coastal areas. Already
25 there are neighborhoods all around Narragansett Bay

1 which have become uninhabitable because they flood
2 nearly every year. Ten million federal dollars
3 have been allocated to relocated residents. We
4 expect to spend several times that over the next 20
5 years as portions of East Providence, Cranston,
6 Middletown, and Newport become uninhabitable.

7 As bad as this is for us in Rhode Island, I
8 wonder how much more such measures will cost in
9 major cities like Boston, New York, Miami, and D.C.
10 In light of this, any money spent on reducing
11 greenhouse gas emissions and thereby the future
12 severity of climate change impacts is money well
13 spent. A literal investment in our future which
14 will pay dividends in the form of less costly
15 disasters and disaster prevention infrastructure
16 changes.

17 The 2009 Endangerment Finding underpins all
18 our greenhouse gas emission regulations.
19 Rescinding that finding would open the door to
20 repeal of the regulations we need now to reduce the
21 damage we all suffer from climate change. This
22 would amount to an abdication of our moral
23 responsibility and to keep our planet hospitable to
24 human life. And it would consign future
25 generations to suffering for our lack of decisive

1 action now. Thank you.

2 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

3 The next speaker is Eric Heigis.

4 MR. HEIGIS: Administrator Zeldin, Assistant
5 Administrator Szabo, Director Charmley, thank you
6 for the opportunity to testify. My name is Eric
7 Heigis, and I'm an attorney with the Texas Public
8 Policy Foundation.

9 TPPF represents several clients whose
10 operations have been affected by the 2009
11 Endangerment Finding. These include Liberty
12 Packing Company, Nuckles Oil Company doing business
13 as Merit Oil Company, the Western States Trucking
14 Association, and the Construction Industry Air
15 Quality Coalition. These groups have led previous
16 challenges to the Endangerment Finding, including
17 an administrative petition and lawsuit.

18 We have also filed comments supporting the
19 proposed rule before you today, which I will
20 briefly summarize. We support the EPA's proposed
21 rule to reconsider the 2009 Endangerment Finding.
22 We have identified four major flaws with the
23 Endangerment Finding. My comments will focus on
24 one of them: EPA's failure to make the Endangerment
25 Finding available to the Science Advisory Board for

1 peer review.

2 The Science Advisory Board is a Blue Ribbon
3 panel of experts that Congress established to
4 ensure EPA regulations are based on accurate data
5 and credible scientific methods. This violation
6 alone is fatal to the Endangerment Finding.

7 Under Title 42 of the U.S. Code, Section 4365,
8 the EPA must give the Science Advisory Board any
9 proposed criteria, document, standard, limitation
10 or regulation that it shares with any other Federal
11 Agency. In 2009, EPA shared the Endangerment
12 Finding with the Office of Management and Budget
13 without allowing the Science Advisory Board to
14 conduct peer review.

15 This not only violated federal law, it also
16 shielded the Endangerment Finding from expert
17 scientific review. This violation of federal law
18 justifies reconsidering and rescinding the
19 Endangerment Finding.

20 The Endangerment Finding also violates the
21 major questions doctrine and relies on obsolete
22 science. More details on these points are
23 available in our comment, which is document number
24 95 on the docket. For these reasons, Liberty
25 Packing Company, Merit Oil Company, Western States

1 Trucking Association, and Construction Industry Air
2 Quality Coalition support EPA's proposed rule to
3 reconsider the 2009 Endangerment Finding, and we
4 urge the Administrator to finalize the rule. Thank
5 you.

6 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

7 The next speaker is Donna Jackson.

8 MS. JACKSON: Good morning. My name is Donna
9 Jackson, and I am a senior policy analyst with the
10 Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow. We have
11 already submitted a written comment that explains
12 both the scientific and legal flaws with the
13 agency's 2009 Endangerment Finding.

14 We also note that subsequent scientific
15 research and case law have all only weakened the
16 assertion that the Clean Air Act authorizes an
17 unprecedented climate change program that, among
18 other things, was being used to effectively phase
19 out gas-powered cars in favor of electric ones.
20 This includes scientific research casting further
21 doubt on the claimed harm from CO2 emissions and
22 especially the minor percentage of such emissions
23 attributed to the various categories of motor
24 vehicles at issue here today.

25 At the same time, several recent Supreme Court

1 decisions place additional limits on EPA's
2 freelancing beyond its clear statutory authority,
3 as clearly was done in 2009. Overall, the case for
4 the Endangerment Finding for motor vehicles was
5 weak, and it's getting weaker. But I would like to
6 spend the rest of my time explaining why its repeal
7 would be good news for low-income and minority
8 households for which affordable cars are so
9 crucial.

10 Economic research shows how vital owning a car
11 is for those struggling to climb the economic
12 ladder. One study by the Federal Reserve Bank of
13 Philadelphia found that the wage gap between black
14 and white Americans decline when black Americans
15 have access to a car. Many low-income communities
16 are located far from the best opportunities for
17 jobs, and despite all the wishful thinking about
18 public transportation, the reality is that it can
19 only take you to a fraction of the potential jobs
20 available if you have a car. A vehicle also allows
21 the opportunities for minorities to participate in
22 the gig economy.

23 To put it bluntly, anyone who genuinely cares
24 about the poor would prioritize making a car
25 ownership as affordable as possible. And that

1 means a gas-powered car, not an EV or alternative.
2 In fact, the average sticker price of an EV,
3 according to the Bloomberg, is 56,000, which
4 exceeds the annual income of 60 percent of African
5 Americans.

6 MS. LEONARD: That's time. Thank you for your
7 comments.

8 The next speaker is Gregory Stevens.

9 MR. STEVENS: Good morning. My name is
10 Reverend Gregory Stevens. I'm a Baptist minister,
11 and I'm the Northern California Director of
12 California Interfaith Power and Light. I'm here
13 today speaking on behalf of our network of over 730
14 congregations of all sorts of faith traditions
15 across the state.

16 I must admit though, I never thought I'd have
17 to tell the Environmental Protection Agency that
18 pollution is real, but here we are. It's also kind
19 of embarrassing that there are actual human beings
20 that defend our species extinctions. If you care
21 about the poor, you don't kill them with pollution.
22 That's absolutely absurd.

23 Nonetheless, I urge you in the strongest
24 possible terms to uphold and defend your own
25 research in the Endangerment Finding for greenhouse

1 gases and to stop putting profit before people and
2 the planet. We all know that's what this is
3 actually about. Oil companies own this
4 administration, and both are happy to destroy the
5 planet to line their pockets with gold, just like
6 they did the White House.

7 Our many faith traditions all share a common
8 call. To love our neighbors, to care for the most
9 vulnerable among us, and to be stewards of the
10 sacred creation we have been entrusted with. Not
11 to destroy it, not to frack it, not to pump oil,
12 not to destroy the world.

13 The Endangerment Finding is essential. It's
14 bedrock legal recognition of the threat that
15 climate pollution poses to these very values. The
16 scientific verdict on climate change is not just
17 clear, it's overwhelming and has been for many
18 years. It's unequivocal. It's long been settled.

19 The Endangerment Finding of 2009 was rooted in
20 a rigorous peer-reviewed analysis of the best
21 science. And in the years since, this evidence has
22 only grown more robust. The only alternative
23 science that's been produced is by oil companies,
24 which no wonder, they want to line their pockets
25 with money.

1 From the National Academy of Sciences to every
2 major scientific institution in the world, the
3 consensus is absolute: greenhouse gas pollution
4 from human activity is the dangerously heating our
5 planet, driving more extreme weather, raising sea
6 levels, and acidifying our oceans.

7 To question the scientific basis of this
8 finding is to ignore reality. The reality of
9 burning forests, of drought stricken farms, of oil
10 spills, of rising sea. It is to ignore the reality
11 that this is all about profit.

12 Our 730 congregations are not just watching;
13 they're acting. We install solar panels on
14 sanctuaries, convert our cars to electric vehicles,
15 and advocate for climate justice. We do this
16 because we are people of faith in it. Our faith
17 demands it.

18 We can't act alone. We need a strong federal
19 partner. We need the foundational protections of
20 the Clean Air Act, and that begins with the
21 Endangerment Finding. Do this for our kids, our
22 families, and our faith communities. Thank you.

23 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

24 The next speaker is Shyamala Rajan.

25 MS. RAJAN: Thank you. Dr. Shyamala Rajan for

1 the Society for Biodiversity Preservation.

2 EPA is a science-based regulatory agency that
3 exists solely to protect human health and the
4 environment. That is its mission. This reckless
5 proposal to rescind the Endangerment Finding is a
6 flagrant violation of that mission. It disregards
7 science, jeopardizes public health, and
8 misinterprets its statutory obligations under the
9 Clean Air Act.

10 Climate change is a health emergency that's
11 already impacting our physical, mental, and
12 economic well-being. The Endangerment Finding of
13 2009 was based on overwhelming scientific evidence
14 that greenhouse gases contribute to climate change
15 and pose serious harm to human health and the
16 natural ecosystems. That evidence has only become
17 stronger and unequivocal.

18 The Sixth Assessment Report to the UN
19 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stated
20 that since systematic scientific assessments began
21 in the 1970s, the influence of human activity on
22 the warming of climate system has evolved from
23 theory to established fact. The U.S. Fifth
24 National Climate Assessment reported that climate
25 change is already affecting every region of the

1 country with increased intensity and speed,
2 straining health and infrastructure systems.

3 The agency NOAA reported that in 2024 alone
4 U.S. experienced the second highest number of
5 billion dollar disasters in a calendar year,
6 including severe winter storms, tropical cyclones,
7 flooding events, drought, heat waves, and wildfire
8 events whose total cost was \$182.7 billion, which
9 will likely increase by several billion as
10 additional cost from these events are reported over
11 time.

12 There were at least 568 fatalities associated
13 with these events. Lancet's 2024 Countdown on
14 Health and Climate Change noted that climate change
15 has created a health crisis that will continue to
16 worsen unless U.S. takes decisive action to end its
17 fossil fuel dependence and reduce greenhouse gas
18 emissions. The EPA has a legal obligation to
19 protect public health and the environment. This
20 proposal fails that obligation.

21 I forcefully oppose the rescinding of
22 Endangerment Finding and ask EPA to instead focus
23 on implementing the greenhouse gas emission
24 standards for vehicles and power plants to ensure a
25 livable planet for all. Thank you.

1 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

2 The final panelist on Panel 3 will be Sabeeca
3 Vadakkan.

4 MS. VADAKKAN: Hello, everyone. My name is
5 Sabeeca Vadakkan, and I am a second-year medical
6 student at UC San Diego School of Medicine. Before
7 medical school, I also spent a year working in
8 natural disaster response where I saw firsthand how
9 greenhouse gas pollution and a changing climate
10 directly harmed my community. Today, I'm here to
11 stand with my future patients and my neighbors by
12 strongly opposing any attempt to rescind the 2009
13 EPA Endangerment Finding.

14 What many people don't realize about sunny San
15 Diego is that we have one of the highest rates of
16 childhood asthma in the country. Why is that?
17 It's pollution. In neighborhoods like Nate Barrio
18 Logan, which is bordered by a busy maritime port,
19 the Coronado Bridge and a congested I5 freeway, our
20 children suffer from disproportionate rates of
21 respiratory illness.

22 In fact, our county data shows that 84 percent
23 of the cancer risk in this neighborhood comes from
24 diesel emissions, many times to the very same
25 greenhouse gases that this agency now wants to

1 disregard. These are not abstract numbers. These
2 are children that we are seeing in our clinics
3 every single day.

4 I also speak from experience with disasters.
5 Just last year, you all saw how my hometown of Los
6 Angeles endured a devastating wildfire season,
7 including the Altadena and Pacific Palisade fires.
8 But it wasn't just those two fires. Last year,
9 there was so many. And it wasn't like this before.

10 Year after year, climate change has been
11 worsening the conditions that fueled these fires.
12 Any more weakening of greenhouse protections right
13 now means that there's more deadly and long-lasting
14 consequences for my loved ones, my future patients,
15 and my home.

16 So, I really ask you -- no, I implore you,
17 before rescinding this fighting, listen to your
18 public. To all of us here this week, the argument
19 that it burdens consumers with compliance costs
20 completely ignores the force far greater costs of
21 inaction which are rising health care needs,
22 destroyed, homes, and lives lost.

23 The 2009 Endangerment Finding is one of the
24 most important tools that we have right now to slow
25 climate change. And as the Environmental

1 Protection Agency, your duty is not to industry
2 interests but to the people you are sworn to
3 protect.

4 So, I urge you today to drop this proposed
5 rule change, and instead, if you want to, please
6 work with Congress, strengthen and codify the
7 Endangered Finding into law so we can protect the,
8 the livelihood of our, of our, of our environment.
9 Thank you.

10 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

11 We'll be moving to Panel 4, and the first
12 speaker in Panel 4 will be speaker 2, Chris Nevers.

13 MR. NEVERS: Thank you for the opportunity to
14 speak today in support of the 2009 Endangerment
15 Finding. My name is Chris Nevers, Senior Director
16 of Policy at Rivian Automotive.

17 Rivian is an American electric vehicle
18 manufacturer building pickups, SUVs, and delivery
19 vans as well as chargers. We've been producing all
20 of our vehicles in Norman, Illinois, since 2021 and
21 are soon expanding production to Georgia. Next
22 year we'll release our new R2 5-seater SUV
23 targeting a starting price of \$45,000.

24 Legal analyses, scientific evidence, and
25 public record strongly indicate that the

1 Endangerment Finding was appropriate and properly
2 promulgated. Similarly, technical analyses and
3 industry's track record of aggregate over
4 compliance shows that the pursuant GHG emission
5 standards have been effective and achievable. More
6 importantly, they are now also an embedded feature
7 of the regulatory landscape, a key factor
8 influencing billions in investment decisions.

9 Rivian believes that reversing this finding
10 and eliminating all subsequent GHG standards would
11 be detrimental to U.S. automotive industry,
12 consumers, and public health and welfare. The U.S.
13 Automotive industry relies on market certainty
14 provided by consistent regulatory processes. Rapid
15 changes to regulation, interim final rules, or
16 federal preemption reversals could lead to
17 international market discrepancies, new
18 state-specific programs, and litigation.

19 These uncertainties could not only harm Rivian
20 and those who invested in vehicle efficiency, they
21 could slow domestic vehicle development and
22 increase global compliance complexity and costs
23 precisely as international competition accelerates
24 towards more efficient vehicle.

25 Consumers also benefit from the Endangerment

1 Finding in CO2 standards. Existing EPA CO2
2 standards are effectively the last remaining U.S.
3 consumer protection correlated with vehicle
4 efficiency. We've seen the consequences of lacking
5 such protections before. They were unfavorable for
6 consumers, national security, and the long-term
7 health of the domestic automotive industry and
8 related employment.

9 Given the aforementioned and since the impacts
10 of greenhouse gas emissions on human health and
11 welfare as well as the impact of the U.S.
12 Transportation sector are well-documented
13 understood. Rivian believes the 2009 Endangerment
14 Finding should not be reversed and the GHG
15 standards should not be weakened. Thank you for
16 your time.

17 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
18 The third panelist in Panel 4 will be Anne Teresa
19 Ness.

20 MS. NESS: Thank you for allowing me --

21 MS. LEONARD: We can hear you.

22 MS. NESS: Oh, great. Is my video working?

23 MS. LEONARD: Yes, it is. Sound and video.

24 MS. NESS: Okay. Thank you for allowing me to
25 contribute to the public comment on this rule

1 change.

2 After looking at the analysis of the effects
3 of this rule change published by the EPA, the draft
4 analysis, Department of Transportation and Air
5 Quality, I am shocked that this hearing is even
6 happening because of the social costs that are
7 estimated to be in the billions of dollars. It
8 seems pretty corrupt. It almost implies that
9 generating power for AI is more important than
10 saving the lives of people who are affected by the
11 extremes of climate change, and drilling more
12 gasoline is expected to save the American economy.

13 And one of our earlier panelists said that
14 this is a throwback. And on our local public
15 television, PBS is replaying a documentary about
16 the war against smog in the '70s. We don't want to
17 go back. We don't want to go back. Please don't
18 go back. Don't allow this rule change EPA.

19 On behalf of the public, as a public health
20 nurse, a member of Elders Climate Action, I want to
21 be a good ancestor. And we all need to learn how
22 to be good ancestors and provide a healthy climate
23 for our children and our children's children.
24 Thank you.

25 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

1 The fourth speaker in Panel 4 will be Robert
2 Mitchell Shiles, Jr.

3 MR. SHILES: I think you can hear me.

4 MS. LEONARD: Yes.

5 MR. SHILES: Hi, good morning. My name is
6 Mitch Shiles. I'm a member of Carlisle Borough
7 Council here in Pennsylvania. I am speaking to ask
8 you to preserve the EPA's Endangerment Finding. Do
9 not repeal or weaken it.

10 Right now, under the Endangerment Finding, the
11 EPA has a science-based authority to set nationwide
12 limit -- limits on greenhouse gases, protecting
13 public health, our local economy and communities
14 like ours from the harms of extreme weather, poor
15 air quality and long-term climate damage. This
16 isn't an abstract policy debate here in Carlisle.
17 Our town sits at the crossroads of I81 and 76, the
18 Pennsylvania Turnpike.

19 Truck and vehicle traffic brings fine
20 particulate pollution that regularly pushes our air
21 into the unhealthy for sensitive groups range. I
22 hear from parents worried about kids with asthma,
23 seniors who can't sit on their front porches, and
24 folks who avoid the outdoors on bad days.

25 It's not just our air quality. A little over

1 a month ago, we lived through a thousand-year storm
2 that left more than 18 million in damage. Siding
3 ripped from homes. Over 75 trees were down,
4 blocking roads in our small borough of five and a
5 half square miles. A homeless shelter flooded
6 along with basement apartments requiring first
7 responders to go in and rescue people.

8 This past spring, we witnessed two wildfires
9 in the mountains that surround our town. The
10 Hammond Rocks fire and the Thompson Hollow fire,
11 which burned hundreds of acres of forest. I have
12 lived in Pennsylvania for 30 of my 38 years of life
13 and have never witnessed a wildfire here in this
14 state.

15 The heat these past few summers has been
16 relentless. When I was young, I would see a
17 handful of sleepless hot nights during the summer.
18 Now it seems like it's all summer long. Events
19 like these are exactly what climate science has
20 warned us about for decades. More intense storms,
21 more heat, more wildfires, higher costs, greater
22 danger to people and property.

23 Locally, Carlisle hasn't stood still. We've
24 passed a climate action resolution and adopted a
25 climate action plan with concrete targets of 26

1 percent emissions cuts this year and 80 percent by
2 2050. We're upgrading our infrastructure,
3 improving energy efficiency and planning for
4 resilience. But local plans only go so far when
5 greenhouse gas pollution comes from sources far
6 beyond our borders.

7 That's why the Endangerment Finding matters.
8 It is the EPA's long standing court affirmed
9 determination that greenhouse gases endanger public
10 health and welfare. And it's the legal basis under
11 our -- under the Clean Air Act.

12 MS. LEONARD: That's time. Thank you for your
13 comments.

14 The next speaker on Panel 4 will be Charles
15 Inglis.

16 MR. INGLIS: Good morning and thank you for
17 the opportunity to speak. My name is Charlie
18 Inglis, and I am 13 years old. I live in
19 Massachusetts.

20 I come to you not to speak of the past, not to
21 speak of the present, but to speak of the future.
22 I speak for my generation when I say that the world
23 that we will inherit will be in shambles if we
24 permit action such as this to be tolerated. If the
25 Endangerment Finding is rescinded, we as a country

1 are moving backwards.

2 We have plenty of scientific evidence, as
3 stated in earlier testifies that excess carbon
4 emissions are extremely detrimental to our planet,
5 to nature and to humans. No restrictions on
6 emissions will, put simply, lead to disaster.

7 The United States already accounts for 12.6
8 percent of the world's carbon emissions, second in
9 the world. 16.5 percent of this is due to
10 passenger vehicles. This is with the restrictions.
11 I can only despair over what this number will
12 balloon to without the restrictions. Speaking for
13 future generations, this is unacceptable.

14 As Earth's temperature rises due to greenhouse
15 gas emissions, we'll experience more wildfires,
16 droughts, storms, and disasters in general.
17 According to NOAA, the impacts of climate change
18 are already costing the U.S. an estimated \$150
19 billion per year. The oceans are warming and coral
20 reefs are bleaching. 84 percent of the world's
21 reefs are already bleached.

22 These statistics now with the proposal of
23 rescinding the Endangerment Finding paint a
24 devastating picture of the future for our
25 environment. Climate change isn't some far off

1 future problem. It's happening right now.

2 2024 was the hottest year on record. We see
3 the effects of global warming in the news every
4 day. We need to stand up, take action and resist
5 what is happening. On behalf of my generation, I
6 beg you to reconsider this dangerous decision.

7 Thank you for your time.

8 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

9 The next speaker in Panel 4 will be Cristina
10 Watkins.

11 We don't see Cristina Watkins on the Zoom.
12 The next speaker in Panel 4 will be Colin
13 Fitzpatrick.

14 Indeed, Colin Fitzpatrick is also not on the
15 zoom. We will proceed to Panel 5. The next
16 speaker will be Lauren Alger.

17 MS. ALGER: Good morning. My name is Lauren
18 Alger. This proposal is a significant and
19 concerning action that appears flawed on multiple
20 levels. It's based on questionable legal arguments
21 that attempt to undo a settled Supreme Court
22 precedent, a new scientific report by the DOE that
23 has been widely discredited, and flawed economic
24 claims. For these reasons, this proposal should be
25 reconsidered.

1 The EPA's proposal attempts to dismantle the
2 established legal framework for regulating
3 greenhouse gases. The EPA is asserting that
4 regulating climate change is a major question that
5 should be decided by Congress, not a federal
6 agency. This argument is deeply flawed because the
7 Supreme Court has already settled this issue.

8 In its 2007 decision in Massachusetts versus
9 EPA, the court explicitly ruled that the Clean Air
10 Act's sweeping definition of air pollutant includes
11 greenhouse gases without a doubt. This ruling
12 effectively provides the clean clear congressional
13 authorization that the EPA now claims is missing.

14 Furthermore, the EPA appears to misapply a new
15 legal principle to justify its action. The Major
16 Questions Doctrine used by the Supreme Court in
17 West Virginia versus EPA was applied to a
18 regulation for power plants that was deemed to be a
19 transformative change in authority because it
20 required generation shifting, a measure that went
21 beyond regulating emissions at the time same
22 source.

23 The regulations that flow from the
24 Endangerment Finding are source-specific and have
25 been deemed by a federal appeals court to fall well

1 within the EPA's bailiwick and therefore do not
2 trigger this doctrine. The EPA also cites a new
3 legal ruling that changed how courts review agency
4 decisions. But this has limited relevance as the
5 original Supreme Court decision on this issue was
6 based on the clear, unambiguous language of the law
7 itself and not on an agency's interpretation.

8 Further, the scientific basis for the proposed
9 rescission is a serious concern. The EPA is
10 relying on a new non-peer-reviewed report from the
11 DOE that has been widely criticized by scientists.
12 The report misuses isolated data, misrepresents
13 peer-reviewed research and presents an incomplete
14 and misleading picture of climate change.
15 Reversing a well-supported scientific finding based
16 on a discredited report makes this action
17 vulnerable to a legal challenge under the arbitrary
18 and capricious standard which requires a
19 substantial factual basis for agency decisions.

20 Ultimately, the EPA's proposal is a direct
21 challenge to a settled legal precedent and to
22 scientific consensus that's guided climate policies
23 for years. Thank you.

24 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

25 The next speaker is Andrew Hudson.

1 MR. HUDSON: Good morning. My name is Drew
2 Hudson. I am speaking on behalf of Climate Hawks
3 Vote and more than 7,000 of our members and allies
4 who have cosigned our comments so far.

5 We come to you urgently this morning to
6 restate that climate change is real. It is caused
7 by the burning of fossil fuels and it already has
8 devastating consequences that endanger all
9 Americans rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit
10 of happiness. The proposal to revoke the EPA's
11 Endangerment Finding for climate change, therefore,
12 we believe, is wrong. It is illegal, and it is not
13 supported by the science.

14 A Department of Energy report that was hastily
15 prepared to support this rollback has been
16 challenged by dozens of scientists whose work was
17 cited, many of them complaining that their work was
18 misused or misquoted. Dr. Michael Mann, the
19 director of the University of Pennsylvania's
20 climate program, went so far as to say there is
21 nothing scientific about this report whatsoever.
22 And a recent report by the news site Carbon Brief
23 has identified more than 100 false and misleading
24 statements in that same report involving dozens of
25 leading climate scientists and their work.

1 This rollback is illegal because in the 2007
2 landmark case Massachusetts versus EPA, which you
3 just heard about in the previous testimony, the
4 Supreme Court held that the EPA has not only the
5 authority but the responsibility to regulate
6 greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act.
7 Therefore, shortly after he was elected, President
8 Barack Obama instructed the EPA, based on the
9 Endangerment Finding, to promulgate rules for cars,
10 power plants and eventually the U.S.'s
11 participation in the international Paris Climate
12 Accords. The Endangerment Finding has repeatedly
13 been upheld in U.S. courts and its necessity has
14 been reconfirmed over and over again by scientists,
15 including by the last U.S. National Climate
16 Assessment, which was published less than two years
17 ago.

18 This rollback is wrong. Climate change is
19 real. It is happening now. It has already killed
20 Americans. It has already cost hundreds of
21 billions of dollars in damages to American lives
22 and livelihoods. And on behalf of our members and
23 supporters, we demand that the EPA and Trump
24 administration drop this wrong-headed attempt to
25 make America polluted again. Thank you.

1 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

2 The next speaker on Panel 5, speaker 3,
3 Krystal Mireles.

4 Okay, I don't see Krystal Mireles on the zoom
5 at the moment. We'll move forward to speaker 4,
6 Darien Davis.

7 MS. DAVIS: Hello and thanks for allowing me
8 to testify today. My name is Darien Davis. I'm a
9 government affairs advocate at the League of
10 Conservation Voters. I'm here today on behalf of
11 LCV's millions of members across the country to
12 express my opposition to the proposed rule, which
13 was dismantle the Endangerment Finding and
14 greenhouse gas standards for cars, trucks and
15 buses.

16 Four years ago, almost to the day, I testified
17 before the EPA on cleaner car standards. Back
18 then, I was staying with family in California and
19 experienced the impact of nearby wildfires
20 firsthand. I was shocked to see that the air
21 quality was so bad that we were forced to stay
22 indoors.

23 Since then, I experienced the same smoggy air
24 while living in Washington D.C. Recently, Canadian
25 wildfire smoke made it -- made the air so bad here

1 that I lived with a lingering cough for months. I
2 purchased an air purifier and had to seriously
3 limit my time outdoors.

4 Transportation pollution contributed to my
5 cough in two different ways. First, air pollution
6 from vehicles is proven to cause and worsen
7 respiratory infections. My experience is more
8 common than you think. According to this year's
9 American Lung Association State of the Air report,
10 nearly half of the U.S. population lives with
11 unhealthy levels of air pollution.

12 Second, 29 percent of all greenhouse gas
13 emissions come from cars, trucks, buses and other
14 mobile sources. Greenhouse gas pollution from the
15 transportation sector is directly linked to extreme
16 weather events and have devastated families across
17 the country. According to NOAA, there were 27
18 confirmed disasters last year that each caused more
19 than \$1 billion in damages. This included 17
20 severe storm events, five tropical cyclone events,
21 and one wildfire event.

22 I was glad to see that the previous
23 administration was actively working to address that
24 issue. They worked with industry, labor, and
25 environmental stakeholders to establish strong

1 clean vehicle standards last year. Given this
2 broad public support, it is alarming to see that
3 the EPA is now considering rolling back pollution
4 standards for cars and trucks. Rolling back these
5 standards would expose communities across the
6 country to significantly more air pollution from
7 vehicle exhaust, worsening the risks of respiratory
8 diseases.

9 I urge the EPA to maintain strong limits on
10 emission standards from cars and trucks. We are at
11 a crossroads, and we cannot afford to take the
12 wrong turn on transportation pollution.

13 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

14 The next speaker in Panel 5 is Marissa
15 McClenton.

16 MS. McCLENTON: Good morning. My name is
17 Marissa McClenton, environmental justice associate
18 organizer for the Sierra Club Delaware Chapter.
19 I'm here to strongly oppose the EPA's proposal to
20 rescind the Endangerment Finding and roll back
21 greenhouse gas vehicle standards.

22 This proposal is nothing less than climate
23 denial written as federal policy. It is the EPA's
24 duty to protect people from dangerous pollution,
25 but instead, you are now planning to hand over a

1 blank check to the fossil fuel industry. The
2 stakes cannot be higher here in the first state.
3 We are the lowest lying state in the nation, and we
4 are already on the front lines of the climate
5 crisis.

6 Sea levels in southern Delaware have risen
7 over a foot in the last century at a rate that is
8 nearly double the global rate. Saltwater intrusion
9 is destroying valuable farmland, threatening our
10 agricultural community and our economy. Every year
11 we are seeing more destructive flooding. We are
12 seeing beaches erode, bridges damaged, roads
13 destroyed and homes decimated. Rolling back these
14 protections will leave Delawareans with more
15 flooding, higher home insurance premiums, and a
16 weaker economy.

17 Tailpipe emissions are the largest source of
18 climate pollution in Delaware and across the United
19 States. Delaware has taken action by adopting
20 clean car standards to cut the speed pollution, a
21 move also targeted by an agency that was designed
22 to protect our environment. This administration
23 seems bent on undermining state progress simply to
24 force our residents to pay more for gas, for health
25 care costs driven by asthma and heart disease, and

1 for rebuilding after disasters.

2 Rescinding the Endangerment Finding will not
3 make climate change go away. Cooking books and
4 drawing with Sharpies seldom make problems go away,
5 but that is what we are here to debate doing today.
6 What this will do is make our air dirtier, storms
7 stronger, and cost heavier on working families.

8 The science is clear. The courts have upheld
9 it and the American people in Delaware and beyond
10 overwhelmingly support climate action. The EPA's
11 mission is supposed to be to safeguard public
12 health and the environment. You are not here to
13 serve polluters.

14 Delawareans and all Americans need you to
15 maintain the Endangerment Finding, uphold clean
16 vehicle standards and reject this reckless climate
17 chaos plan. Thank you.

18 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

19 The next speaker is Martin Kushler.

20 MR. KUSHLER: Can you hear me now?

21 MS. LEONARD: Yes, we can hear you, and I sent
22 you a prompt if you would like to choose to start
23 your video. Not necessary, but I sent a prompt.

24 MR. KUSHLER: Okay, very good. Thank you.
25 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this

1 extremely important subject. Although I have a PhD
2 and have taken graduate level statistics courses,
3 it does not take that level of education to see and
4 understand the very clear impact that rising levels
5 of CO2 have had on global temperatures and climate.
6 Climate change is absolutely real and the
7 devastating impacts are already being seen.
8 Importantly, there are well-proven policies that
9 can help reduce CO2 emissions while helping our
10 economy at the same time.

11 I have worked professionally for over four
12 decades in the field of utility regulation, energy
13 efficiency program evaluation, have testified
14 before Congress and in numerous state legislatures
15 around the nation. It is abundantly proven through
16 literally hundreds of studies that energy
17 efficiency can save energy at a cost that is much
18 less than the cost to produce that energy from
19 fossil fuels.

20 The cost of renewable energy such as wind and
21 solar is also less than the cost of electricity
22 produced by fossil fuels. We can save money and
23 save the planet. Rather than hindering such
24 efforts, the U.S. Government should be supporting
25 and expanding such efforts.

1 But here's the challenge I would like to leave
2 to anyone who denies the existence or the
3 importance of the looming climate crisis, including
4 anyone who works for the current administration.
5 As a grandfather myself, I would challenge you to
6 sit with any young children or grandchildren you
7 know, look them in the eyes and say in a very
8 serious tone the following quote, Johnny, Susie,
9 whatever, as you grow older, I want you to remember
10 this day and what I'm about to say.

11 I, your father, mother, uncle, aunt,
12 grandfather, whatever, do not believe that climate
13 change is a problem we need to address. I do not
14 believe that climate change is a concern, and I
15 oppose any efforts to reduce climate change,
16 unquote. Let that be your lasting legacy with that
17 young person.

18 Future generations will curse us if we do not
19 take strong actions to address the looming climate
20 crisis. Your descendants deserve to know where you
21 stood at this crucial time. I urge you to protect
22 future generations and reject the attempt to undo
23 EPA's Endangerment Finding. Thank you.

24 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

25 The next speaker is Ann Brown.

1 MS. BROWN: Greetings. My name is Ann Brown
2 from Livermore, California. I am a teacher, a
3 grandmother, and the school's outreach director for
4 Tri Valley Air Quality Climate Alliance, a local
5 nonprofit. I am here to speak for present and
6 future generations of children and families whose
7 health will be greatly impacted by the
8 reconsideration of the Endangerment Finding and the
9 gutting of our vehicle emission standards.

10 As a teacher and outreach educator, I've
11 greatly appreciated the many educational resources
12 provided by EPA. Examples include the Air Flag
13 program and lesson plans and the AirNow app. I
14 teach students about the hazards of heat-trapping
15 gases. In our Tri Valley airshed, our biggest
16 health threats are ozone and particulate matter,
17 mostly due to vehicle emissions.

18 I now find it so frustrating that the current
19 administration would lift restrictions on these
20 same hazardous substances. The definition of
21 protection is to shield from harm. Nothing is more
22 precious than a clean environment and our health.
23 Just ask anyone in the ER who is gasping for breath
24 from an asthma attack triggered by polluted air.

25 Our country's environmental regulations are

1 based on the consensus of thousands of scientists.
2 What message are you imparting to future scientists
3 if you erase the rigorously vetted Endangerment
4 Finding rooted in science? What message are you
5 imparting to families when you eliminate the
6 vehicle emission standards that prevent childhood
7 asthma, lower cancer risk, and other health impacts
8 that result in costly hospital visits, lost work
9 hours and suffering? I reach out to you, the
10 stewards of the Environmental Protection Agency, to
11 uphold your mandated duty to protect the precious
12 lives and health of our children, our elders, our
13 friends with long-term COVID whose lives will be
14 irrevocably altered by lifting restrictions on
15 vehicle emissions.

16 It is our moral responsibility as good
17 ancestors to leave a healthy planet for future
18 generations. Please reject the reconsideration of
19 the Endangerment Finding and loosening of the
20 vehicle emission standards. Do the right thing for
21 your great grandchildren.

22 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
23 That concludes Panel 5. We'll now move to Panel 6,
24 and our first speaker will be A.F. Cook.

25 MS. COOK: Hello. I'm trying to get video to

1 work.

2 MS. LEONARD: I will send you a prompt that
3 will help.

4 MS. COOK: There we go. Thank you.

5 MS. LEONARD: Yes, we can hear and see you.

6 MS. COOK: I want to thank you for a -- you
7 can hear me; right?

8 MS. LEONARD: Yes, we can hear you.

9 MS. COOK: Okay, everybody, I want to thank
10 you for a well run series of public hearings. I
11 hope the EPA will take our input seriously and
12 honor its obligation to protect the health, safety,
13 and lives of the American people by abandoning this
14 proposed rule.

15 I'm an independent who doesn't disagree with
16 the President on everything, but the EPA's intent
17 to repeal the Endangerment Finding betrays the
18 President's own principle of common sense. He
19 believes in the science of biology when it comes to
20 women's sports. So, he presumably believes in the
21 sciences of meteorology and climatology, which led
22 the EPA itself to attribute the life-threatening
23 accumulation of atmospheric carbon emissions to
24 five key economic sectors, most notably
25 transportation and energy.

1 I fear EPA policy is being driven by climate
2 change denial and an unworkable philosophy of
3 relentless growth over habitat sustainability.
4 This combined mindset undermines the hope and
5 futures of your own children and grandchildren and
6 everyone else's. I worry the administration is
7 being coerced and bullied into implementing
8 dangerous policies that are ultimately anti-life.
9 No attempt to undermine the legal basis of the
10 Endangerment Finding can hide the clear and present
11 danger of this proposed rule.

12 We need to know our EPA will base its
13 decisions on reliable science and moral conscience.
14 Don't give in to irrational pressure to do more
15 harm. Driven by short-term profiteers and the
16 apocalyptic religious beliefs of a few that seek to
17 justify environmental protection, not common sense.

18 The President seems to love being a
19 problem-solver and brokering deals. I don't think
20 this proposed rule was his idea at all because he
21 recently showed his environmental conscience
22 signing his Make America Beautiful Again order
23 after consulting with Nature is Nonpartisan.

24 The fossil fuel industry must be regulated
25 because for decades it hid the data of its own

1 scientists who predicted this climate catastrophe
2 from the mass burning of fossil fuels. Automakers
3 have invested billions in the fuel-efficient
4 vehicles most people feel great about owning.
5 Deregulating fuel emissions is not common sense.

6 The vast majority of people view responsible
7 stewardship of the earth's environment as a moral
8 obligation. That does not make us radical or woke
9 or part of cancel culture. Many evangelicals call
10 this obligation creation care. Responsible climate
11 policy transcends political and cultural
12 differences.

13 Some in the President's orbit want Americans
14 to have more babies, yet they reject any ethical
15 responsibility --

16 MS. LEONARD: That's time. Thank you for your
17 comments.

18 MS. COOK: Thank you.

19 MS. LEONARD: The next speaker will be John
20 Fraser.

21 MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Charmley and EPA
22 staff panelists for your attention after four
23 demanding days. I'm Dr. John Fraser, a social
24 psychologist from Seward, Alaska, a coastal fishing
25 town shaped by a catastrophic tsunami, the Exxon

1 Valdez oil spill, and failing Coldwater Era
2 infrastructure that protects us from accelerating
3 glacial melt.

4 Our fisheries are a central pillar of
5 America's food security, and a destabilizing
6 climate threatens that foundation and with it
7 national health and economic stability. America
8 deserves a strong EPA, an agency that follows law
9 and science to protect public health and
10 competitiveness. An EPA that respects this panel's
11 expertise and achievements.

12 Since the appointment of Administrator Zeldin
13 and its fossil fuel insiders, we have witnessed a
14 deliberate effort to manufacture doubt, suppress
15 prior EPA-supported research done by this group
16 itself, and weaponize the disinformation to erode
17 scientific consensus, delay accountability, and
18 secure private gain at the expense of public health
19 and justice. Repealing the greenhouse gas
20 Endangerment Finding and related emissions controls
21 would codify and permission harm.

22 I study how social networks pressure people to
23 violate their own moral compass. My research shows
24 that 95 percent of Americans across political
25 identities know that the climate is changing and

1 not for the better. Since Tuesday, speakers have
2 reiterated settled science, documented potential
3 health harms that will likely follow repeal, and
4 legal testimony demonstrating how the Clean Air Act
5 enables the EPA's role in regulating greenhouse
6 gases.

7 Repeal would signal that the USA has abandoned
8 its duty to its citizens. It would invite
9 polluters to undo decades of progress and seed the
10 future of automobile innovation to Europe and Asia
11 where EV technology is flourishing. Strong global
12 standards save lives, spur innovation, reduce
13 healthcare costs and keep American workers and
14 suppliers competitive. But this is a moral test as
15 well as a scientific and legal test.

16 I ask this panel to use your positions to
17 refuse to endorse any retraction of the greenhouse
18 gas findings and emissions standards. Keep faith
19 with your oath. Do not allow your short-term
20 political masters to withdraw the Endangerment
21 Finding. Do not trade clean air for industrial
22 profit. Retain the regulations to reduce suffering
23 now and secure a just competitive future.

24 Based on the totality of this week's
25 testimony, choose the world we could have: cleaner

1 air, stable jobs, thriving fisheries and public
2 health over private profiteering on public assets.
3 I am very aware that recommending retention of the
4 finding may cost you your jobs, but I still ask you
5 to stand up for a world where the EPA does what is
6 morally right. Thank you.

7 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
8 The next speaker is Joan Brown.

9 MS. BROWN: Good morning. Thank you, Panel,
10 for your work this week and EPA staff, and I have
11 been praying for these proceedings all week. I am
12 Joan Brown, a Franciscan sister, and I'm the former
13 founding director of New Mexico and El Paso
14 Interfaith Power and Light, and I work now as a
15 community advocate with Interfaith Power and Light
16 working on the nexus of climate change and the oil
17 and gas concerns, which include the Permian Basin
18 which is in New Mexico and also Texas. The Permian
19 Basin is the largest active oil and gas field in
20 the United States and in the world, and we have
21 great problems there of methane.

22 I am soul sick by the proposed repeal of this
23 endangerment rule. This action is immoral and it
24 is sinful and will do great harm. Since I work
25 with oil and gas and climate change, I'm very

1 alarmed that going forward to repeal the rule would
2 prevent methane rules and weaken them. These rules
3 have been worked on for over 10 years and many,
4 many people of faith have worked on them. Methane
5 pollution in the oil and gas field accounts for 25
6 percent of pollution causing climate change and is
7 a way that we can address this issue quickly.

8 In New Mexico, children, workers, elders, and
9 others in the Permian Basin suffer serious health
10 concerns from methane and the region is in ozone
11 non-attainment according to the EPA. In New
12 Mexico, we're plagued with growing effects of
13 climate.

14 Our Rio Grande through Albuquerque has been
15 dry for two months. We have not had irrigation
16 water in my home in Albuquerque from the Eseka for
17 over two months. Our summer is long and intense,
18 and where I live we have not had the monsoons.
19 Trees, creatures, and people are suffering and
20 dying. Family farmers are selling their land,
21 youth are depressed and elders are sick from heat
22 and respiratory problems from the smoke.

23 Removing the Endangerment Finding is counter
24 to family values. The Old Testament says choose
25 life so that you and your children may live. These

1 current actions are antilife. Laudato si of Pope
2 Francis talked of a throwaway culture. We and all
3 of God's sacred creation are being thrown away for
4 greed and corporate profit.

5 We cannot continue a throwaway culture of
6 life. Please search your souls. Choose life and
7 not death. Thank you.

8 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

9 The next speaker is Daniel Schoonmaker.

10 MR. SCHOONMAKER: Thank you so much. My name
11 is Daniel Schoonmaker. I am the executive director
12 of Michigan Sustainable Business Forum. For 30
13 years, our organization has worked to support
14 businesses and institutions the development of
15 sustainability programs that, among other things,
16 work to protect public health and safety through
17 the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Thank
18 you for the opportunity to speak today and for
19 facilitating such a well-run series of testimony
20 here.

21 We are based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, have
22 approximately 500 members around the state
23 representing a cross-section of the business
24 community. We have all been working alongside
25 industry, including the automotive, furniture,

1 appliance, grocery, and chemical supply chains,
2 among others, main street businesses, utilities,
3 and local government to support a responsible and
4 just transition with the understanding of the
5 practical limits of industry, technology, and the
6 economy.

7 I want to strongly emphasize that virtually
8 none of these organizations and stakeholders are
9 adversaries to industry. And although they prefer
10 to see reasonable rates and more sustainable
11 generation sources, they generally enjoy mutually
12 beneficial relationships with our local utilities
13 as well.

14 It is from that perspective that I speak with
15 you today to share my opposition, my strong
16 opposition to your proposal to eliminate the U.S.
17 Environmental Protection Agency's 2009 Endangerment
18 Finding and its proposal to revise greenhouse gas
19 vehicle standards. There has been little to no
20 debate about the dangers of climate change among
21 the business community for nearly a quarter
22 century.

23 It has become the predominant language of
24 corporate sustainability regardless of the
25 political leanings of host communities and

1 management. It has been the basis for thousands,
2 if not millions of hours of work from professionals
3 in Michigan. I am not aware of a single reputable
4 corporation that does business in Michigan that
5 does not believe climate change poses a threat to
6 public health and safety, private property, and the
7 resilience of local communities.

8 While there are legitimate debates on how the
9 private and public sector should respond to these
10 threats, and not every business leader shares my
11 sense of urgency invested climate solutions the
12 scientific consensus detailed and Endangerment
13 Finding is simply a fact of life. Michigan will
14 seek to be carbon neutral by 2050, requiring other
15 things, eventual reinvention or transport
16 distribution much the way we do business.

17 Climate denial is a dated concept adversarial
18 to Michigan industry and Main street business.
19 Rescinding the finding will only serve to cause
20 confusion among the business community.

21 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

22 The next speaker will be Seth Vidana.

23 We don't see Seth Vidana on Zoom. We're
24 moving ahead to speaker 6 in Panel 6, Bernard
25 Doone.

1 MR. DOONE: Thank you to the dedicated
2 professionals of the EPA, past and present, who
3 have honorably served the mission of the EPA since
4 its founding in 1970 to protect human health and
5 the environment.

6 My name is Bernard Dune, and I'm here today on
7 behalf of my family. I'm a resident of Virginia
8 and a father of three teenagers growing up in a
9 warming world. Our oldest son is a sophomore in
10 college studying integrated science and technology
11 with a minor in music industry. He's an incredible
12 guitarist who earned a spot in the National Guitar
13 Ensemble.

14 In May of 2023, my wife and I feared he would
15 not live to graduate from high school. He went to
16 the ER three times, followed by admission to
17 Children's Hospital, diagnosed with swollen lymph
18 nodes. We feared the worst. It was a dark time.

19 After a week in the hospital meeting with a
20 team of infectious disease and cancer doctors,
21 someone asked, did you swim in a body of water
22 recently? He had gone swimming in Goose Creek. To
23 him, this was nature, a safe place. We learned
24 that Goose Creek is impacted by agricultural runoff
25 and industrial waste.

1 Environmental regulations exist for a reason.
2 Left unchecked, industries will pollute. They will
3 directly and indirectly harm people like my son and
4 the environment.

5 One month later, in June of 2023, the skies
6 over New York City turned orange and the sun was
7 blotted out caused by wildfires in Canada.
8 Virginia was not spared. Our skies turned gray,
9 and the sun turned red. Having recently returned
10 home from our son's illness, my family was now
11 unable to go outside because of air that was thick
12 with smoke and particulate matter.

13 I believe in the science that supports the
14 2009 Endangerment Finding. I am not alone.
15 Climate change is real. The accumulation of
16 decades of emissions is warming the oceans,
17 changing the composition of our air, substantially
18 impacting human health and creating an environment
19 that will not be conducive to human life. Nearly
20 50 percent of emissions in Virginia are caused by
21 the transportation sector.

22 The Endangerment Finding needs to remain in
23 place to protect my family, my wife and children
24 and my future grandchildren. I believe, as do
25 other Americans, that this attack on the

1 Endangerment Finding is a gift to polluting
2 industries solely for the maximization of profits
3 and to remove the so called burden of regulations.
4 Removing the Endangerment Finding would be a
5 dereliction of duty and would place my family and
6 yours in danger.

7 As a father, as an American citizen, I urge
8 you to continue the mission of the EPA and to keep
9 the Endangerment Finding and GHG regulations in
10 place. Thank you.

11 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

12 The next three speakers, the final speaker for
13 Panel 6 and the first two for Panel 7, are not
14 present that we can see on Zoom. So, we'll be
15 moving ahead to speaker 3 on Panel 7, and that
16 speaker is Jared Johnson.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Hello, can you hear me?

18 MS. LEONARD: I can hear you and I can see you
19 now.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Great. Thank you for the
21 opportunity to testify. My name is Jared Johnson.
22 I'm the founder of Empower Green Voices, and I'm
23 here today to express my strong opposition to the
24 EPA's rollback of the Endangerment Finding.

25 The Endangerment Finding is not just policies

1 of public safeguard. It's what holds the EPA
2 accountable for acting on the overwhelming science
3 that shows climate change threatens our health,
4 safety, and future. It's backed by decades of
5 evidence by the IPCC, National Academies of
6 Science, and thousands of peer-reviewed studies.
7 Gutting it would leave the public vulnerable just
8 to serve polluters.

9 Just like Darien Davis, I lived through the
10 wildfire season in California, and no level of
11 preparation could make that experience normal. I
12 fear for my coworkers who could lose their homes.
13 I had to wear a mask just to breathe outside. That
14 experience made one thing clear: we need to protect
15 us from these climate threats, not fewer
16 protections from climate threats.

17 The numbers speak for themselves. More than
18 600,000 Americans are sent to the emergency room
19 every year due to asthma attacks triggered by ozone
20 and smog, pollution that's worsened by heat and
21 fossil fuel emissions. Climate change is
22 intensifying the crisis. 2023 saw the highest
23 number of billion-dollar weather disasters in the
24 United States history, totaling over 92 billion in
25 damages.

1 The EPA owns data that -- the EPA's own data
2 confirms that climate-linked harms, like extreme
3 heat, flooding, wildfire smoke, are increasing year
4 after year and that they hit hardest in low-income
5 and frontline communities. To repeal the
6 Endangerment Finding, according to the Supreme
7 Court case EPA versus Massachusetts, the EPA would
8 have to show a significant body of new
9 peer-reviewed science, evidence that greenhouse
10 gases no longer pose a threat to public health or
11 welfare.

12 They have not met that standard because no
13 such evidence exists. The EPA has legally a duty
14 to regulate greenhouse gases, and they clearly
15 endanger the public health. Rolling back the
16 Endangerment Finding now would not only ignore that
17 evidence, it would actively suppress it. It would
18 deny our most vulnerable communities the basic
19 right to protection from harm.

20 So, I urge you to reject this proposal and
21 maintain the Endangerment Finding. Our health, our
22 economy, our future depends on it. Thank you for
23 your time and for hearing my testimony today.

24 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
25 Thank you for your comments.

1 Speaker 4 on Panel 7 is not present on Zoom.

2 We will be moving forward to speaker 5, James
3 Goodwin.

4 MR. GOODWIN: Hello. Can you hear me okay?

5 MS. LEONARD: Yes.

6 MR. GOODWIN: Great. My name is James
7 Goodwin, and I'm the policy director at the Center
8 for Progressive Reform. Thank you for the
9 opportunity to testify today.

10 One of our organization's core beliefs is that
11 the regulatory system can help promote an inclusive
12 economy that works for everyone. When implemented
13 well, the Regulatory Flexibility Act should
14 contribute to that goal. I'm testifying today to
15 explain why EPA likely violated Reg Flex by
16 incorrectly certifying that the proposed
17 reconsideration would not have a significant impact
18 on a substantial number of small entities.

19 The proposal justifies this certification by
20 asserting that it would relieve regulatory burden
21 on small entities. But this assertion
22 fundamentally misunderstands what Reg Flex requires
23 of the agency. Current guidance from the SBA
24 Office of Advocacy makes clear that the concept of
25 impact under Reg Flex is substantively neutral and

1 thus should account for both negative and
2 beneficial impacts.

3 This means that EPA would have been obligated
4 to assess potential beneficial impacts on small
5 firms in the automobile industry when it issued its
6 existing auto greenhouse gas standards. And make
7 no mistake, these rules have had significant
8 beneficial impact.

9 For instance, a 2017 report found that there
10 were 1,200 manufacturing facilities supplying green
11 technology for the auto industry at that time, and
12 that number has only grown in the intervening
13 years. Unsurprisingly, many of those facilities
14 are small businesses, which are nimble enough to
15 drive rapidly evolving technological innovation
16 that is vital to the sector.

17 And here's why this is important: Rescinding
18 those rules as a reconsideration proposes to do
19 will take those beneficial impacts away from small
20 businesses. The real lost revenues that small
21 firms will experience amount to a significant
22 economic impact under Reg Flex, which the
23 certification does not identify, much less account
24 for.

25 You should be aware that defective

1 certifications risk reconsideration vulnerable to
2 remand on judicial review. EPA would be wise to
3 abandon its certification and start over on its
4 rulemaking from scratch after having convened a
5 proper small business advocacy review panel and
6 conducted a proper initial regulatory flexibility
7 analysis. Thank you for your attention.

8 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
9 The next speaker is Sean Waters.

10 MR. WATERS: Thank you for the opportunity to
11 comment on EPA's proposal. My name is Sean Waters.
12 I'm the Vice President of Product Integrity for
13 Daimler Trucks North America.

14 Our company supports EPA's proposal, and we
15 will be submitting extensive comments on this
16 later. But today I'll focus on the agency's
17 decision or impact to rescind the GHG Phase 3
18 standards for heavy-duty vehicles that ensure
19 environmental progress is achieved while
20 recognizing industry's economic and operational
21 realities.

22 As a key stakeholder in the transportation
23 logistics sector, we recognize the importance of
24 reducing emissions, but that it must be done at the
25 speed of right. However, the greenhouse gas phase

1 3 regulations are unachievable for the trucking
2 industry due to infrastructure availability,
3 feasibility, and cost. And by mandating zero
4 emission vehicles that the market isn't ready to
5 support, it delays fleet turnover. This proposal
6 will help ensure faster replacement of older
7 vehicles and thereby reduce emissions.

8 The market assumptions on which EPA premised
9 its Phase 3 stringency levels were flawed and have
10 not materialized for our industry. These include
11 over-projections of ZEV demand and infrastructure
12 availability. It also includes an underestimation
13 of costs associated with the ZEV transition. EPA's
14 proposal will address these errors and change
15 circumstances.

16 Important, rescinding the 2009 Endangerment
17 Finding would not impact the preemption of state
18 GHG emission standards under Clean Air Act Section
19 209(a). Congress enacted 209(a) for the very
20 purpose of ensuring a cohesive and consistent
21 program for new vehicle engine emissions. EPA
22 retains its authority to regulate in the this area
23 consistent with the criteria under Section 202(a).

24 The trucking industry has a long track record
25 of innovation and environmental stewardship, and we

1 remain committed to offering our customers choices
2 as to which product options best suit their
3 business needs. We are confident that through
4 balanced and inclusive regulatory process we can
5 continue to make meaningful progress without
6 compromising the resilience and efficiency of our
7 nation's freight network.

8 We support EPA's efforts in this proceedings
9 to restore the best reading of the Clean Air Act
10 and to ensure that regulatory activities align with
11 the core purpose of the act, to address air
12 pollution that endangers the public through local
13 or regional exposure. Thank you.

14 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
15 The next speaker, speaker 7 in Panel 7, is Michael
16 Coates.

17 MR. COATES: Hello. Thank you for the
18 opportunity to speak on this important subject. My
19 name is Michael Coates. I'm speaking as a private
20 individual in opposition to the repeal of the
21 Endangerment Finding.

22 I live in California, where we're already
23 experiencing the impact of climate change. As an
24 experienced journalist, I've covered the
25 environmental issues for more than three decades

1 and believe that the science behind EPA's
2 Endangerment Finding is based on overwhelming
3 evidence. An aside, I also feel very strongly that
4 the actions taken to mitigate climate change are
5 all positive for the environment and individuals of
6 this country and the world. Thank you for the
7 opportunity to speak.

8 MS. LEONARD: Thank you so much. We are now
9 at the end of our morning session. EPA, are you
10 ready to recess for the scheduled lunch break?

11 MR. CHARMLEY: Yes, Colleen, we are. And we
12 can begin again, as the slide indicates, at 1 p.m.
13 Eastern Time today.

14 MS. LEONARD: Yes. Thank you. We are now
15 adjourning for a lunch break. The virtual meeting
16 room will remain open. Please feel free to
17 maintain your connections or rejoin a few minutes
18 early. We will restart promptly at 1 p.m. Eastern.

19 (A luncheon recess was taken from 11:55 a.m.
20 to 1:00 p.m.)

21 MS. LEONARD: We will now continue our public
22 testimony. This speaking order is currently
23 displayed on the screen as a reminder. We ask that
24 each person limit their verbal testimony to two and
25 a half minutes and speak slowly and clearly for the

1 benefit of the court reporter and closed captioning
2 team.

3 I did get a little ahead of myself. I'd like
4 to welcome you back to the U.S. EPA's Virtual
5 Public Hearing for the Reconsideration of 2009
6 Endangerment Finding and greenhouse gas vehicle
7 standards. My name is Colleen, and I will serve as
8 your meeting facilitator for today's hearing. We
9 are now ready to resume the hearing.

10 EPA, are you ready to resume?

11 MR. CHARMLEY: Yes, Colleen, we are.

12 MS. LEONARD: Thank you. We will now continue
13 our public testimony. The speaking order is
14 displayed on screen as a reminder. We ask that
15 each person limit their verbal testimony to two and
16 a half minutes and speak slowly and clearly for the
17 benefit of the court reporter and the closed
18 captioning team.

19 Due to the large volume of registered speakers
20 and registrants already on the waitlist to provide
21 oral testimony during this hearing, we will be
22 strictly enforcing the 2 and a half minute time
23 limit for each speaker. Thank you in advance for
24 your cooperation to ensure that we hear from as
25 many attendees as possible. If you have additional

1 comments that you are not able to provide today,
2 you can also submit them through the docket at
3 www.regulations.gov using docket ID
4 EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0194.

5 I will now begin calling on each speaker one
6 at a time in the order displayed on the screen.
7 Please speak clearly so our court reporter can
8 record these proceedings accurately.

9 The next speaker will be Dan Hunt. And please
10 state your name and affiliation for the record.

11 And I'm not seeing Dan on Zoom. And I skipped
12 our first speaker, who will be up next, and that is
13 Abbie Nistler.

14 MS. NISTLER: Hello. Can you hear me okay?

15 MS. LEONARD: Yes, and see you.

16 MS. NISTLER: Okay, perfect. Hello. My name
17 is Abbie Nistler. I'm a resident of Salt Lake
18 City, Utah. I graduated from the University of
19 Utah with a degree in chemistry and environmental
20 studies. Last minute. I am here to speak as an
21 individual. As an individual, I may not be an
22 expert in the legal and logistical aspects of the
23 repeal of the reconsideration of the 2009
24 Endangerment Finding and greenhouse gas vehicle
25 standards, but I am here today because I am

1 passionate about the health of my community and the
2 impact air pollution has on it.

3 I support the 2009 Endangerment Finding and
4 greenhouse gas vehicle standards. These standards
5 are being enforced. These standards being enforced
6 by the EPA allows communities to have healthy air
7 quality. With Salt Lake City having the worst --
8 or the ninth worst air quality of any city in the
9 U.S., healthy air quality is very important to me.

10 When I first moved here from Minnesota, I had
11 no idea that air quality was an issue people had to
12 worry about. Instead of elementary students having
13 to stay inside because of the cold during
14 research -- during recess, they had to stay inside
15 due to bad air quality. I have family members of
16 friends that have had to move due to the impact air
17 quality has had on their health and leave behind
18 extended family members, which has been very sad
19 for them.

20 Bad air quality days in Salt Lake City leads
21 to increased hospitalization and suicide rates.
22 Healthy air quality is important for the health of
23 communities. While Salt Lake City does require
24 vehicle emission testing, other communities may not
25 have this. The EPA helps protect these

1 communities. It plays an important role in guiding
2 communities in how to maintain a healthy
3 environment for all. With 70 percent of emissions
4 coming from vehicles, it is important that it stays
5 regulated by the EPA.

6 I appreciate and thank you for your time.
7 Please keep the 2009 Endangerment Finding and
8 greenhouse gas vehicle standards. It is important
9 to communities' health and helps communities stay
10 safe, especially communities that are regularly
11 already exposed to bad air quality. Thank you for
12 your time.

13 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
14 Our next speaker will be Joe Sabol.

15 MR. SABOL: Good morning, good afternoon.
16 Thank you for your time.

17 I'm second generation growing fruits and
18 vegetables in Southeast Wisconsin Sabol Farm. I've
19 noticed over the years climate change. Motor
20 vehicles are not a natural part of our environment,
21 and the greenhouse gas emissions from motor
22 vehicles is changing our climate. The increased
23 carbon dioxide and other hydrocarbon emissions is
24 increasing the amount of water vapor in the
25 atmosphere, which is changing the storm

1 precipitation patterns.

2 I've noticed over the years the prevalence of
3 more ticks and mosquitoes in our area. There was a
4 recent report from the local community radio
5 station wxpr.org on August 15th about an increased
6 reporting of ticks and mosquitoes in Wisconsin. I
7 looked at the University of Wisconsin Madison
8 Entomology Department website and they also show
9 similar information.

10 Why is this happening? It's because the
11 changes in weather patterns are more extreme
12 because of the increased greenhouse gases in the
13 atmosphere. I read a report that was cited in the
14 magazine Physics Today, August 2025, Volume 78,
15 Number 8, page 14, that discusses how the ice and
16 temperature of the Great Lakes over the summer and
17 winter seasons has changing dramatically with
18 dramatic swings.

19 It's not just a gradual warming of the lakes,
20 but it's a dramatic swing in the temperature of the
21 lakes. And this is giving mosquitoes and ticks an
22 enhanced opportunity to breed and persist.

23 For the foregoing reasons, I would encourage
24 the EPA to not repeal the Endangerment Finding
25 because the tailpipe emissions from motor vehicles

1 is having a direct effect on our climate, Earth's
2 climate, and it is causing huge impacts in the --
3 in my health and the health of my workers and
4 customers who visit my farm in Racine County,
5 Wisconsin. Thank you for your time.

6 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

7 The next speaker is Dan Hunt.

8 MR. HUNT: Hi. Good morning or good
9 afternoon, depending on your time zone. My name is
10 Dan Hunt. I Live in Tucson, Arizona.

11 I'm here today to express strong opposition to
12 the EPA's reconsideration of the 2009 Endangerment
13 Finding and rollback of vehicle greenhouse gas
14 emission standards. Let's be honest. This will
15 cost Americans trillions of dollars and millions of
16 lives. This is politics and pay to play for
17 political contributions over scientific fact. This
18 will kill us, kill jobs, kill the advancement of
19 the middle class. It's effectively a burden and
20 financial penalty to Americans to provide favors to
21 polluters.

22 With the current rules in place, the social
23 cost of carbon saved since 2020 alone is over \$3
24 trillion. The number of lives saved is 200,000 per
25 year or more. To state the rollback is to save

1 money is truly baloney.

2 Remember, figures don't lie; liars figure.

3 Well, that is what the politics of Lee Zeldin is

4 doing right now. Lying. Mr. Zeldin's

5 ill-conceived rollback will threaten my community,

6 my family, and many across the states. Higher fuel

7 consumption equals higher costs. Thousands per

8 family. The poor and middle class will pay out of

9 pocket for decreased fuel efficiency.

10 This is a regressive energy tax. This

11 proposal will kill hundreds of thousands of new

12 good paying skilled jobs that fuel middle class

13 prosperity and upward trajectory out of poverty.

14 This proposal kills the American dream.

15 If financial disaster wasn't enough, the

16 proposal will cost hundreds of billions of dollars

17 in increased healthcare costs, missed work, and

18 respiratory illness every year from increased

19 pollution. Remember the LA smog where you could

20 wipe the dirty air off your skin from the polluting

21 cars? If Lee Zeldin wants this back so bad, take

22 Zeldin's car and pump his exhaust into his home,

23 not ours.

24 Last note. Climate disasters are skyrocketing

25 due to greenhouse gases. They are on track to cost

1 American taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars
2 per disaster, meaning trillions per year. In
3 conclusion, the proposed reconsideration of the
4 Endangerment Finding and rollback of clean vehicle
5 standards will kill hundreds of thousands of jobs,
6 people, and Americans' ability to compete
7 worldwide.

8 This is a polluter's gift and a taxpayer's
9 nightmare, strapping us with a financial outcome
10 that would devastate America and American families.
11 Stop giving America away to the few at the cost of
12 our lives. We will not be considered a commodity
13 as this proposal does, giving our lives to
14 polluters. Thank you.

15 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

16 The next speaker is Annie Brown.

17 MS. BROWN: I'm Annie Brown, Mayor of South
18 Haven, Michigan, and I consider it a privilege and
19 an obligation to defend the town that elected me to
20 speak up for our beaches, our marina, our small
21 business community, and the high quality of life
22 our residents expect and deserve.

23 Over the last few years, changes to our
24 weather have shaken the foundation of our community
25 and what makes it thrive. Changes that have become

1 impossible to ignore. We've seen more frequent,
2 intense storms pound our shoreline, batter the
3 South Pier, and flood streets and parking lots
4 along the Black River.

5 High lake levels and powerful waves eat away
6 at property and public space. And erosion now
7 threatens docks and waterfront homes that have
8 stood for generations. Warmer winters have
9 shortened our ice season and cut into cherished
10 family traditions in the winter. Hotter summers,
11 combined with smoke that drifts in from wildfires
12 hundreds of miles away, mean more unhealthy air
13 days that keep families indoors and hurt our summer
14 tourism.

15 These are not distant, abstract problems.
16 They are real pressures on our infrastructure, our
17 economy, and our neighbors health. South Haven has
18 not waited. We've invested in nourishing our
19 beaches, shoreline protection, upgraded stormwater
20 systems, and worked to preserve our dunes and
21 wetlands as natural buffers. We are also
22 supporting small businesses so they can grow and
23 adapt.

24 But a small city on the shore of Lake Michigan
25 can't solve a global problem alone. Pollution and

1 greenhouse gases travel across states and borders.
2 That's why federal action matters. The EPA's
3 Endangerment Finding is not a political talking
4 point.

5 So, today, I urge you, keep the Endangerment
6 Finding in place. Let science guide policy. South
7 Haven will keep doing our part to protect the
8 shoreline and support our community, but we need
9 the EPA's full support. Thank you for your time.

10 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

11 The next speaker, excuse me, is Rachel Woods.

12 MS. WOODS: Hi, my name is Rachel Woods. I'm
13 an educator, small business owner, and a Path to
14 Positive Climate ambassador. I request that the
15 United States EPA does not repeal the 2009
16 Endangerment Finding. Greenhouse gases formed by
17 the combustion of fossil fuels are a direct threat
18 to human health and must be regulated.

19 I own a small environmental education business
20 in the Piedmont region of North Carolina. I design
21 nature studies for young people, and over this past
22 summer I hosted several weeks of nature-themed
23 summer camps for children ages 3 to 12. The heat
24 was a problem all summer.

25 Meteorologists have announced that July 2025

1 was the hottest summer on record in this region of
2 our state. Both the overnight temperatures and
3 daytime highs were above average. We also endured
4 the highest average dew point on record. The
5 higher the dew point, the more uncomfortable it is
6 as our body's natural mechanisms for cooling are
7 impaired.

8 The cause? A warmer than average Atlantic
9 Ocean driving wet air masses onshore that have
10 brought devastating amounts of rain to our area
11 this summer but has also kept the humidity levels
12 high making these hot summer days and nights nearly
13 unbearable.

14 What did this mean for my nature-themed summer
15 camps? I had to rearrange my plans to ensure the
16 safety of my participants. Children cannot
17 regulate body temperature as well as adults. They
18 are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses.

19 On the most extreme heat days and about half
20 of the days I worked camp this summer were extreme.
21 We had to limit the amount of time children could
22 actually be outside and had a deadline when all
23 children had to be inside for the rest of the day.
24 That happened as early as 9 a.m., most often at 10
25 a.m. Let me repeat, children could not go outside

1 to explore nature, have recess, enjoy a picnic, or
2 go for a walk after 10 a.m. many days this July.
3 We were inside the rest of the day.

4 This required creative planning on my part
5 and, quite frankly, a lot of patience. Children
6 need time for exercise and free time outdoors as do
7 people of all ages. Children are more irritable in
8 the heat. Heat is the leading cause of weather
9 related deaths in the U.S. and if it doesn't kill
10 you, it does already exacerbate existing health
11 conditions.

12 The Endangerment Finding is necessary to limit
13 greenhouse gas emissions and protect our planet
14 from further warning. Protect our children from
15 extreme heat. Do not repeal the Endangerment
16 Finding. Thank you for your time.

17 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

18 The next speaker is Ranjana Bhandari.

19 MS. BHANDARI: Good afternoon. My name is
20 Ranjana Bhandari, R-A-N-J-A-N-A B-H-A-N-D-A-R-I,
21 and I'm the executive director of Livable
22 Arlington, a grassroots environmental organization
23 in Arlington, Texas, a city of 400,000 in the
24 Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Our organization
25 advocates for clean air, clean water, and

1 responsible stewardship of our environment for our
2 children and for future generations.

3 According to the Texas Farm Bureau, Texas
4 leads the nation for weather and climate disasters.
5 From 1980 to 2024, there were 190 confirmed climate
6 disaster events with losses exceeding \$1 billion
7 each to affect Texas. We also lead in total
8 cumulative costs about \$402 billion from these
9 disasters.

10 Eight million residents live in the Dallas
11 area, which ranked third in transportation-related
12 greenhouse gas emissions worldwide in 2021. One
13 million people in our county of Tarrant live next
14 to fracking sites and breathe fracking emissions,
15 some of which are part of the Endangerment Finding.

16 There's a nearly straight line along the 100th
17 Meridian from Laredo, Texas, to North Dakota,
18 marking an abrupt climate shift. Dry to the west
19 and more fertile to the east. This demarcation is
20 stark for Texas. The vast majority of our state's
21 population resides east of the line in the state's
22 largest cities, including DFW.

23 Because of climate change, the line is no
24 longer tied to the 100th Meridian. It has shifted
25 east, and DFW may have already been swallowed by

1 the dry line, bringing with it increased drought
2 and weather-related climate events. By 2050, our
3 region is likely to experience a 5 degree
4 Fahrenheit increase in mean temperature during
5 summer months if emissions are allowed to continue.
6 According to Brookings, the annual U.S. GDP per
7 capita could fall from 6.7 to 4.3 percent under a
8 high emissions pathway.

9 It is not just our dreams for and obligations
10 to our children, driven by love and ethics, but
11 also sound economic policy that the EPA preserve
12 the Endangerment Finding and the greenhouse gas
13 vehicle emission standards. Thank you for this
14 opportunity.

15 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

16 The final speaker in Panel 9 will be Kelly
17 Rickwa.

18 MS. RICKWA: Hi, my name is Kelly Rickwa. I
19 live in San Diego, California, and I am a part of
20 SanDiego350, a local climate action nonprofit
21 profit. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to
22 testify.

23 I urge the EPA to uphold the 2009 Endangerment
24 Finding that identifies that greenhouse gas
25 emissions endangers public health. How can this

1 finding be reconsidered when millions of people
2 across America suffer from intense heat waves, when
3 people and families have lost their lives, homes,
4 and loved ones because of floodings or hurricanes,
5 when children begin coughing extensively and have
6 to be taken in for medical care because they get
7 diagnosed with asthma from air pollution?
8 Greenhouse gas emissions, which are fueling these
9 disasters and havoc, endangers public health.

10 The agency should be fulfilling their purpose
11 and not leaving Americans to fend for themselves as
12 we all face increasingly worse natural disasters
13 due to climate change. As a college student in
14 California, I care deeply about fighting against
15 environmental injustice and the effects of climate
16 change, and acknowledging that climate change
17 endangers each of us now and in the future is
18 integral to this fight. People are suffering now.

19 I want to be hopeful about my future and what
20 the world will look like in 20 or 30 years. But if
21 disasters continue to unfold with no regulation, it
22 will be difficult to remain hopeful. If this
23 finding is reconsidered and rescinded, this would
24 be a step backward for the EPA and for the United
25 States.

1 Natural disasters like the LA fires in my home
2 state and health issues like asthma and cancer will
3 increase emissions and costs for consumers will
4 skyrocket and corporations will continue to gain
5 power. So, please keep this Endangerment Finding.
6 Thank you for your time.

7 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments. We
8 will move forward to panel 10. The first speaker
9 from panel 10 is Pastor Paul Metzloff. We can see
10 you. Go ahead.

11 MR. METZLOFF: Hello, my name is Paul
12 Metzloff, and I'm a Lutheran pastor. I am strongly
13 against the reconsideration of the Endangerment
14 Finding.

15 Back in March, your administrator, Mr. Zeldin,
16 said that with this action, the EPA would be
17 driving a dagger straight into the heart of the
18 climate change religion. His choice of language
19 there is unfortunate, as every religion that I'm
20 acquainted with is strongly in favor of caring for
21 the environment.

22 For Jews and Christians, the clear commands
23 from God in Genesis are for humans to be good
24 stewards of the creation, to keep and till the
25 garden, to serve and protect it. And when Jesus

1 gave his great commandment, he called on his
2 followers to both love God and love our neighbors.
3 Such love compels us to care for our common home.
4 And since climate change is a direct result of the
5 greenhouse gases that the Endangerment Finding
6 covers, it is obvious that controlling and
7 significantly reducing them is critical. It's a
8 faith issue.

9 My denomination, the ELCA, which I am speaking
10 as a member of, not a representative for, by the
11 way, has clearly addressed this in our social
12 statement on caring for creation and our social
13 message on the climate crisis. We are called to be
14 God's caregivers and to do justice.

15 But as I mentioned, it's not just a Jewish or
16 a Christian calling. Islam calls on its believers
17 to care for God's creation. Buddhism emphasizes
18 compassion towards all forms of life. Hinduism
19 urges humans to live in harmony with the
20 environment. Virtually every faith calls for this.

21 A final point I need to mention. The recent
22 Department of Energy draft report, which is being
23 used to justify many of these environmental
24 protection rollbacks, like the attempt to revoke
25 the Endangerment Finding, contains over 100 false

1 and misleading statements. That's unacceptable.
2 From a faith standpoint, it violates the
3 commandment against bearing false witness, and it
4 is in great contrast to the vast majority of actual
5 climate science. It's like listening to the doctor
6 who is working for the tobacco industry who says
7 that smoking is good for you. Let's work with the
8 truth.

9 To conclude, I go back to Christianity. In
10 John's Gospel, Jesus says, you shall know the truth
11 and the truth will set you free. So, let's work
12 with the truth and let's keep the Endangerment
13 Finding. Thank you.

14 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
15 The next speaker is Ethan Sims.

16 MR. SIMS: It's not allowing me to start my
17 video.

18 MS. LEONARD: I can send a prompt to help with
19 that.

20 MR. SIMS: Okay. My name is Ethan Sims, and
21 I'm an emergency medicine physician in Boise,
22 Idaho, the Executive Director of the Idaho
23 Clinicians for Climate and Health, and most
24 importantly, the father of two brilliant young
25 women. It is in these roles as a parent and a

1 healthcare provider that I come to you today in
2 strong opposition to the reconsideration of the
3 Endangerment Finding.

4 Since its issuance in 2009, the Endangerment
5 Finding has served as a cornerstone of the EPA's
6 authority to regulate greenhouse gases under the
7 Clean Air Act. It was grounded in rigorous
8 scientific evidence and public input and affirmed
9 that greenhouse gases endanger both current and
10 future generations. This determination has enabled
11 critical protections, such as vehicle and power
12 plant emission standards, that have significantly
13 reduced climate pollution and saved lives.

14 Rolling back the Endangerment Finding would
15 dismantle the very foundation of the EPA's climate
16 response, just as the health impacts of climate
17 change are accelerating. As a frontline health
18 professional, I see these consequences daily.
19 Patients with worsening asthma due to wildfire
20 smoke, elderly individuals collapsing during
21 extreme heat, and families displaced by fires,
22 floods and storms, struggling to access care.

23 Climate change is no longer a distant threat.
24 It's a public health emergency happening now, as
25 was acknowledged by more than 200 major medical

1 journals in 2021. Tailpipe emissions from
2 transportation sector alone account for 29 percent
3 of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and reduce
4 co-pollutants, like particulate matter and ozone
5 that damage heart and lung health.

6 Here in Idaho, we see this manifested in the
7 growing number of dangerous heat days and days with
8 degraded air quality from wildfire smoke and ground
9 level ozone. Wildfires driven by extreme heat and
10 drought and being fed by greenhouse gas emissions
11 for the past 10 years have grown year on year.

12 In the hospital, I see more patients
13 presenting to the ER, not just respiratory
14 illnesses like asthma and emphysema, but with
15 increasing visits for all causes and higher
16 mortality in times of great heat and smoke. Last
17 summer, in the midst of another record-breaking
18 heat wave, with fires raging in many parts of our
19 state, our entire region's hospitals were at full
20 capacity, leading to delays in care, long wait
21 times in patient boarding, sometimes even requiring
22 transfers out of state to receive care. Summers
23 are usually a slower time in the emergency
24 department, but not last summer. And
25 interestingly, after two weeks from the fires dying

1 down, the temperatures cooled and our hospitals
2 again had capacity to care for patients.

3 Idahoans cherish the outdoors and our
4 connection to nature, and tailpipe emissions are
5 directly impacting our way of life as during these
6 wildfire events, I can no longer take my family
7 into the backcountry to hike and camp. My friends
8 and colleagues are seeing fewer opportunities to
9 hunt and fish, and our consistent access to
10 snowpack that we love for skiing and snowmobiling
11 is dwindling.

12 MS. LEONARD: That's time. That's time.
13 Thank you for your comments.

14 The next speaker is Catalina Gomez.

15 MS. GONZALEZ: Gonzalez. Thank you.

16 MS. LEONARD: Thank you. Thank you for the
17 correction.

18 MS. GONZALEZ: Hello, my name is Catalina
19 Gonzalez. I'm a senior policy analyst at the
20 Center for Progressive Reform. I am based in Los
21 Angeles, California.

22 We believe government institutions need to be
23 strengthened to be more fair, inclusive and
24 responsive to the needs of Americans, especially
25 marginalized communities that are feeling the

1 earliest and most severe impacts of climate change.
2 EPA is responsible for fulfilling its mandate to
3 mitigate the harm of GHG emissions caused by
4 polluting industries and not aid and abet the
5 fossil fuel industry to maximize its profits while
6 externalizing known harms that they have been aware
7 of for decades to the public.

8 We ask EPA to withdraw this proposal to repeal
9 the 2009 Endangerment Finding and keep strong
10 standards in place for vehicle emissions based on
11 an overabundance of evidence that disprove the
12 claims presented in this proposal, which are false,
13 unserious, and not supported by the global
14 scientific community, economists, or the public.

15 EPA must recognize scientific facts, including
16 evidence which has been unequivocal that
17 heat-trapping pollutants from combustion fossil
18 fuels caused harm to human health and premature
19 deaths. This evidence has only grown. New data
20 shows that glaciers are melting, subarctic lakes
21 are dying, sea levels are rising globally and
22 threatening fresh water supplies.

23 It's also a fact that transportation is the
24 single largest contributor to GHG emissions and
25 PM2.5 particle pollution and ground level ozone are

1 directly responsible for preventable deaths,
2 respiratory, cardiovascular disease, and other
3 maternal and developmental illnesses. Communities
4 across the U.S. are experiencing extreme heat,
5 higher degree days, and poor quality air pollution
6 days, and can see with their own eyes extreme heat,
7 extreme weather.

8 The impacts of climate change are being felt
9 now. In Southern California where I live, it's
10 becoming more like a desert which with each passing
11 year. We also have the worst air quality. And
12 there's growing poll and survey data which shows
13 that young people are saying climate change is
14 already impacting them in direct ways and being
15 detrimental to their mental health.

16 A countywide youth assessment conducted in Los
17 Angeles County in 2004, 90 percent of young people
18 under the age 24 -- under age 24, they are feeling
19 the direction impacts of climate change in their
20 households and that thinking about the future
21 causes them to feel fear and anxiety because of
22 climate change. Please withdraw this unscientific
23 proposal. Thank you.

24 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

25 The next speaker is Jeff Green.

1 MR. GREEN: Can you hear me?

2 MS. LEONARD: Yes. Can hear and see you.

3 MR. GREEN: Thank you. Good afternoon. My
4 name is Jeff Green. I live near Chicago, and I
5 volunteer with organizations dedicated to limiting
6 global heating.

7 Repeal of the Endangerment Finding will
8 increase cost to the public, ignores established
9 climate science and has little chance of surviving
10 judicial review. According to government sources,
11 the total costs of U.S. climate-related disasters
12 over the last 10 years exceed \$1 trillion.

13 The leaders of the EPA claim that unleashing
14 from regulation the primary drivers of climate
15 change, the fossil fuel-burning vehicles and power
16 plants, will somehow decrease these costs borne by
17 U.S. residents. But taxpayers will continue to pay
18 for intensifying disasters while the perpetrators,
19 the fossil fuel companies, reap enormous profits.

20 The EPA supports its plan to repeal the
21 Endangerment Finding via a new DOE report that one
22 leading climate scientist said had five authors,
23 was rushed over four months and would not pass
24 muster in any traditional scientific peer-review
25 process. A report whose every assertion is

1 contradicted by years of peer-reviewed studies and
2 an overwhelming majority of climate scientists.

3 The EPA's repeal effort also fails to pass
4 legal muster. The Supreme Court in Massachusetts
5 versus EPA held greenhouse gases are air pollutants
6 and that the EPA must decide whether emissions
7 cause or contribute to air pollution that may
8 reasonably be anticipated to endanger health or
9 welfare.

10 The D.C. Circuit upheld the Endangerment
11 Finding as neither arbitrary nor capricious. The
12 effort to repeal the Endangerment Finding is an
13 attempt to deny the established science of the
14 dangers of greenhouse gas-driven climate change and
15 to continue to shift the costs of the increasingly
16 calamitous results of pollution-fueled climate
17 change from fossil fuel companies to the American
18 public using a cherry-picked panel that produced a
19 spurious report that wasn't subject to peer review.
20 We deserve better. Thank you.

21 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

22 The next speaker is Laura Kelly.

23 MS. KELLY: Thank you for having me. My name
24 is Laura Kelly. I work at a federally qualified
25 health center in California. I've been working at

1 the intersection of public health and climate
2 change since 2020 when the wildfire smoke here was
3 so extreme for six long weeks that it turned the
4 sky orange and was visibly harming our patients.
5 That smoke event is estimated to have killed over
6 1,000 people.

7 In addition to my direct experience of the
8 harms of climate change, I also have degrees in
9 environmental studies, economics, and public
10 administration. I first became aware of climate
11 change at the age of 12, when the drought got so
12 bad where I lived that our well went dry while I
13 was in the shower, and I had to rinse my hair out
14 with a hose at school. Everywhere I've lived, I've
15 watched the storms, fires, floods, and droughts get
16 worse.

17 The data supports that these events are
18 increasing in frequency and intensity all over the
19 world, and that is strongly linked to higher levels
20 of greenhouse gases. And humans are the ones
21 releasing those gases, but you already know that.

22 There have been record numbers of American
23 deaths each of the last three years from heat
24 alone. Doctors at ERs in extreme heat waves can
25 tell you about people dropping dead in the fields,

1 deep burns on people's skins from sitting on a hot
2 curb, people on dialysis because their employer
3 forced them to work outdoors in dangerous
4 temperatures with no respite.

5 From an economic perspective, there's no
6 question it should be regulated at the federal
7 level. The anticipated costs of damage from
8 climate change are well known to insurance
9 companies, and lack of centralized regulation leads
10 to a race to the bottom among smaller
11 jurisdictions, with the most oil dependent being
12 the least likely to act in the public's long-term
13 interest, as we have seen. It's not a question of
14 jobs. Retraining is a solved problem, and we have
15 the money. It's not a question of technology.
16 Many other countries are already far less pitifully
17 dependent on fossil fuels than ours is.

18 The fact that the U.S. Environmental
19 Protection Agency is considering reversing these
20 rules is a clear indication of agency capture by
21 the fossil fuel industry to even the most casual
22 observer. You'll probably get away with it, which
23 doesn't make our patients any less dead. I can
24 tell you that their blood is on your hands, but I'm
25 deeply afraid that until your well goes dry or the

1 fire's burning down your house, you won't care.

2 So, please prove me wrong.

3 The industry lobbyists asking you to reverse
4 this rule won't miss a meal over any of this. This
5 is your chance to show you're willing to act to
6 save lives. We cannot regulate this ourselves. We
7 need you. Please help us. Thank you.

8 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

9 The next speaker and the final speaker in
10 Panel 10 is Carrie Nyssen.

11 MS. NYSSSEN: Good morning. And I don't see my
12 video, but I'll go ahead with my testimony.

13 MS. LEONARD: And I can assure you that we do
14 see your video.

15 MS. NYSSSEN: Okay. Super. Super. Good
16 morning. And I think many of you are -- it's a
17 good afternoon is probably more appropriate for
18 you.

19 My name is Carrie Nyssen, and I'm a lifelong
20 Washingtonian. I grew up on a small dry land wheat
21 farm in Eastern Washington, and today I help manage
22 that same farm. Land that my great-grandfather,
23 grandfather, and father all worked before me.
24 Farming is in my blood, and I see firsthand how a
25 changing climate is affecting our practices and our

1 future.

2 In Washington, average temperatures have risen
3 about 2 degrees since 1900. And that increase
4 seems small, but it's having an impact. And that
5 shift brings hotter summers, drier conditions, and
6 more stress on crops like weeds. At the same time,
7 wildfire smoke is now a regular part of our
8 summers, and air quality across Washington has
9 exceeded federal health standards multiple times in
10 recent years, threatening both our public health
11 and farm work.

12 I'm also an aunt and a great aunt, two of my
13 favorite roles in life. And like so many families,
14 we hope to leave this planet healthier and more
15 secure for the generations who follow us. When I
16 first learned that the EPA's core mission was to
17 protect health, I thought, what a cool and
18 incredible charge. To safeguard our health and
19 well-being through science-based decisions.

20 Today, I urge you to hold true to that mission
21 for my family's farm and all America's farmers, for
22 my nieces and nephews, and all of America's youth,
23 and for all communities across this country.
24 Please continue to put science and health first.
25 Let's strengthen instead of repealing the

1 Endangerment Finding and the greenhouse gas
2 standards for vehicles. We're counting on you.
3 Thank you.

4 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
5 As we move forward to Panel 11, the first
6 speaker will be Rebecca TeKolste.

7 MS. TeKOLSTE: Hello. Can you see me okay and
8 hear me?

9 MS. LEONARD: We can see and hear you both,
10 yes. Thank you.

11 MS. TeKOLSTE: Good afternoon and thank you
12 for the opportunity to speak. I represent the
13 Hoosier Environmental Council, and we are
14 respectfully calling on the EPA to uphold the 2009
15 Endangerment Finding.

16 Climate science should no longer be
17 controversial. There is overwhelming evidence that
18 climate change is happening and it is manmade. In
19 our state of Indiana, climate data already reveals
20 an increased average temperature, rainfall, and
21 extreme heat events. Already, Indiana has warmed
22 1.1 degrees Fahrenheit and rainfall has increased
23 by 5.6 inches over the last century.

24 Given the current state and global greenhouse
25 gas emissions, we do expect these trends to

1 continue. America's leading scientific bodies,
2 from the National Academy of Sciences to the
3 American Association for the Advancement of
4 Science, maintain that human activities,
5 particularly the burning of fossil fuels, are the
6 primary cause of global warming. This has been
7 reinforced by the 2021 IPCC report and the NASA
8 climate change team.

9 Climate change is real. Ignoring this fact
10 will not save American people from fires, storms,
11 heat, or floods. And this proposed repeal is not
12 only against science, it is also against the will
13 of the American people. 74 percent of Americans
14 agree our government should take action to reduce
15 greenhouse gas emissions.

16 But the repeal of the Endangerment Finding
17 would do the exact opposite. It would undermine
18 science, jeopardize the health and safety of
19 hundreds of millions of Americans, and ignore the
20 will of the American people. Americans everywhere
21 are already suffering because it's exhausting to
22 live in a heat dome that combines extreme humidity
23 and extended high temperatures.

24 Increasingly frequent floods, tornadoes,
25 fires, extreme storms, and resulting power outages

1 are a threat to us all. And our children and
2 grandchildren do have a right to a future that
3 isn't jeopardized by reckless policies driven by a
4 desire for immediate corporate profits and
5 subsidies for the fossil fuel industry. This
6 reckless action by the EPA would exacerbate
7 conditions for American families.

8 Without the ability to regulate greenhouse gas
9 emissions, science has shown that the following
10 impacts would likely occur more frequent and severe
11 disasters, increased impacts to public health, and
12 higher utility costs impacting families.
13 Preserving the Endangerment Finding is essential to
14 protect us all. We ask that you reject this effort
15 to repeal this finding. Thank you.

16 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
17 The next speaker is Cynthia Mahoney.

18 MS. MAHONEY: All right. Good morning and
19 thank you for allowing me to testify today. My
20 name is Cynthia Mahoney. I'm a physician, now
21 retired from teaching medicine at Stanford
22 University in clinical nephrology, that's kidney
23 disease, and critical care. I'll address two ways
24 that CO2 emissions endanger health through direct
25 toxicity and then through kidney failure.

1 Rising atmospheric CO2 from burning fossil
2 fuels harms health not only as a greenhouse gas,
3 but increasingly through direct CO2 toxicity.
4 Earlier testimony by members of the CO2 Coalition
5 to the contrary reflects their deep
6 misunderstanding of the optimal physiological
7 ranges on which human health depends.

8 Evidence shows that levels of CO2 now commonly
9 seen in our homes, classrooms, offices, and
10 airplanes can be toxic, causing substantial
11 learning impairments in students and impaired
12 complex decision-making by pilots. In later
13 written comments, I'll provide evidence that rising
14 CO2 could even be a significant factor in our
15 obesity epidemic.

16 Turning to kidney failure, over a decade ago,
17 I first noticed that my patients' kidneys would
18 often deteriorate in the heat waves that would were
19 becoming longer and more intense. I did my best to
20 protect them, creating action plans on how to stay
21 cool and how to adjust medications.

22 And I thought I was doing a good job until my
23 patient George came in for a routine visit, only to
24 discover that he was in acute kidney failure. The
25 cause was a fever, not in George, but in the earth.

1 He had been landscaping for the county during a
2 week long 100-plus-degree heat wave. And
3 fortunately, he recovered, but not everyone is so
4 fortunate.

5 A 2006 study confirmed that emergency room
6 visits and hospitalizations for acute kidney injury
7 rise substantially during heat waves here in the
8 U.S. Now in 2025, recurrent dehydration from heat
9 stress is thought to be the main culprit in the
10 epidemic of kidney failure that's killing young men
11 in Central America, and it won't stay there without
12 cutting emissions. Kidney failure is expected to
13 become the fifth leading cause of death worldwide
14 as soon as 2040. We cannot adapt our way out of
15 this.

16 I ask the EPA to recognize CO2 as a direct
17 pollutant, to conduct more research and make the
18 public aware of direct CO2 toxicity, and to abandon
19 efforts to repeal the Endangerment Finding. Thank
20 you.

21 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

22 Our next speaker is speaker 6, Sarah Safdie.

23 MS. SAFDIE: Hello. Good. I can see that you
24 can see me.

25 MS. LEONARD: We can see and hear you.

1 MS. SAFDIE: Okay. My name is Sarah Safdie,
2 not Safety, and I'm in Portland, Oregon. And I
3 want to thank you for the opportunity to express my
4 opposition to the EPA's plans to revoke the
5 Endangerment Finding.

6 Climate change is real and cannot be wished
7 away. Portland is at the beginning of a lengthy
8 heat wave right now. Not long ago, few people had
9 air conditioning here. Now it's almost impossible
10 to get through the summer without it.

11 In 2021, we suffered over two weeks of
12 unhealthy air quality due to fires exacerbated by
13 climate change. Not only could I not venture
14 outside, but all my windows and doors had to remain
15 closed. Without any EPA regulations, the situation
16 will only worsen.

17 Most respected scientists agree that climate
18 change is happening. They note that if we do
19 nothing about GHGs, like emissions from cars and
20 power plants, it will only get worse. It seems the
21 EPA is selectively using the findings of a minority
22 of so-called scientists to revoke the finding.
23 People who even say that GHGs are a good thing
24 because it will promote agricultural and forest
25 growth. Climate change, flooding, and drought will

1 stop such a fantasy from happening.

2 I'm also worried about what this might mean
3 for future regulation of GHGs from so-called
4 factory farms that emit a large proportion of
5 climate-changing gases because the animals spew
6 carbon dioxide and methane by farting and belching.

7 I have many other things I would like to say,
8 but my time is short, so I will only appeal to your
9 sense of what is best for our citizens' health and
10 the well-being of this country. Please stop using
11 junk science as a basis for your decisions.
12 Climate change is real. The choice before you is
13 do we act now to mitigate its health effects, or
14 fall behind the rest of the world.

15 MS. LEONARD: That's time. Thank you for your
16 comments.

17 The next speaker is Jim Telling.

18 MR. TELLING: Good day. Thank you for your
19 time. My name is Jim Telling. I live in Edwards,
20 Colorado, in the mountains of Colorado. I'm here
21 to speak against the rollback of the EPA
22 Endangerment Findings.

23 I have lived in Colorado since 1982. We are
24 experiencing global warming in our weather and
25 environment. For example, in the wintertime we

1 used to get two to three weeks of weather that
2 could be 10 to 20 below zero. Now we might get one
3 or two days every other year. In the summer we
4 hardly ever got to 90 degrees. Now we have weeks
5 of 90 degrees during the summertime. In fact, this
6 week is one of them.

7 This has led to extreme impacts to our
8 environment. Drying soils, wildfire fires, and
9 forest impacts. For example, beetles and other
10 bugs are killing our trees. The cold temperatures
11 we used to experience used to kill those insects.
12 Now they thrive. We have lots of dead-standing
13 timber in our forests.

14 The rising temperatures have led to an
15 increase in wildfires. We currently have eight in
16 Colorado. One is grown to be the fourth largest in
17 state history. All of the mega fires in Colorado
18 have occurred since 2020. One currently is burning
19 20 miles from my house, and the air quality is very
20 unhealthy. It's out of control, and it's not
21 contained.

22 Repealing standards to promote more fossil
23 fuel use is the wrong thing to do. It will
24 compromise future generations' health and welfare.
25 This will lead to a heated, heated world at a rapid

1 pace, and that will cause human health issues.

2 Extreme heat events are common in the world today.

3 I'm in the real estate development industry,
4 and as a company, we are taking a sustainable role
5 to our development. We try to achieve LEED Gold or
6 higher. We only do electric buildings. We do not
7 allow any natural gas to be burned in our
8 buildings, and our local electric grid is moving to
9 100 percent renewable energy. The rest of the
10 world is embracing changes to combat climate
11 change. There's no reason for the U.S. to
12 backtrack and return to the Dark Ages. Thank you
13 for your time.

14 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
15 Thank you for your comments.

16 We will be taking a brief pause. That was our
17 final presenter from Panel 11, and we will pause
18 before Panel 12 for about 10 minutes until 1:55
19 Eastern Time. We will be putting up in a moment a
20 slide so that those who are waiting and those who
21 join see that we're just updating the slide with
22 those times, and when we come back again together,
23 we will begin with Panel 12. Thank you, everyone.

24 (A recess was had from 1:47 p.m. to 1:55 p.m.)

25 MS. LEONARD: I will temporarily turn off my

1 camera and join back momentarily to restart the
2 hearing.

3 I'd like to welcome you back to the U.S. EPA's
4 Virtual Public Hearing for the Reconsideration of
5 2009 Endangerment Finding and greenhouse gas
6 vehicle standards. My name is Colleen, and I will
7 serve as your meeting facilitator for today's
8 hearing. We are now ready to resume the hearing.

9 EPA, are you ready to continue?

10 MR. CHARMLEY: Yes, Colleen, we would like to
11 continue. Thank you.

12 MS. LEONARD: Thank you. We will now continue
13 our public testimony. The speaking order is
14 currently displayed on screen. As a reminder, we
15 ask that each person limit their verbal testimony
16 to two and a half minutes and speak slowly and
17 clearly for the benefit of the court reporter and
18 closed captioning team.

19 I would also like to ask if you are online and
20 preparing to speak and see your name on the screen
21 but haven't been called that you please use the
22 chat feature to reach out and let us know that
23 you're here. Due to the large volume of registered
24 speakers and registrants already on the wait list
25 to provide oral testimony during this hearing, we

1 will be strictly enforcing the
2 two-and-a-half-minute time for each speaker. Thank
3 you in advance for your cooperation to ensure we
4 hear from as many attendees as possible. If you
5 have additional comments that you are not able to
6 provide today, you can also submit them through the
7 docket at www.regulations.gov using docket ID
8 EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0194.

9 I will now be calling on each speaker one at a
10 time in the order displayed on the screen. Please
11 speak clearly so that our court reporter can record
12 these proceedings accurately. The next speaker is
13 Coleen Anderson.

14 MS. ANDERSON: My name is Coleen Anderson.
15 I'm a leader of 350 Yakima Climate Action in
16 Washington State. I testify today on behalf of
17 myself, my family, and my community.

18 I'm alarmed by and strongly oppose the EPA's
19 proposal to reconsider the Endangerment Finding and
20 the greenhouse gas vehicle standards. This is
21 personal for me. My son struggled with asthma for
22 much of his life. My father died of lung cancer
23 after years of emphysema, and my older sister is
24 now in hospice with the same disease. Families
25 like mine should not have to watch loved ones

1 suffer because of preventable air pollution.

2 Yakima has the worst air quality in
3 Washington, worse than 83 percent of cities in the
4 state, according to the Department of Health.
5 Children, elders, outdoor workers, and people with
6 asthma are especially at risk. Without strong
7 vehicle emission standards, the number of bad air
8 days here will only grow.

9 The Endangerment Finding recognized what
10 science makes clear. Greenhouse gases endanger
11 public health. That conclusion was upheld in
12 federal court in 2012. Since then, the evidence
13 has only grown stronger. In 2024 alone, climate
14 fuel disasters cost the U.S. an estimated \$180
15 billion. Rolling back protections now would make
16 things far worse.

17 Transportation is the largest source of
18 greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. Strong
19 vehicle standards are essential to cut pollution
20 and protect our communities. My siblings and I
21 grew up in Los Angeles before President Nixon
22 created the EPA when cars could pollute freely. As
23 children, we choked on thick smog until federal
24 protections helped clean the air. We cannot go
25 back.

1 The EPA's mission is to protect public health
2 and the environment. Repealing the Endangerment
3 Finding would be a betrayal of that mission. I
4 urge you, uphold science, keep these protections in
5 place, and safeguard the health of our communities
6 and future generations. Thank you for your
7 consideration.

8 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
9 The next speaker is Jennifer Kitt.

10 MS. KITT: Hello, I'm Jennifer, and I live in
11 San Carlos, California. I'm a member of Epiphany
12 Episcopal Church, which is how I learned about this
13 hearing. And I, just like Colleen did, I'm asking
14 you to keep the Endangerment Finding in order to
15 protect our health now and over the long-term.

16 My voice is breaking because since 10 a.m. I
17 have been listening to all of these beautiful
18 people try and tell you to pay attention. You have
19 heard from students, from doctors, from scientists,
20 from moms, from dads, from local activists. I
21 heard an ER doctor a little while ago. I heard a
22 priest.

23 And I had my own prepared remarks about the
24 statistics of what this would do to people's health
25 and the care of our beautiful planet, but instead

1 of sharing those with you, I simply want to say,
2 please do your job and listen to these beautiful
3 voices. That are trying to ask you for help.

4 The EPA's job is to protect the people and the
5 places that we love. Please think about the people
6 and the places that you love and what needs
7 protecting. And remember that you work for us and
8 not for the oil and gas lobbyists that asked for
9 this. Thank you.

10 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments. We
11 are checking on panelists from Panel 13. Pause for
12 a moment here.

13 If you are a panelist on Panel 13 and you've
14 received an invitation to be promoted to panelist,
15 please accept that invitation. We will take a
16 moment to work on that. We will be leaving the
17 panel list up while we work through these steps.

18 Okay. We do have our next panelist who will
19 be speaking from Panel 13, Susan Clayton.

20 MS. CLAYTON: Thank you. Good afternoon. My
21 name is Dr. Susan Clayton. I'm calling from
22 Worcester, Ohio, and I'm speaking in opposition to
23 the proposal to repeal the Endangerment Finding.

24 I'm a research psychologist, and I've been
25 investigating the impacts of climate change on

1 mental health and well-being for more than 10 years
2 in collaboration with colleagues from around the
3 world. The science is clear that greenhouse gases
4 emitted by human activity are contributing to
5 climate change and that these changes have a
6 harmful impact. The impact is not just about
7 what's happening in the future. It's happening
8 now.

9 Heat waves, major storms, wildfires are
10 affecting a growing number of Americans. Even here
11 in Ohio, which is less vulnerable than many other
12 states, the economic costs are enormous and the
13 impacts on health and well-being are profound. All
14 of these climate impacts lead to increases in
15 mental health problems such as post-traumatic
16 stress disorder and depression. Heat waves are
17 associated with increases in suicide and
18 interpersonal violence. Neurological studies have
19 shown changes in brain function associated with
20 wildfire smoke.

21 These effects are not limited to the short
22 term. Experiencing high temperatures or extreme
23 weather can threaten both mental health and
24 cognitive functioning later in life, especially
25 among children. For example, high temperatures are

1 associated with increases in preterm births, which
2 are linked to a number of risks, including learning
3 disabilities and other cognitive difficulties, as
4 well as later mental health problems.

5 The EPA was created to protect health and the
6 environment. Its operations are supposed to rely
7 on the best available science. And I'm quoting
8 from the website, not on a report from five
9 hand-picked people that has not been peer-reviewed.

10 This proposal drastically undermines the EPA's
11 core mission. More people will die if the
12 Endangerment Finding is revoked. Let's be clear.
13 Most Americans are concerned about climate change,
14 recognize the health impacts and want to see more
15 government action, not less. Thank you for
16 protecting the greenhouse gas finding from
17 political manipulation and for protecting the
18 health of Americans.

19 MS. LEONARD: And thank you for your comments.

20 We'll be moving our panels forward to proceed
21 to Panel 14. And the first speaker in Panel 14 is
22 Assistant Attorney General Spenser Lotz.

23 MR. LOTZ: Good morning. My name is Jay
24 Spenser Lotz, and I'm an Assistant Attorney General
25 for the State of New Mexico. I'm here today to

1 express New Mexico's opposition to the EPA's
2 proposed rescission of the Endangerment Finding.
3 This proposal is contrary to science, law, and
4 common sense and would further abdicate America's
5 role as a world leader.

6 In New Mexico, we know from lived experience
7 that climate change is real. Our state has always
8 been hot and dry, but in the past 50 years it has
9 gotten hotter and drier as a result of climate
10 change. The average temperature has risen by more
11 than 2 degrees Fahrenheit from 1970 to 2020. And
12 since 2000 we've been experiencing a mega drought,
13 recognized as the driest two decades in 1,200
14 years.

15 Our mountain snowpack is depleted, our
16 wildfire season is now year round, and it no longer
17 gets cold enough in the winter to kill the bark
18 beetles which have devastated our forests. Even
19 our most well-known specialty crops, red and green
20 chile, are at risk as climate change increases the
21 spread of agricultural diseases, limits production
22 of crops, makes weather patterns more unstable, and
23 increases worker risk of heat stroke.

24 Science is clear that greenhouse gases cause
25 climate change, yet EPA's proposal would eliminate

1 one of the best tools for combating it. In 2022,
2 28 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions came
3 from transportation, 80 percent of which came from
4 the vehicles that EPA now proposes to deregulate.
5 EPA's own data show that its regulations have been
6 effective at curtailing emissions from mobile
7 sources and that the 2009 Endangerment Finding and
8 subsequent regulations led to an emissions
9 reduction trend that has continued on to today.

10 Why jettison this critical regulatory tool?
11 Paradoxically, EPA suggests that regulating
12 greenhouse gas emissions for new motor vehicles is
13 both going too far and not going far enough. It is
14 simultaneously an overreach of its statutory
15 authority, but also inadequate to meaningfully
16 address the global problem of climate change due to
17 foreign actors.

18 If EPA's attorneys are confused, they could
19 perhaps look at the law. Massachusetts VEPA held
20 that greenhouse gases fall within the Clean Air
21 Act's definition of air pollution and that upon
22 issuing an Endangerment Finding, EPA would have the
23 basis required for regulating such emissions.

24 Further, Loper Bright, upon which EPA hangs
25 its hat, emphasized that it does not call into

1 question prior cases and that such cases were
2 subject to stare decisis. Thus, greenhouse gases
3 are still air pollutants, which EPA is empowered
4 and required to regulate. EPA must withdraw its
5 misguided and unlawful proposal.

6 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

7 The next speaker is Annie Halsey.

8 MS. HALSIE: Hello. Good afternoon. My name
9 is Dr. Annie Halsey, and I'm a family physician
10 living in Washington, D.C. I'm also a Climate and
11 Health Science Policy fellow at the University of
12 Colorado, but today I'm speaking as a private
13 citizen. I thank you for the opportunity to
14 express my fervent opposition to the proposed
15 repeal of the 2009 Endangerment Finding.

16 To this end, let's recall the early days of
17 the COVID pandemic. I remember how quiet the
18 streets were, my Capitol Hill neighborhood, without
19 the usual hum of traffic. I remember the bird song
20 that became part of my new daily soundtrack, like
21 the reliable call of a new friend. I remember
22 riding my bike to the Tidal Basin to take in peak
23 bloom of the renowned and beloved cherry blossoms,
24 and how glorious it was to have no competition from
25 the throng of cars and crowds of people that

1 traditionally bottlenecked the area.

2 I'm sure you all remember similar moments of
3 clarity, an unexpected but welcome reprieve from
4 the relentless reliance on the personal motor
5 vehicle that we depend on for virtually every facet
6 of life in America. There was great suffering, to
7 be sure, during this time. No one needs reminding
8 of that. But the silver lining of that dark period
9 was a literal breath of fresh air for our Mother
10 Earth and virtually every living being on it.

11 We don't need a global pandemic to change our
12 behavior for the better however. The Clean Air Act
13 has been doing that on our behalf since its passage
14 in 1970. And with each iteration since then,
15 including passage of the Endangerment Finding, this
16 legislation has made our air cleaner. And a direct
17 result of this is that essentially every American
18 has been granted an additional year of life. A
19 whole year.

20 If this were to be repealed, it would be like
21 telling every person who acquires a new vehicle or
22 motor engine that the cost of that is a year of
23 their life and a year of the lives of everyone they
24 know and love. I would have to explain to my
25 patients, young and old, who have asthma, COPD,

1 kidney disease, heart disease, and virtually every
2 other chronic condition that the agency responsible
3 for protecting the health of our environment
4 decided that their health was deemed no longer
5 worth protecting. I would have to tell them that
6 this agency took deliberate measures to harm them,
7 the very people they are entrusted to protect.
8 It's the ethical, moral, and legal
9 responsibility --

10 MS. LEONARD: That's time. Thank you for your
11 comments.

12 MS. HALSIE: Thank you.

13 MS. LEONARD: The next speaker is Nichole
14 Biber.

15 MS. BIBER: Thank you. You can hear me fine.

16 MS. LEONARD: Yes, can hear and see you.

17 MS. BIBER: Thank you. I. My name is Nicole
18 Kiwe Biber. I am a tribal citizen of the Little
19 Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa.

20 I certainly oppose the proposed repeal of the
21 Endangerment Finding and the loss of vehicle
22 emission standards. Often when those who would get
23 rid of regulations they use the phrase common
24 sense. Though this has nothing to do with the
25 commons that we all equally rely upon or depend

1 upon for the waters, the air, soil that can grow
2 food here on our only home of the Earth.

3 You know, as an Anishinaabe person, a Great
4 Lakes indigenous person, we are at the time in our
5 teachings where we are collectively as a human
6 species at a time where we're reckoning with what
7 path we're going to take. We're going to go
8 further down this path of extraction, exploitation,
9 so-called technological fixes, or we're going to
10 realize that it is necessary for us to choose a
11 different path where we are going to work towards
12 restoration.

13 The Earth is clearly out of balance. We are
14 no longer secure. I no longer feel secure to fully
15 love the seasons. It hurts to know how much change
16 that if we go down this wrong path that we're going
17 to consign ourselves and our children to. To
18 envision my garden growing into the future, that's
19 difficult. Worst of all, to assume a recognizable
20 life trajectory for my children.

21 I shudder to picture the room where this
22 decision-making happened. The smug certainty that
23 their money is going to be what sets the rules. Go
24 back to a time of no limits when our Lake Erie here
25 in our homeland zone would set on fire. It's not

1 fair to allow the continued loss of fish and
2 streams or snow in winter, of butterflies in the
3 breeze, just because it's cheaper for polluters to
4 pollute.

5 This leaves us no recourse to protect
6 ourselves, to recoup our losses, to demand
7 accountability. And even worse, it steals our
8 chance to save ourselves, to stop and even reverse
9 the damages. To know that there's a possibility
10 that working together that we can have a different
11 way where, you know, we're not going to have to
12 think that our home is going to be unrecognizable.

13 Please do not ignore the facts and the wisdom
14 offered by the public this week. Respect our
15 collective right to the security of our commons
16 here on our only home. Please preserve the
17 Endangerment Finding and the vehicle admission
18 standards.

19 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
20 The next speaker is Saad -- excuse me for -- Amer.
21 Thank You.

22 MR. AMER: Hi, everybody. My name is Saad
23 Amer. I'm a climate activist, and I'm here to
24 testify against the EPA's decision to try and roll
25 back the Endangerment Findings. I've been sitting

1 here all day listening to doctors, to lawyers, to
2 scientists, to students, to Americans who are
3 telling their stories about how climate change is
4 decimating their communities. I'm not going to sit
5 here and say that climate change is real. Climate
6 change is happening, and we're seeing it all across
7 this country right now.

8 And EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, he knows
9 this himself. In fact, we're both from Long
10 island. And I remember Hurricane Sandy coming in
11 our community and just decimating the area, costing
12 over \$60 billion. And with climate attribution
13 science, we know that that storm was supercharged
14 by climate change, costing an extra \$8 billion.
15 And those storms compounding year over year causing
16 disasters all across this country.

17 I mean, we're seeing -- right now the Grand
18 Canyon was just on fire. Our public lands that we
19 love so much are losing their namesakes. Saguaro
20 National Park in Arizona is losing the cacti
21 because it's too hot for the cactuses. Glacier
22 National Park might not have glaciers anymore
23 because of how hot it's getting.

24 We're seeing wildfires costing billions of
25 dollars in California. We're seeing weather

1 disasters all across Florida causing flooding and
2 drowning and people dying. This, this is deeper
3 than just science. This is about us.

4 I think about the young people all across this
5 country who would be damaged for generations to
6 come if we were to repeal the Endangerment Finding.
7 I, I think about the future generations who are
8 going to have to live through a planet where
9 agriculture is uncertain, where their food is
10 uncertain, where housing is uncertain. And that
11 world, it's already here. And if we repeal the
12 Endangerment Finding, it's going to become so much
13 worse.

14 This essential legal protection needs to
15 remain in place because if we don't, the
16 consequences for us, for everyday people, for
17 Americans, for people all across the world are
18 going to be devastating. It's going to be costly.
19 And I shudder to think about the political reality
20 that got us into this moment, the corruption that
21 we're seeing in our government. And I hope that we
22 can come together and protect nature, our planet,
23 and our people in this essential moment. Thank
24 you.

25 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

1 The next speaker is Alan Journet.

2 MR. JOURNET: I am Dr. Alan Journet,
3 co-facilitator of Southern Oregon Climate Action,
4 now representing over 2,000 concerned Southern
5 Oregonians. I'm here to oppose the EPA's proposed
6 repeal of the 2009 Endangerment Finding. Please
7 see an expanded version of these comments in my
8 written submission.

9 The report on which this repeal proposal is
10 based did not offer credible evidence denying the
11 climate science consensus that greenhouse gases
12 pose a threat to life on our fragile planet. That
13 deeply flawed, non-peer-reviewed report by a small
14 group of climate contrarians rejected the
15 overwhelming consensus of 97 percent of publishing
16 climate scientists who affirm that human activity
17 is driving global warming.

18 Rejecting this consensus is both irresponsible
19 and dangerous. Science operates by testing
20 hypotheses and the publication of peer-reviewed
21 results. The EPA's reliance on politically
22 motivated unreviewed claims undermine science and
23 threatens the future of our children, our economy,
24 and our ecosystems.

25 The DOE's report contains over 100 false or

1 misleading statements as documented by independent
2 fact-checkers. It misrepresents respected authors
3 whose work was distorted to support conclusions
4 they reject. Climate change is already impacting
5 our ability to maintain safe homes, healthy
6 families, and thriving communities.

7 The IPCC confirms that human activities have
8 unequivocally caused global warming. If we
9 continue on our current path, projections show a
10 rise of up to 5 degrees centigrade, devastating
11 ecosystems, agriculture, and biodiversity
12 worldwide.

13 We trust medical experts for health. Why not
14 climate scientists for planets for the planet's
15 health? Policymakers must not substitute political
16 ideology for scientific expertise. I urge the EPA
17 to uphold the Endangerment Finding and protect the
18 regulation that stem from it. Our future depends
19 on it. Please return to reality and the
20 evidence-based world, upholding the EPA's mission,
21 and do not reject consensus science by repealing
22 the Endangerment Finding. Let's reverse the
23 current suicidal climate trajectory together.
24 Thank you very much.

25 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

1 And the next speaker is Ron Reilly.

2 MR. REILLY: My name is Ron Reilly. Thank you
3 for this opportunity. I'd like to share a quick
4 story from my home state of Hawaii.

5 On August 8, 2023, Maui experienced the worst
6 natural disaster in state history, killing 102
7 people, and it was the deadliest U.S. wildfire in
8 over a century. Please search
9 mauilessons@wildfire.gov.

10 As is often the case, this event had multiple
11 causes, including poor land management, severe
12 winds, and tinder-dry conditions. The desiccated
13 scrublands were a result of a persistent drought
14 made worse by climate change and record hot years
15 caused by greenhouse gas emissions.

16 On Maui, sparks from a downed utility pole lit
17 a fire that spread to Lahaina Town at speeds that
18 could not be outrun. Especially vulnerable were
19 the young, the elderly, and the infirm. Many who
20 burned to death were caught trapped inside their
21 homes or inside their vehicles. Too late came
22 their realization that escape was impossible. Many
23 made it out in a chaotic evacuation. Some survived
24 by entering the ocean in the dark of night. And
25 today the trauma continues among survivors.

1 It is sad and most unfortunate that the EPA
2 claims that greenhouse gas emissions are not an
3 endangerment to human health and safety. I urge
4 you to please remember Hawaii's tragic experience.

5 In the sixth assessment report, AR6, from the
6 IPCC, a consensus of global climate scientists
7 state, it is unequivocal that human influence has
8 warmed the ocean, the atmosphere, and the land.
9 U.S. Government policies and regulations are
10 essential to protect the health and safety of
11 America's people. I respectfully urge the EPA to
12 reject reconsideration of the 2009 endangerment.
13 Thank you.

14 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
15 The final speaker in Panel 15 is Gracya Mohabir.

16 MS. MOHABIR: Good afternoon. Gracya Mohabir
17 with California Environmental Voters. We strongly
18 oppose the proposed decision to repeal the 2009
19 Endangerment Finding, which requires U.S. EPA to
20 protect people from pollution that causes climate
21 change.

22 The ultimate impact of this would be making
23 people in the U.S. sicker, poorer, and less safe.
24 Rising temperatures and more extreme weather
25 disasters are costing all of us. And we cannot

1 afford, we quite literally cannot afford to stop
2 acting on the greenhouse gas emissions that are
3 warming our planet.

4 Repealing the finding and shuttering action on
5 these pollutants means more frequent and severe
6 weather disasters. This year alone, we have seen
7 devastating loss and destruction due to weather
8 events like wildfires and floods. It means
9 exacerbated health harms, such as increased risk of
10 asthma and cancer, and it means higher energy costs
11 as we turn away from clean and affordable energy.
12 And this makes it more difficult for households to
13 power their homes, compounding upon the risk of
14 subjecting people to climbing temperatures.

15 Think of the cost of rebuilding after
16 disasters, lost homes, lives, and infrastructure.
17 The cost of hospital visits and missed days of work
18 due to poor air quality and the cost of energy
19 being too high for people to use. These are not
20 things we want to subject our population to. And
21 these would be the real consequences of repealing
22 the Endangerment Finding. In the interest of
23 maintaining quality of life and of affordability,
24 we urge you not to repeal this finding. Thank you.

25 MS. LEONARD: Thank you. Our next speaker

1 will be Lori Mendez.

2 MS. MENDEZ: Good afternoon, EPA panelists,
3 and thank you for your good work and for allowing
4 me to speak. My name is Lori Mendez, and I oppose
5 the EPA's reconsideration of the 2009 Endangerment
6 Finding.

7 I live and I've lived and worked and
8 volunteered in the zero-waste space and climate
9 activism in San Diego, California, for nearly 50
10 years on Kumeyaay land. The beloved place where I
11 grew up, Coronado, that shaped me is projected to
12 be partially inundated by sea level rise within
13 this century. Already, erosion has collapsed
14 cliffs in nearby Encinitas, killing a local family
15 and threatens the very Amtrak train tracks our
16 communities rely on.

17 Every summer and now into fall and spring, we
18 endure months of wildfire danger and smoke filled
19 skies. In fact, I was just given an alert for a
20 nearby fire while I'm -- while I was waiting to
21 speak. This is not a distant possibility. It is
22 our lived reality.

23 I hold a Master's degree in biodiversity and
24 ocean conservation from Scripps Institution of
25 Oceanography where I studied the Keeling curve, the

1 world's most important record of rising carbon
2 dioxide. I know firsthand that the ocean is
3 heating, acidifying, and losing the balance of life
4 it once sustained. The ocean gives us one in every
5 two breaths we take. When it falters, we falter.
6 Everything is connected.

7 As a grandmother, this is deeply concerning.
8 I desperately want my grandchild and all children
9 to inherit a safe and livable planet. Yet
10 marginalized communities already bear the heaviest
11 burdens of pollution, extreme heat, flooding, and
12 fires. In the meantime, if we allow more
13 gas-powered vehicles to slow the transition to
14 electric and hydrogen vehicles, our communities in
15 disproportionately marginalized communities will
16 continue to suffer from air pollution, asthma,
17 cardiovascular disease, cancer, and premature
18 deaths.

19 The vast majority of credible scientists agree
20 the 2009 Endangerment Finding was correct then and
21 is even more urgent now. Greenhouse gases endanger
22 our health, our communities, our future. To
23 reconsider it now would be reckless and dangerous.
24 EPA was created to protect the environment and
25 people, not corporations, including gas and oil and

1 petrochemical interests. Weakening greenhouse gas
2 standards abandons your core mission. We cannot
3 deregulate our way out of climate collapse.

4 There is no Planet B for my community, for the
5 ocean, for my grandchildren, for all generations.
6 Taking a giant step backwards now is the wrong
7 policy moving forward.

8 MS. LEONARD: Thank you. That is time. Thank
9 you for your comments.

10 MS. MENDEZ: Thank you.

11 MS. LEONARD: Moving forward to Panel 16, the
12 next speaker is Derrick Sebree.

13 MR. SEBREE: Hello, my name is Derrick Sebree.
14 I am a licensed psychologist in the state of
15 Michigan, and I am also an administrator for the
16 Michigan School of Psychology and sit on the board
17 for the Michigan Psych Association. I am speaking
18 today as an individual, so thank you for your time.

19 My community has in Michigan experienced high
20 amount of smoky skies and with that, higher rates
21 of asthmatic attacks. And with that, when we think
22 about the impacts of heat regulation for many and
23 underserved communities and frontline communities
24 and how that impacts people to a point where
25 they're unable to either cool their home, cool

1 their families, and then we end up in situations
2 where people are seeking alternative resources and
3 crisis.

4 And when I think of living in the Greater
5 Metro Detroit area and serving people as a
6 therapist, a lot of people come in very anxious,
7 very depressed and rather traumatized by the
8 effects of climate change that have been going on
9 around them with their loved ones and their
10 communities.

11 My wife is an educator and travels to
12 California frequently, and she was within the LA
13 wildfires when they happened, and that was also a
14 very traumatic event for her as well. And so these
15 are things that I tend to see as a practitioner,
16 climate aware therapy and as a climate
17 psychologist.

18 And so I think the repeal of the Endangerment
19 Finding is a move that will create more public
20 health crises and create more mental health crises
21 across, you know, the country. Particularly when I
22 think of Michigan, you know, when I think of the
23 years of COVID and I think of the years of the
24 asthmatic deaths that resulted as a result of COVID
25 and that just continues to increase with this. So

1 climate change is already endangering the health of
2 millions of people in this country and worldwide.

3 And so, repealing the Endangerment Finding
4 would just serve to fast-track that and create more
5 opportunities for public health issues for
6 frontline communities, like descendants of slavery
7 and underrepresented communities, particularly in
8 my area as well. Thank you.

9 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
10 The next speaker is Christie Manning.

11 MS. MANNING: Hi. Thank you. My name is
12 Christie Manning, and I live in St. Paul,
13 Minnesota. I have a PhD in psychology, and I teach
14 psychology and environmental studies at Macalester
15 College here in St. Paul.

16 I am speaking today to oppose the repeal of
17 the 2009 Endangerment Finding and the vehicle
18 emission standards. The proposed repeals are in
19 direct conflict with EPA's mission to protect human
20 health. There's overwhelming scientific evidence
21 that greenhouse gas emissions are a direct cause of
22 climate change and that climate change is hazardous
23 to human health and well-being.

24 And I have both personal and professional
25 experience of the harms of climate change. First

1 of all, this summer, Minnesota experienced many,
2 many days of extremely bad air quality because of
3 wildfire smoke from Canadian wildfires. In fact,
4 just three weeks ago, at the beginning of August,
5 we had the longest air quality alert on record
6 since the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
7 started issuing alerts in 2008. For seven days, it
8 was dangerous for people with asthma or other
9 conditions to just go outside, and it was unhealthy
10 for everyone else.

11 This wildfire smoke is not purely a natural
12 phenomenon. Canada's annual fire season has become
13 much more severe because of climate change.
14 Summers are hotter, windier, and rainfall is more
15 erratic. The smoky skies that result here in
16 Minnesota feel like living a surreal nightmare.
17 The young people in my life, my many college
18 students and my own 20 and 25-year-old daughters
19 are feeling the same sense of nightmare.

20 In my professional life, I study climate
21 anxiety. There is abundant research that this is
22 real. Young people are worried. Young people are
23 impacted in particular, and I see this firsthand in
24 my students and in my daughters. They're worried.
25 They look into the smoky sky here in Minnesota and

1 they wonder if their own kids will be able to play
2 outside at all in a future Minnesota summer.

3 Carbon emissions are rising, and our American
4 government is threatening to repeal efforts to
5 address climate change. So, EPA panel members,
6 what kind of legacy do you want to leave for these
7 younger generations, including your own children?
8 What will you tell them as we continue to endure
9 catastrophic weather events from worsening climate
10 change? Are you going to be one who upholds
11 solutions or take us backwards into more smoky
12 skies? Thank you.

13 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.
14 The next speaker will be Leslie Wharton.

15 MS. WHARTON: Excuse me, can you hear me? I
16 can't open the video.

17 MS. LEONARD: I sent a prompt that will help
18 with that there, and I can hear and see you now.
19 Yes.

20 MS. WHARTON: Okay. Thank you so much. Thank
21 you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is
22 Leslie Wharton. I'm a retired attorney speaking as
23 an individual.

24 First, I want to thank the EPA for decades of
25 dedicated work to protect the health and well-being

1 of our citizens while saving the country billions
2 and billions of dollars in costs. The EPA has
3 gained the trust of the American people because of
4 its reliance on well-established science and
5 nonpartisan, objective decision-making processes.

6 Second, I want to note the EPA's special role
7 in our modern economy. As industries have grown
8 over the last century, some have caused
9 unanticipated harms, unintended consequences. The
10 EPA's mission is to identify those harms, determine
11 how they can be addressed, and issue the rules and
12 regulations that protect our health and
13 environment.

14 The Endangerment Finding was adopted in 2009
15 and the science supporting that finding has only
16 become stronger, as the EPA itself has repeatedly
17 acknowledged. Now the EPA proposes to rescind the
18 finding and rules limiting CO2 emission standards
19 for cars and trucks based largely on a report
20 issued in July by the Department of Energy. But as
21 many have already stated, that report is deeply
22 flawed.

23 DOE's Climate Working Group was convened in
24 March, tasked with determining whether greenhouse
25 gases constitute pollutants contributing to climate

1 change and therefore should be regulated. That
2 report, which, as you know, did not comply with the
3 Federal Advisory Committee Act, has been sharply
4 criticized for relying on inaccurate data and
5 misrepresenting many of the scientific studies it
6 cites.

7 If it rescinds the Endangerment Finding, the
8 EPA itself will face more numerous lawsuits
9 challenging that decision. There will be orders to
10 prevent implementation of the rescission, years of
11 discovery directed to the EPA, and ultimately
12 courts will find that the EPA violated the law and
13 its own protocols in moving forward with rescision.

14 And who benefits? As you've heard over the
15 past four days, not the people the EPA is supposed
16 to protect and not our economy, which remains
17 strong despite the complaints of the major fossil
18 fuel companies, each of which reported billions in
19 profits in 2024.

20 MS. LEONARD: That's time. Thank you for your
21 comments.

22 MS. WHARTON: Thank you.

23 MS. LEONARD: We have one remaining speaker,
24 and that speaker is Seth Vidana.

25 MR. VIDANA: Everyone, my name is Seth Vidana.

1 I work as the climate and energy manager for the
2 City of Bellingham. Thanks for the opportunity to
3 provide testimony.

4 I'm representing the City of Bellingham and
5 Washington State here today. The city opposes the
6 EPA's reconsideration of the 2009 Endangerment
7 Finding and any rollback of greenhouse gas
8 standards for vehicles.

9 As you've been hearing from other folks here
10 today, greenhouse gases, and especially those from
11 the transportation sector pose a direct, direct
12 threat to public health. They worsen air
13 pollution, which contributes to asthma, heart
14 disease, and premature death, and especially in
15 vulnerable communities, including low-income
16 families and people of color.

17 We have an interstate that runs right through
18 the middle of our town. Investing in clean
19 transportation will help protect the health and the
20 lives of everyone who lives along the corridor,
21 that corridor of I5 in our city, and help them to
22 be an even stronger part of our community and of
23 our economy.

24 Rolling back these standards also hurts
25 consumers. Our strong fuel efficiency rules save

1 average Americans thousands of dollars at the pump.
2 And automakers themselves are investing billions in
3 electric vehicles and in cleaner technology.
4 Weakening these standards now only creates
5 uncertainty and will put the U.S. behind China and
6 Europe in the global clean energy race.

7 Finally, the public overwhelmingly supports
8 stronger climate action. Americans for generations
9 have desired cleaner air and a safer climate for
10 themselves and for their families. With that, we
11 urge the EPA to uphold the Endangerment Finding and
12 maintain greenhouse gas standards for vehicles.
13 Thanks for your time.

14 MS. LEONARD: EPA -- and thank you for your
15 comments.

16 EPA, at this time, we suggest a break until
17 3:15. And are you comfortable with a break until
18 3:15?

19 MR. CHARMLEY: Yes. Yeah. Yes. Please
20 let's -- let's take a recess until 3:15 Eastern
21 Time. Thank you, Colleen.

22 MS. LEONARD: Thank you so much.

23 (A recess was had from 2:40 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.)

24 MS. LEONARD: I'd like to welcome you back to
25 the U.S. EPA's Virtual Public Hearing for the

1 Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and
2 greenhouse gas vehicle standards. My name is
3 Colleen, and I will serve as your meeting
4 facilitator. We are now ready to resume the
5 hearing.

6 EPA, are you ready to continue?

7 MR. CHARMLEY: We are ready to continue. Yes.

8 MS. LEONARD: We will now continue our public
9 testimony. We have a couple remaining speakers.
10 The next person up after I say a few words will be
11 Susan Haywood.

12 As a reminder, we ask that each person limit
13 their verbal testimony to 2.5 minutes and speak
14 slowly and clearly for the benefit of the court
15 reporter and closed captioning team. If you have
16 additional comments that you are not able to
17 provide today, you can also submit them through the
18 docket at www.regulations.gov using docket ID
19 EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0194.

20 Due to the volume of registered speakers and
21 registrants on the waitlist, we will strictly
22 enforce the two-and-a-half-minute time limit for
23 each speaker. The next speaker is Susan Haywood.
24 Please state your name and affiliation for the
25 record.

1 MS. HAYWOOD: My name is Susan Haywood. I am
2 a Portland Raging Granny, although I'm here as a
3 private individual. I grew up in Los Angeles in
4 the 1950s and as a result have asthma. I've had
5 pneumonia 10 times. I've got eight autoimmune
6 diseases and cardiovascular disease.

7 We are endangered by very real climate chaos.
8 I oppose any actions that ignore this existential
9 fact. Now, as a Raging Granny, I am used to
10 singing my testimony and here goes: It's our
11 climate and we'll die if you wreck it, die if you
12 wreck it, die if you wreck it. You'll suffer too
13 with too much CO2.

14 We all see what's happening here. There is no
15 time to lose. Renewable energy now is what we
16 should use. It's our climate, and we'll die if you
17 wreck it, die if you wreck it, die if you wreck it.
18 You'll suffer too with too much CO2.

19 Scrub the smokestacks, ditch the fossils. To
20 us the message is clear. Let's make electricity
21 with what we have near. It's our climate, and
22 we'll die if you wreck it, die if you wreck it, die
23 if you wreck it. You'll suffer too with too much
24 CO2.

25 Sun, wind, and water can power our grids with

1 money to spare so that we all can survive in a
2 world that's more fair. It's our climate, and
3 we'll die if you wreck it, die if you wreck it, die
4 if you wreck it. You'll suffer too with too much
5 CO2. Thank you.

6 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments. We
7 are checking with one speaker, and while we do
8 that, I'd like to announce if anyone on the Zoom is
9 a registered speaker who missed their speaking
10 opportunity, their assigned speaking slot and you
11 would like to speak, please reach out to the
12 meeting host.

13 EPA, would you like to take break until 3:30
14 p.m. while we see what messages we receive? Thank
15 you so much.

16 MR. CHARMLEY: Yeah, Colleen. What I'd
17 recommend is that we take a break for until 3:30,
18 and when we reconvene, we can either listen to any
19 testifiers that we've been able to locate or have
20 joined the meeting, or at that point we would
21 adjourn the meeting if we have no further
22 testifiers at that point. So, thank you.

23 MS. LEONARD: Yes. Thank you. We will now
24 move to our break until 3:30 p.m.

25 (A recess was had from 3:20 p.m. to 3:28 p.m.)

1 MS. LEONARD: I'd like to welcome you back to
2 the U.S. EPA's Virtual Public Hearing for the
3 Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and
4 greenhouse gas vehicle standards.

5 EPA, are you ready to begin following the
6 break?

7 MR. CHARMLEY: Yes, we're ready to begin.

8 MS. LEONARD: We have the next speaker, who
9 will be Karen Boehler. We're ready for you to
10 begin if you're able.

11 We are going to work with you on your sound.
12 Your machine is not muted, but we cannot hear you.
13 Okay. What we will do is I will take you off the
14 video at this time so that we can work on your
15 sound, and we will bring up the next speaker.
16 Thank you.

17 The next speaker is Joseph Hernandez. There
18 we go. Let's make sure we can hear you.

19 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay, I'm sorry. Ready to
20 start?

21 MS. LEONARD: Yes, please. You have two and a
22 half minutes. We have a timer on the screen.

23 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Good afternoon.
24 My name is Joseph Hernandez. I am the indigenous
25 energy organizer for the nonprofit organization

1 Naeva. I live in Gaddi Ahi, New Mexico, which is
2 west of Shiprock, New Mexico. Shiprock, New
3 Mexico, is the largest community on the Navajo
4 Nation, and I am here representing my organization,
5 Naeva. Naeva does not support the reconsideration
6 to the Endangerment Findings. It is important that
7 I express how that -- why these rules are
8 important, especially the greenhouse gas vehicle
9 standards rule.

10 Here in Shiprock we have a U.S. Highway 491
11 that just got expanded from a single -- from single
12 lanes to double lanes on both sides. And so now
13 this is now a major corridor of light-duty,
14 medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles that commute
15 from Interstate 40 to bypass a lot of areas, and
16 they drive through our tribal communities, through
17 many multiple tribal communities, and we're seeing
18 a lot more traffic from these vehicles.

19 And the Endangerment Findings again was put
20 together in 2009 with a lot of consensus and the --
21 and that's why Naeva is urging the U.S. EPA to not
22 change the laws and regulations that will reverse a
23 lot of the hard work that was done to get us to be
24 able to make a big difference. Especially when it
25 comes to the health and well-being of many, many of

1 our people. You know, especially the young ones
2 who have breathing conditions because of the --
3 what we're asking for is that our children should
4 have a healthy, clean air to breathe.

5 MS. LEONARD: That is time. Thank you for
6 your comments.

7 The next speaker will be Mona Blaber.

8 MS. LABOR: Can I have just a few minutes
9 more? I'm sorry. I'm trying to find a place to
10 sit down.

11 MS. LEONARD: Okay. We have, as far as I'm
12 aware, no other speakers and lined up. If anyone
13 is on the Zoom or phone is a registered speaker who
14 missed their slot can reach out to the host.

15 The next speaker will be Deb Hubenthal.

16 MS. HUBENTHAL: Can you see me?

17 MS. LEONARD: Yes, I can see you and hear you.

18 MS. HUBENTHAL: Thank you. Thank you so much.
19 My name is Deb Hubenthal.

20 To breathe is the first act of life. Good air
21 makes a healthy life possible. Bad air has many
22 consequences that can make life difficult, even
23 impossible. Bad air kills.

24 What priorities could be more important enough
25 to endanger good air? The inconvenience of

1 regulation. Inconvenience to whom? The polluters
2 and profiteers, big oil, big chemical, big
3 agriculture, big automobiles, big corporations.

4 But what about me? What about you? What
5 about the children? What about the elderly?

6 My name is Deb Hubenthal. I am a retired
7 public school teacher of 40 years. I have medical
8 issues that make breathing difficult at times, and
9 I need good air.

10 What about the elderly? I work as a chaplain
11 at a nursing home facility where many residents
12 live their lives committed to community, like
13 veterans, nurses, farmers, teachers, small business
14 people. Healthy air is essential to these
15 important persons we should treasure.

16 And what about the children? I've taught
17 hundreds of children whose bodies and lungs were
18 just developing. Unpolluted, healthy air is a
19 necessity for these persons.

20 Our government must protect healthy air as a
21 God-given right to all creatures. Men, through
22 self-interested law, must not compromise this need.
23 There must not be any weakening of the 2009
24 endangerment funds and greenhouse vehicle
25 standards. Thank you.

1 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

2 Our next speaker is Mona Blaber.

3 EPA, may I ask if we may take a five-minute
4 break?

5 MR. CHARMLEY: Yes, that's fine. Just let us
6 know when you're ready to go.

7 MS. LEONARD: Thank you.

8 (A recess was had from 3:40 p.m. to 3:52 p.m..)

9 MS. BLABER: Okay, I think I'm ready. Can you
10 hear me?

11 MS. LEONARD: Yes, yes. So, this speaker is
12 Ramona Blaber. Would you like your videos on?

13 MS. BLABER: I think I'm going to leave it off
14 because I'm in like here in the airport.

15 MS. LEONARD: You have 2 minutes and 30
16 seconds for your testimony.

17 MS. BLABER: Okay. Thank you. My name is
18 Mona Blaber from -- recently moved from Illinois to
19 California.

20 We bought an EV this year, a Chevy Equinox,
21 that averages 340 miles to a charge and with the
22 federal credit that now ends in September and other
23 incentives, costs about \$22,000 to \$26,000. Brand
24 new, it's the most fun, comfortable, affordable car
25 we've ever owned. And for the first few months, we

1 plugged it into a regular wall outlet to charge
2 with the cord that came with the car.

3 Even with California electric prices, time of
4 use rates means charging costs less than gas and
5 we'll save about \$1,000 a year on fuel. Almost all
6 EV owners say they'd never go back to gas. But
7 dealers rarely point people to an EV. If you walk
8 into a showroom not already knowing you want one,
9 they often flat out refuse to sell them.

10 Why? Maybe because EVs require less
11 maintenance, and maintenance is what dealerships
12 make most of their profit on, or whether it's a
13 resistance to change. Either way, it's one of the
14 reasons we need strong policy to make the
15 healthiest, best, most affordable technologies
16 available to everyone.

17 Not everyone has access to a plug at home or
18 at work or nearby, which is why policymakers should
19 be ensuring affordable public infrastructure is
20 available, not reversing the vehicle standards that
21 are holding carmakers to their promises to make
22 these life-saving cars available and accessible.

23 For every problem you can exaggerate about
24 EVs, there's a solution that benefits everyone.
25 They're simply better cars, and the U.S. is falling

1 far behind other nations. China is selling
2 millions of EVs at prices lower than most U.S. gas
3 cars and advancing tech every day with electric
4 cars so good that Ford's CEO drives one.

5 The climate crisis isn't just floods and
6 wildfires happening to someone else. It's drought,
7 famine, and skyrocketing food prices because of
8 lost crop yields. We're barreling toward a cliff,
9 and we need to slam on the brakes and turn the car
10 around. With this proposal, the EPA would be
11 jamming the gas and hurtling over the cliff with
12 your own kids in the backseat and mine.

13 Harvard School of Public Health found that 8
14 million people a year die from the burning of
15 fossil fuels, not from the climate impact, but the
16 air pollution. I know there are many wonderful
17 hard-working people at the EPA trying to protect
18 us.

19 Please, Administrators Zeldin, choose your own
20 children over dead birds and bees and dried up
21 rivers and filthy air and famine and drought.
22 Choose your own children over death and
23 destruction, over everything we hold dear, and keep
24 these vital EPA safeguards that are already saving
25 lives. All you have to do is nothing and you save

1 lives. Thank you.

2 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

3 EPA, that is the final speaker that we have on
4 our Zoom that we are aware of. Would you like to
5 adjourn this session?

6 MR. CHARMLEY: Thank you, Colleen. Thank you
7 for that. Yes, we would like to adjourn. But
8 first of all, I'd just like to thank a few people.

9 I'd like to thank the Assistant Administrator
10 Szabo for providing the opening remarks this week.
11 I'd like to thank all of my, our EPA colleagues for
12 being both on the camera and behind the camera for
13 this week. Also our ICF colleagues who have done
14 the same both on camera and behind the camera and
15 an excellent job of facilitating this public
16 hearing. But I'd especially like to thank all of
17 the people that took the time to testify. We very
18 much appreciate the thoughtful remarks that we've
19 heard during this week. So this meeting is
20 officially adjourned.

21 MS. LEONARD: I must interrupt with apologies.
22 We have one person in our -- who has joined who was
23 a registered speaker.

24 MR. CHARMLEY: And we are not officially
25 adjourned.

1 MS. LEONARD: This is our final speaker.
2 We'll promote this person to a panelist. Our final
3 speaker is Antoinette Reyes.

4 MS. REYES: Hello. I'm sorry about joining
5 late. My name is Antoinette Reyes. I work for the
6 Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter. We represent over
7 35,000 members and supporters in New Mexico and
8 West Texas.

9 I wanted to say that the rollback of the
10 Endangerment Finding puts New Mexicans at risk.
11 The rules that allowed the EPA to reduce polluter
12 emissions of greenhouse gases impacts New Mexico in
13 more than most states. It's not just the fires,
14 floods, and drought, and climate impacts that our
15 state is already currently dealing with, but also
16 the new mosquitoes in our backyards, worsening
17 allergies, and extreme heat impacting us all.

18 Anything that gets in the way of common sense
19 action and technologies that save customers money
20 and our health and puts our health at risk is
21 literally playing with fire. The Sierra Club Rio
22 Grande Chapter continues to strive for
23 nation-leading climate action. And we're very
24 disappointed to see more tools and enforcement
25 strategies, as well as funding that helps keep our

1 communities safe and healthy, being stripped or
2 removed. And we hope that more is done in the
3 future to prevent harm and protects our kids in our
4 communities. Thank you.

5 MS. LEONARD: Thank you for your comments.

6 We are now at the end of our session. EPA,
7 are you ready to adjourn the virtual hearing?

8 MR. CHARMLEY: Yes, we are ready to adjourn.

9 MS. LEONARD: Thank you.

10 (These proceedings were concluded at 3:58 p.m. EST)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

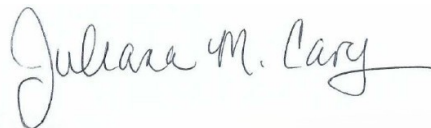
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I, Juliana M. Cary, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the outcome of the foregoing action.

Dated this 27th day of August, 2025.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Juliana M. Cary", written in black ink on a light blue rectangular background.

Juliana M. Cary

A				
A.F 76:24	accelerating 42:4 80:2	act 4:12 15:23	131:6	177:19
a.m 1:9 2:7	116:17	23:8 38:24	adapt 106:23	admission 87:16
97:19 108:24	acceleration 30:21	40:23 46:16	131:14	149:17
108:25 109:2	accept 11:6	50:18,20 51:9	adaptation 18:13	admit 48:16
139:16	140:15	61:11 67:6	addicted 39:4	adopted 28:2
Aaron 1:14 2:23	accepting 12:18	81:4 92:13	addition 3:19	60:24 164:14
3:13 9:12	access 47:15	95:18 96:9,11	7:2 123:7	adopting 71:19
abandon 94:3	116:22 118:9	116:7 124:12	additional 5:16	adults 25:25
131:18	176:17	125:5 133:13	5:21 6:21 8:12	108:17
abandoned 81:7	accessible 176:22	146:12 165:3	10:21 13:1	advance 5:7
abandoning 22:9 77:13	accomplishing 5:9	173:20	47:1 52:10	10:18 13:8
abandons 159:2	Accords 67:12	Act's 27:22	98:25 137:5	98:23 137:3
Abbie 99:13,17	account 24:7	64:10 144:21	146:18 168:16	advancement 103:18 128:3
abdicate 143:4	38:11 93:1,23	acting 50:13	Additionally 12:8	advancing 38:4
abdication 43:22	117:2	90:2 156:2	address 69:23	39:1 177:3
abet 119:4	accountability 80:17 149:7	action 8:13 40:1	74:13,19 83:7	adversarial 86:17
ability 30:8	accountable 90:2	44:1 52:16	95:14 96:11	adversaries 85:9
105:6 129:8	accounting 24:4	58:20 60:24,25	129:23 144:16	Advisory 44:25
153:5	accounts 62:7	61:24 63:4,19	163:5	45:2,8,13
able 11:7 13:2	83:5	64:15 65:16	addressed 114:11 164:11	165:3
99:1 137:5	accumulate 25:17	71:19 72:10	adjourn 170:21	advocacy 92:24
163:1 168:16	accumulation 77:23 88:15	82:23 107:2	178:5,7 180:7	94:5
170:19 171:10	accuracy 8:21	111:20 113:16	180:8	advocate 50:15
172:24	accurate 45:4	128:14 129:6	adjoined 178:20,25	68:9 82:15
abortion 14:4	accurately 13:7	130:20 137:15	adjourning 97:15	advocates 109:25
abrupt 110:18	99:8 137:12	142:15 152:3	adjust 130:21	affairs 68:9
Absent 4:11	achievable 56:5	156:4 167:8	adjustments 8:17	affect 19:11 34:1
absolute 50:3	achieve 135:5	179:19,23	administration 24:2 49:4	110:7
absolutely 48:22	achieved 94:19	181:10,11	67:24 69:23	affiliate 18:15
73:6	achievements 80:11	actions 5:5,7	71:22 74:4	affiliated 18:14
abstract 25:21	acidifying 50:6	74:19 84:1	75:19 78:6	affiliation 11:13
54:1 59:16	158:3	97:4 169:8	123:10	99:10 168:24
106:15	acknowledged 116:25 164:17	active 32:21	administrative 44:17	affirm 152:16
absurd 48:22	acknowledging 112:16	82:19	administrator 2:24 3:13 4:23	affirmed 61:8
abundant 162:21	acquainted 113:20	actively 69:23	5:2 6:5,5 44:4	116:8
abundantly 73:15	acquires 146:21	91:17	44:5 46:4	afford 17:4 39:6
academies 41:4	acres 60:11	activism 157:9	80:12 113:15	70:11 156:1,1
90:5		activist 149:23	150:8 159:15	affordability 156:23
Academy 41:5		activists 139:20	178:9	affordable 34:21
50:1 128:2		activities 41:2	Administrators	35:2 47:8,25
accelerate 18:1		96:10 128:4		156:11 175:24
28:25		153:7		176:15,19
accelerates 56:23		activity 50:4		aforementioned 57:9
		51:21 141:4		afraid 124:25
		152:16		
		actors 144:17		
		actual 48:19		
		115:4		
		acute 130:24		

African 48:4	153:11 174:3	167:9 173:4,20	149:23	Amtrak 157:15
afternoon	ahead 19:4 34:9	173:21,23,25	America 14:21	AMY 1:15
101:15 103:9	86:24 89:15	174:9,14,18,20	19:20 20:19	analyses 55:24
109:19 121:3	98:3 113:10	177:16,21	22:12 38:17	56:2
125:17 127:11	125:12	AirNow 75:13	39:20 67:25	analysis 49:20
140:20 145:8	Ahi 172:1	airplanes 130:10	78:22 80:7	58:2,4 94:7
155:16 157:2	AI 58:9	airport 42:15	94:13 105:10	analyst 46:9
171:23	aid 119:4	175:14	105:11 112:2	118:19
age 39:2 120:18	aiding 39:19	airshed 75:15	131:11 146:6	analyze 25:6
120:18 123:11	air 2:24 3:2,8,14	Alan 152:1,2	America's 18:5	ancestor 58:21
agency 3:7 5:10	3:17,21 4:12	alarmed 83:1	24:19 80:5	ancestors 58:22
14:25 16:3	15:23,25 21:13	137:18	126:21,22	76:17
18:4 21:11	21:24 22:7	alarming 34:5	128:1 143:4	Anderson
26:15 27:3	23:8,19,21	70:2	155:11	137:13,14,14
37:8 40:11	25:7 27:14,22	Alaska 79:24	American 5:9,12	Andrew 65:25
45:11 48:17	27:22 28:17,21	Albuquerque	5:13 22:10,16	Angeles 21:16
51:2 52:3	29:11,14 31:22	83:14,16	23:14 26:22	32:18,21 33:3
53:25 55:1	31:24 32:2	alert 157:19	55:17 58:12	54:6 118:21
64:6 65:3,19	34:5,16 35:25	162:5	67:21 69:9	120:17 138:21
71:21 76:10	36:10,22 37:3	alerts 29:11	72:9 77:13	169:3
80:8 92:23	39:7 40:23	162:7	81:13 89:7	animal 31:25
112:10 124:19	42:8 44:14	Alger 63:16,17	104:14 105:1	animals 133:5
124:20 147:2,6	46:1,16 50:20	63:18	105:10 122:17	Anishinaabe
162:6	51:9 58:4	align 96:10	123:22 128:3	148:3
agency's 2:4,9	59:15,20,25	allergies 179:17	128:10,13,20	Ann 74:25 75:1
46:13 65:7	61:11 64:9,10	Alliance 75:4	129:7 146:17	Anne 57:18
85:17 94:16	67:6 68:20,23	allies 66:3	163:3 164:3	Annie 105:16,17
agenda 9:13	68:25 69:2,5,9	allocated 43:3	Americans 5:13	145:7,9
ages 107:23	69:11 70:6	allow 11:8 39:17	20:18 39:17	announce 170:8
109:7 135:12	72:6 75:4,12	58:18 81:19	41:12 47:14,14	announced 5:6
aggravating	75:24 81:4,21	135:7 149:1	48:5 66:9	7:7 107:25
25:23	82:1 88:11,17	158:12	67:20 72:14	announcement
aggregate 56:3	95:18 96:9,11	allowed 6:14	79:13 80:24	4:24 5:2
aggregation	100:2,6,8,9,11	111:5 179:11	88:25 90:18	announcing
28:22	100:15,16,20	allowing 11:20	103:15,20	8:14
ago 15:2 17:2	100:22 101:11	45:13 57:20,24	112:11 118:24	annual 48:4
23:4 38:16	104:20 106:12	68:7 115:16	128:13,19,20	111:6 162:12
42:10,12 60:1	108:9 109:25	129:19 157:3	141:10 142:13	annually 38:8,11
67:17 68:16	112:7 116:7	allows 47:20	142:18 150:2	anti-life 78:8
130:16 132:8	117:8 120:5,11	100:6	151:17 167:1,8	anticipated
139:21 162:4	122:5,7 126:8	alongside 84:24	Americans'	122:8 124:7
agree 128:14	132:9,12	Altadena 54:7	105:6	Anticipating
132:17 158:19	134:19 138:1,2	altered 76:14	amount 43:22	37:22
agreed 41:10	138:7,24	alternative 48:1	93:21 101:24	antilife 84:1
agricultural	144:20,21	49:22 160:2	108:21 159:20	Antoinette
71:10 87:24	145:3 146:9,12	ambassador	amounts 108:10	179:3,5
132:24 143:21	146:16 148:1	107:14	amplification	anxiety 120:21
agriculture	156:18 158:16	ambient 31:24	30:16	162:21
15:17 151:9	162:2,5 166:12	Amer 149:20,22	amplified 30:19	anxious 160:6

anymore 150:22 anyone's 13:8 anyway 17:20 apartments 60:6 apocalyptic 78:16 apologies 178:21 apologize 13:8 app 75:13 appeal 133:8 appeals 14:9 64:25 appear 11:18 appears 11:14 63:19 64:14 appliance 85:1 applicable 10:3 applied 64:17 apply 7:12,14 appointment 80:12 appreciate 7:25 101:6 178:18 appreciated 75:11 appropriate 56:1 125:17 approximately 11:2 84:22 apps 12:10 AR6 155:5 arbitrary 65:17 122:11 area 95:22 102:3 108:10 110:11 146:1 150:11 160:5 161:8 areas 42:6,24 172:15 argument 37:23 54:18 64:6 arguments 6:14 63:20 Arizona 103:10 150:20 Arlington 14:19 109:22,23 army 42:10 arranged 11:1	arrives 17:17 Asheville 21:15 Asia 81:10 aside 97:3 asked 87:21 140:8 asking 14:25 125:3 139:13 173:3 aspects 99:22 asserting 64:3 92:20 assertion 46:16 92:21 121:25 assess 93:4 assessment 3:1 3:15 51:18,24 67:16 120:16 155:5 assessments 51:20 assets 82:2 assigned 170:10 Assistant 2:23 3:13 6:4,5 27:12 44:4 142:22,24 178:9 assisted 3:22 associate 70:17 associated 52:12 95:13 141:17 141:19 142:1 Association 44:14 46:1 69:9 128:3 159:17 assume 148:19 assumptions 95:8 assure 125:13 asthma 22:2 25:23 28:22 31:25 35:22 36:6 53:16 59:22 71:25 75:24 76:7 90:19 112:7 113:2 116:19	117:14 137:21 138:6 146:25 156:10 158:16 162:8 166:13 169:4 asthmatic 159:21 160:24 Atlantic 108:8 atmosphere 13:25 25:17 30:10 32:8,11 101:25 102:13 155:8 atmospheric 30:4 37:20 77:23 130:1 attack 75:24 88:25 attacks 36:7 90:19 159:21 attempt 8:20 53:12 63:21 67:24 74:22 78:9 114:24 122:13 attempts 64:1 attendees 10:20 98:25 137:4 attendees' 10:5 attending 5:24 attention 79:22 94:7 139:18 attorney 44:7 142:22,24 163:22 181:9 181:10 attorneys 144:18 attribute 77:22 attributed 46:23 attribution 150:12 ATVs 16:24 August 1:8 3:25 6:11 8:24 102:5,14 154:5 162:4 181:12 aunt 74:11 126:12,12	authority 4:12 10:4 27:20 47:2 59:11 64:19 67:5 95:22 116:6 144:15 authorization 64:13 authorized 7:14 181:6 authorizes 46:16 authors 121:22 153:2 auto 5:13 93:6 93:11 autoimmune 169:5 automakers 79:2 167:2 automatically 10:6 automobile 81:10 93:5 automobiles 174:3 automotive 55:16 56:11,13 57:7 84:25 availability 95:2 95:12 available 7:16 8:4 9:23 26:16 44:25 45:23 47:20 142:7 176:16,20,22 average 23:5 48:2 108:3,4,8 126:2 127:20 143:10 167:1 averages 175:21 avoid 59:24 aware 82:3 86:3 93:25 119:6 123:10 131:18 160:16 173:12 178:4 Awesome 29:25	B 159:4 B-H-A-N-D-A... 109:20 babies 22:3 79:14 back 5:14 9:8 23:15 36:21 58:17,17,18 68:17 70:3,4 70:20 71:13 91:15 98:4 104:21 113:15 115:9 116:14 135:22 136:1,3 138:15,25 148:24 149:25 166:24 167:24 171:1 176:6 backbone 15:11 backcountry 118:7 backed 25:19 90:4 backseat 177:12 backtrack 135:12 backward 112:24 backwards 62:1 159:6 163:11 backyards 179:16 bacterial 28:16 bad 43:7 59:24 68:21,25 100:15,20 101:11 104:21 123:12 138:7 162:2 173:21 173:23 bailiwick 65:1 balance 148:13 158:3 balanced 96:4 balloon 62:12 baloney 104:1 Bands 147:19 bandwidths 12:9
--	---	---	--	---

Bank 47:12	beginning 132:7 162:4	beyond 47:2 61:6 64:21 72:9	blood 124:24 125:24	breathe 35:22 36:11 90:13 110:14 173:4 173:20
Baptist 48:10	begins 50:20	Bhandari 109:18,19,20	bloom 145:23	breathing 34:4 35:23 173:2 174:8
Barack 67:8	behalf 3:6 13:15 26:23 48:13 58:19 63:5 66:2 67:22 68:10 87:7 137:16 146:13	Biber 147:14,15 147:17,18	Bloomberg 48:3	BREWARD 181:5
Barbara 30:2	behavior 146:12	Bible 21:5	blossoms 145:23	Bridge 53:19
bark 143:17	beings 48:19	big 172:24 174:2 174:2,2,3,3	blotted 88:7	bridges 71:12
barons 38:19	belching 133:6	biggest 75:15	blue 38:20 45:2	brief 66:22 135:16
barreling 177:8	beliefs 78:16 92:10	bill 1:13 2:25 3:15,17 6:2 9:12	bluntly 47:23	briefly 44:20
Barrio 53:17	believe 66:12 74:12,14 86:5 88:13,24 97:1 118:22	billion 38:8,11 52:5,8,9 62:19 69:19 90:24 110:6,8 138:15 150:12,14	board 44:25 45:2,8,13 159:16	bright 34:9 144:24
base 78:12	believers 114:16	billion-dollar 90:23	boarding 117:21	brilliant 115:24
based 14:10 26:16 40:15 45:4 51:13 63:20 65:6,15 67:8 76:1 81:24 84:21 97:2 118:20 119:10 152:10 164:19	believes 56:9 57:13 77:19,20	billions 56:8 58:7 67:21 79:3 104:16 105:1 150:24 164:1,2 165:18 167:2	bodies 128:1 174:17	bring 171:15
basement 60:6	Bellingham 166:2,4	bills 34:17	body 87:21 91:8 108:17	bringing 111:1
basic 91:18	beloved 33:22 145:23 157:10	BINGHAM 1:17	body's 108:6	brings 59:19 126:5
Basin 82:17,19 83:9 145:22	beneficial 85:12 93:2,4,8,19	biology 30:4,15 77:19	Boehler 171:9	broad 70:2
basis 13:20 31:20 50:7 61:10 65:8,19 78:9 86:1 133:11 144:23	benefit 10:9 23:24 38:15 56:25 98:1,17 136:17 168:14	birth 22:2	Boise 115:21	brokering 78:19
batter 106:2	benefits 165:14 176:24	births 142:1	books 72:3	Brookings 111:6
Battery 38:3	bent 71:23	biodiversity 51:1 153:11 157:23	border 15:19	brought 16:23 108:10
Bay 40:8 42:5 42:22,25 147:19	Berkeley 30:3	bird 145:19	bordered 53:18	Brown 74:25 75:1,1 82:8,9 82:12 105:16 105:17,17
beaches 71:12 105:20 106:19	Bernard 86:24 87:6	birds 177:20	borders 61:6 107:1	Buddhism 114:17
bear 26:9 158:10	best 26:16 47:16 49:20 96:2,9 130:19 133:9 142:7 144:1 176:15	biology 30:4,15 77:19	borne 121:16	Budget 45:12
bearing 115:3	betrayal 139:3	births 142:1	borough 59:6 60:4	buffers 106:21
beautiful 18:21 18:25 78:22 139:17,25 140:2	betrays 77:17	Blaber 173:7 175:2,9,12,13 175:17,18	Boston 43:9	bugs 134:10
becoming 17:24 20:22 30:19 120:10 130:19	better 29:13 81:1 122:20 146:12 176:25	black 47:13,14 106:4	bottlenecked 146:1	building 55:18 buildings 135:6 135:8
bedrock 49:14	Beving 14:17,18 14:19	blocking 60:4	bottom 2:19 11:17,24 124:10	buildup 32:8
bees 177:20			bought 175:20	built 17:3
beetles 134:9 143:18			BOULEVARD 1:23	bullied 78:7
beg 63:6			brain 141:19	burden 89:3 92:20 103:19
began 51:20			brakes 177:9	burdened 34:20
			BRAKORA 1:17	burdens 26:10 36:5 54:19
			Brand 175:23	
			break 97:10,15 167:16,17 170:13,17,24 171:6 175:4	
			breaking 139:16	
			breaks 38:9	
			breath 75:23 146:9	

158:11	call 12:1,7,16	175:24 176:2	181:21	centralized
Bureau 27:13	30:15 49:8	177:9	Cascadia 18:12	124:9
110:3	79:9 144:25	carbon 22:21	case 8:25 46:15	century 42:3
burned 60:11	145:21	25:12 31:18	47:3 67:2 91:7	71:7 85:22
135:7 154:20	called 11:7,11	32:7,8 40:16	154:10	127:23 154:8
burning 32:6	11:12 21:7	62:3,8 66:22	cases 145:1,1	157:13 164:8
50:9 66:7 79:2	89:3 114:1,13	77:23 86:14	casting 46:20	CEO 177:4
125:1 128:5	136:21	101:23 103:23	casual 124:21	certainly 147:20
130:1 134:18	calling 13:4 35:8	133:6 158:1	Catalina 118:14	certainty 56:13
177:14	99:5 114:16	163:3	118:18	148:22
burns 124:1	127:14 137:9	carcinogens	catastrophe	CERTIFICATE
buses 68:15	140:21	31:25	79:1	181:2
69:13	calls 114:16,20	cardiovascular	catastrophic	certification
business 9:25	camera 11:8	120:2 158:17	41:15 79:25	92:19 93:23
10:1 20:8	136:1 178:12	169:6	163:9	94:3
44:12 84:12,23	178:12,14,14	care 21:9 34:14	categories 28:15	certifications
85:21 86:4,10	cameras 10:6	48:20 49:8	46:23	94:1
86:16,18,20	camp 21:16	54:21 71:25	Catherine 16:7	certify 181:6,9
94:5 96:3	108:20 118:7	79:10 112:6,14	16:9	certifying 92:16
105:21 107:13	camps 107:23	114:3,17	cattle 15:20	chains 85:1
107:19 174:13	108:15	116:22 117:20	caught 154:20	challenge 65:17
businesses 16:25	Canada 88:7	117:22 118:2	cause 37:25 69:6	65:21 74:1,5
20:16 84:14	Canada's	125:1 129:23	86:19 108:8	challenged
85:2 93:14,20	162:12	139:25	109:8 122:7	66:16
106:22	Canadian 68:24	caregivers	128:6 130:25	challenges 44:16
busy 36:4 53:18	162:3	114:14	131:13 135:1	challenging
butterflies 149:2	cancel 79:9	cares 35:16	143:24 161:21	165:9
button 11:16	cancer 30:24	47:23	caused 28:9,18	chance 121:9
bypass 172:15	53:23 76:7	caring 113:20	66:6 69:18	125:5 149:8
	87:20 113:2	114:12	88:7,20 119:3	change 11:14
	137:22 156:10	Carlisle 59:6,16	119:18 153:8	13:19,25 14:4
C	158:17	60:23	154:15 164:8	15:3,10,16
C 2:1	Canyon 150:18	Carlos 139:11	causes 15:3	16:13 17:11,13
cacti 150:20	capacity 117:20	carmakers	40:24 117:15	17:14,21 18:1
cactuses 150:21	118:2	176:21	120:21 154:11	18:18,24 19:24
CAFE 23:6	capita 111:7	Carol 21:1,3	155:20	20:3,13 23:22
calamitous	Capitol 145:18	Carolina 107:20	causing 16:18	25:18 28:14
122:16	capricious 65:18	Carrie 125:10	23:21 28:11	30:14 33:25
calendar 52:5	122:11	125:19	32:10 83:6	34:12 40:3,18
California 30:2	captioning 2:16	carry 36:5	103:2 130:10	40:24,25 41:11
30:25 41:14	2:20 10:9 98:1	cars 38:4 46:19	150:15 151:1	42:2 43:12,21
48:11,12 68:18	98:18 136:18	47:8 50:14	CC 2:18	46:17 49:16
75:2 90:10	168:15	67:9 68:14	Celsius 28:11	51:10,14,19,25
96:22 111:19	captions 2:18	69:13 70:4,10	center 92:7	52:14,14 54:10
112:14 118:21	capture 124:20	104:21 132:19	118:20 122:25	54:25 55:5
120:9 122:25	car 35:9 47:10	138:22 145:25	centigrade	58:1,3,11,18
139:11 150:25	47:15,20,24	164:19 176:22	153:10	62:17,25 64:4
155:17 157:9	48:1 68:17	176:25 177:3,4	central 80:4	64:19 65:14
160:12 175:19	71:20 104:22	Cary 1:10 181:6	131:11	66:6,11 67:18
176:3				

72:3 73:6 74:13,14,15 78:2 82:16,25 83:6 85:20 86:5 88:15 90:3,21 95:14 96:23 97:4 101:19 110:23 112:13,16,16 113:18 114:4 116:17,23 119:1 120:8,13 120:19,22 121:15 122:14 122:17 123:2,8 123:11 124:8 127:18 128:8,9 132:6,13,18,25 133:12 135:11 140:25 141:5 142:13 143:7 143:10,20,25 144:16 146:11 148:15 150:3,5 150:6,14 153:4 154:14 155:21 160:8 161:1,22 161:22,25 162:13 163:5 163:10 165:1 172:22 176:13 changed 65:3 changes 32:11 32:14 43:16 56:15 102:11 105:23,25 135:10 141:5 141:19 changing 53:9 80:25 88:17 101:22,25 102:17 125:25 chaos 72:17 169:7 chaotic 154:23 chaplain 174:10 chapter 40:1 70:18 179:6,22 charge 37:9	126:18 175:21 176:1 charged 16:5 chargers 55:19 charging 176:4 Charles 61:14 Charlie 61:17 Charmley 1:13 3:1,15 6:2,4 44:5 79:21 97:11 98:11 136:10 167:19 168:7 170:16 171:7 175:5 178:6,24 180:8 chart 35:20 chat 11:23 136:22 cheap 39:15 cheaper 38:2 149:3 check 20:16 71:1 checking 140:11 170:7 chemical 85:1 174:2 chemistry 25:15 30:4 99:19 cherish 118:3 cherished 106:9 cherry 145:23 cherry-picked 122:18 Chesapeake 40:8 Chevy 175:20 Chicago 121:4 childhood 53:16 76:6 children 19:14 19:20 22:10 25:25 33:5 34:3 35:5,21 36:17 37:1 40:4 53:20 54:2 58:23,23 74:6 75:6 76:12 78:5 83:8,25 88:23	107:23 108:16 108:21,23,25 109:5,7,14 110:2 111:10 112:5 129:1 138:5,23 141:25 148:17 148:20 152:23 158:8 163:7 173:3 174:5,16 174:17 177:20 177:22 children's 58:23 87:17 chile 143:20 China 167:5 177:1 choice 113:18 133:12 choices 96:1 choked 138:23 choose 72:22 81:25 83:24 84:6 148:10 177:19,22 Chris 24:23 25:2 55:12,15 Christian 21:4 114:16 Christianity 115:9 Christians 113:22 Christie 161:10 161:12 Christine 27:10 27:11 chronic 26:1 27:5 147:2 Church 139:12 Circuit 122:10 circumstances 95:15 cited 66:17 102:13 cites 65:2 165:6 cities 20:5 43:9 110:22 138:3 citizen 18:11	33:19 89:7 145:13 147:18 citizens 40:2 81:8 164:1 citizens' 133:9 city 88:6 99:18 100:7,8,20,23 106:24 109:23 166:2,4,5,21 Civil 38:24 claim 121:13 claimed 46:21 claims 63:24 64:13 119:12 152:22 155:2 clarifying 6:18 12:20 clarity 146:3 class 103:19 104:8,12 classes 20:10 classrooms 130:9 Clayton 140:19 140:20,21 clean 4:12 15:23 21:13 23:8 27:22 35:9 39:7 40:23 46:16 50:20 51:9 61:11 64:9,12 67:6 70:1 71:20 72:15 75:22 81:4,21 95:18 96:9 105:4 109:25,25 116:7 138:24 144:20 146:12 156:11 166:18 167:6 173:4 cleaner 31:22 36:22 68:17 81:25 146:16 167:3,9 clear 20:15 47:2 49:17 64:12 65:6 72:8 73:4 78:10 90:14	92:24 113:22 124:20 138:10 141:3 142:12 143:24 169:20 clearly 10:8 13:6 14:9 25:9 47:3 91:14 97:25 98:16 99:7 114:11 136:17 137:11 148:13 168:14 click 2:18,20 11:6,19,21 clicking 11:16 clients 44:9 cliff 177:8,11 cliffs 157:14 climate 13:19,25 14:4 15:3,10 15:12,16 16:13 17:10,13,14,21 17:25 18:13,18 18:20,24 19:24 20:3,13 21:14 21:18,23 23:22 23:25 25:18 26:3 27:6 28:14 29:17 30:14 32:12,14 33:25 34:12 37:4 40:1,3,18 40:24,25 41:11 42:2,2 43:12 43:21 46:17 49:15,16 50:15 51:10,14,19,22 51:24,24 52:14 52:14 53:9 54:10,25 58:11 58:20,22 59:15 60:19,24,25 62:17,25 64:4 65:14,22 66:2 66:6,11,20,25 67:11,15,18 70:22 71:4,18 72:3,10,16 73:5,6 74:3,12 74:14,15,19
--	---	--	--	--

75:4 78:1 79:1 79:10 80:6,25 82:16,25 83:6 83:13 85:20 86:5,11,17 88:15 90:3,15 90:16,21 96:23 97:4 101:19,22 103:1,2 104:24 107:14 110:4,5 110:18,23 111:2,20 112:13,15,16 113:18 114:4 114:13 115:5 115:23 116:13 116:15,16,23 119:1 120:8,13 120:19,22 121:9,14,22 122:2,14,16 123:1,8,10 124:8 125:25 127:16,18,19 128:8,9 132:6 132:13,17,25 133:12 135:10 137:15 138:13 140:25 141:5 141:14 142:13 143:7,9,20,25 144:16 145:10 149:23 150:3,5 150:5,12,14 152:3,11,14,16 153:4,14,23 154:14 155:6 155:20 157:8 159:3 160:8,16 160:16 161:1 161:22,22,25 162:13,20 163:5,9 164:23 164:25 166:1 167:8,9 169:7 169:11,16,21 170:2 177:5,15 179:14,23 climate-chang...	133:5 climate-linked 91:2 climate-related 121:11 climate-warm... 22:17 climatology 77:21 climb 47:11 climbing 156:14 clinical 129:22 Clinicians 115:23 clinics 54:2 closed 2:17,20 10:9 16:25 98:1,17 132:15 136:18 168:15 closes 7:4 closing 12:10 Club 37:19 70:18 179:6,21 co-facilitator 152:3 co-pollutants 117:4 CO2 30:9 37:21 37:23 39:2,16 46:21 57:1,1 73:5,9 129:24 130:1,3,4,8,14 131:16,18 164:18 169:13 169:18,24 170:5 Coalition 44:15 46:2 130:4 coastal 42:24 79:24 Coates 96:16,17 96:19 Code 45:7 codify 55:6 80:21 coerce 38:14 coerced 78:7 cognitive 141:24 142:3	cohesive 95:20 cold 100:13 134:10 143:17 Coldwater 80:1 Coleen 137:13 137:14 Colin 63:12,14 collaboration 141:2 collapse 159:3 collapsed 157:13 collapsing 116:20 collar 38:20 colleague 7:16 colleagues 3:21 118:8 141:2 178:11,13 collective 149:15 collectively 148:5 Colleen 1:13 2:13 3:5 9:9 97:11 98:7,11 136:6,10 139:13 167:21 168:3 170:16 178:6 college 87:10 112:13 161:15 162:17 color 26:8 36:4 166:16 Colorado 133:20 133:20,23 134:16,17 145:12 combat 135:10 combating 144:1 combined 15:7 42:21 78:4 106:11 combines 128:22 combustion 23:19 25:16 107:17 119:17 come 24:6 35:15	61:20 66:5 69:13 116:1 135:22 151:6 151:22 160:6 Comeback 5:9 comes 53:23 61:5 77:19 172:25 comfortable 167:17 175:24 coming 11:2 19:4 101:4 150:10 commandment 114:1 115:3 commands 113:22 comment 5:22 7:4 14:12 31:15 37:15 45:23 46:11 57:25 72:25 94:11 comments 5:17 5:18,21 6:7,17 6:23,24 7:3,6 9:3 10:21 13:1 14:16 16:6,13 18:8 20:25 22:23 24:21 27:9 29:20 31:12 33:11 35:11 37:16 39:21 41:22 44:2,18,23 46:6 48:7 50:23 53:1 55:10 57:17 58:25 61:13 63:8 65:24 66:4 68:1 70:13 72:18 74:24 76:22 79:17 82:7 84:8 86:21 89:11 91:24,25 94:8,15 96:14 99:1 101:13 103:6 105:15	107:10 109:17 111:15 113:7 115:14 118:13 120:24 122:21 125:8 127:4 129:16 130:13 131:21 133:16 135:14,15 137:5 139:8 140:10 142:19 145:6 147:11 149:19 151:25 152:7 153:25 155:14 159:9 161:9 163:13 165:21 167:15 168:16 170:6 173:6 175:1 178:2 180:5 Commissioner 27:12 committed 5:11 96:1 174:12 Committee 46:10 165:3 commodity 105:12 common 49:7 69:8 77:18 78:17 79:5 114:3 135:2 143:4 147:23 179:18 commonly 130:8 commons 147:25 149:15 Commonwealth 21:5 communities 22:1,12 25:9 26:4,7 32:24 32:25 35:18,21 36:3,4,11,23 37:14 47:15 50:22 59:13 70:5 85:25 86:7 91:5,18 100:6,23,24 101:1,2,9,10
---	---	--	---	---

118:25 120:3 126:23 138:20 139:5 150:4 153:6 157:16 158:10,14,15 158:22 159:23 159:23 160:10 161:6,7 166:15 172:16,17 180:1,4 communities' 101:9 community 16:19 19:25 20:6 23:18 37:12 53:10 71:10 82:15 84:24 85:21 86:20 100:1 102:4 104:5 105:21,24 107:8 119:14 137:17 150:11 159:4,19 166:22 172:3 174:12 commute 172:14 companies 38:7 49:3,23 121:19 122:17 124:9 165:18 company 44:12 44:12,13 45:25 45:25 94:14 135:4 compass 80:23 compassion 114:18 compels 114:3 compete 105:6 competition 56:23 145:24 competitive 81:14,23 competitiveness 80:10 complaining 66:17 complaints	165:17 complete 181:8 completely 54:20 complex 130:12 complexity 56:22 compliance 15:22 54:19 56:4,22 comply 41:19 165:2 composition 88:17 compounding 150:15 156:13 compromise 134:24 174:22 compromised 17:20 compromising 96:6 concept 86:17 92:24 concern 29:12 65:9 74:14 concerned 40:2 142:13 152:4 concerning 19:13 63:19 158:7 concerns 82:17 83:10 conclude 115:9 concluded 27:19 28:8 180:10 concludes 24:22 76:23 conclusion 105:3 138:11 conclusions 153:3 concrete 60:25 condition 147:2 conditioning 132:9 conditions 54:11 109:11 126:5 129:7 154:12	162:9 173:2 conductive 88:19 conduct 45:14 131:17 conducted 7:11 94:6 120:16 conducting 7:10 confidence 41:2 confident 96:3 confidential 9:25 confirmed 69:18 110:5 131:5 confirms 91:2 153:7 conflict 8:25 161:19 confused 144:18 confusion 86:20 congested 53:19 congregations 48:14 50:12 Congress 45:3 55:6 64:5 73:14 95:19 congressional 64:12 conjecture 41:8 conjunction 5:6 connected 11:10 158:6 181:10 connecting 13:24 connection 12:6 118:4 connections 12:8 97:17 conscience 78:13,21 consensus 40:24 50:3 65:22 76:1 80:17 86:12 152:11 152:15,18 153:21 155:6 172:20 consequences 25:21 54:14 57:4 66:8	116:18 151:16 156:21 164:9 173:22 consequential 4:25 conservation 30:4 68:10 157:24 consider 5:18 9:24 105:18 consideration 139:7 considered 105:12 considering 5:21 70:3 124:19 consign 43:24 148:17 consistent 56:14 95:20,23 118:9 constant 37:3 constitute 164:25 Construction 44:14 46:1 Constructive 46:10 consultant 18:12 20:4 consulting 18:12 78:23 consumed 24:8 consumer 57:3 consumers 24:11 54:19 56:12,25 57:6 113:3 166:25 consumption 104:7 contact 2:22 9:6 11:25 contained 134:21 contains 20:1 114:25 152:25 continue 34:15 39:10 52:15 84:5 89:8 96:5 97:21 98:12	111:5 112:21 113:4 121:17 122:15 126:24 128:1 136:9,11 136:12 153:9 158:16 163:8 168:6,7,8 continued 24:12 144:9 149:1 continues 154:25 160:25 179:22 contractor 3:23 7:22 contradicted 122:1 contrarians 152:14 contrary 130:5 143:3 contrast 115:4 contribute 15:10 28:1 31:24 40:18 41:1 51:14 57:25 92:14 122:7 contributed 69:4 contributes 166:13 contributing 26:11 141:4 164:25 contribution 30:9 contributions 103:17 contributor 119:24 control 4:19 134:20 162:6 controlling 114:6 controls 8:25 80:20 controversial 127:17 convened 94:4 164:23
--	---	--	--	--

convenience 26:22	cost 19:12,12 34:12 43:8	150:7,16 151:5 160:21 161:2	creative 109:4	curse 74:18
convert 50:14	52:8,10 67:20	164:1	creatures 83:19	curtailing 144:6
Cook 76:24,25 77:4,6,9 79:18	72:7 73:17,18	country's 24:5	174:21	curve 30:21
Cooking 72:3	73:20,21 82:4	75:25	credible 45:5	157:25
cool 34:17 39:9	95:3 103:15,23	county 14:20,21	152:10 158:19	customers 96:1
126:17 130:21	104:16,25	14:22 53:22	credit 35:3	103:4 179:19
159:25,25	105:11 121:8	103:4 110:13	175:22	cut 36:18 71:20
cooled 118:1	138:14 146:22	120:17 131:1	Creek 87:22,24	106:9 138:19
cooling 108:6	156:15,17,18	181:5	crises 160:20,20	cuts 61:1
cooperation	costing 62:18	countywide	crisis 52:15 71:5	cutting 131:12
7:25 10:19	150:11,14,24	120:16	74:3,20 90:22	cyclone 69:20
98:24 137:3	155:25	couple 168:9	114:13 160:3	cyclones 52:6
COORDINA...	costly 24:10	courses 73:2	177:5	Cynthia 129:17
1:13	43:14 76:8	court 1:10 9:21	Cristina 63:9,11	129:20
COPD 146:25	151:18	10:9 13:6 14:8	criteria 45:9	
coral 62:19	costs 5:12 19:11	27:18 46:25	95:23	D
cord 176:2	24:10 34:14	61:8 63:21	critical 32:4	D 2:1
core 5:9 41:19	38:6 39:10	64:7,9,16,25	114:7 116:11	D.C 43:9 68:24
92:10 96:11	54:19,20 56:22	65:5 67:4 91:7	129:23 144:10	122:10 145:10
126:16 142:11	58:6 60:21	98:1,17 99:7	criticized 65:11	dads 139:20
159:2	71:25 81:13	122:4 136:17	165:4	dagger 113:17
corner 35:23	95:13 104:7,17	137:11 138:12	crop 177:8	daily 13:20 20:3
cornerstone	110:8 113:3	168:14	crops 126:6	20:7 29:5
116:5	121:11,16	courtiers 38:16	143:19,22	116:18 145:20
Coronado 53:19	122:15 124:7	courts 65:3	cross-section	Daimler 94:13
157:11	129:12 141:12	67:13 72:8	84:23	Dakota 110:17
corporate 23:5	156:10 164:2	165:12	crossroads	Dallas 110:10
38:7 84:4	175:23 176:4	covered 96:24	59:17 70:11	Dallas-Fort
85:24 129:4	cough 69:1,5	covers 114:6	crowds 145:25	109:24
corporation	coughing 112:5	COVID 76:13	Cruces 33:19	damage 16:19
86:4	Council 59:7	145:17 160:23	crucial 47:9	30:24 34:20
corporations	127:13	160:24	74:21	37:24 38:1
39:12 113:4	counsel 181:9,10	coworkers 90:12	culprit 131:9	43:21 59:15
158:25 174:3	Countdown	Craig 37:17,19	cultural 79:11	60:2 117:5
correct 11:20	52:13	Cranston 43:5	culture 38:13	124:7
25:10,11	counter 83:23	create 30:8	79:9 84:2,5	damaged 71:12
158:20	counterparts	160:19,20	cumulative	151:5
correction	41:6	161:4	110:8	damages 39:5
118:17	counties 20:5	created 26:13	curb 124:2	67:21 69:19
correlated 57:3	counting 127:2	52:15 138:22	current 40:14	90:25 149:9
corridor 166:20	countries 41:6	142:5 158:24	74:4 75:18	Dan 99:9,11
166:21 172:13	124:16	creates 167:4	84:1 92:23	103:7,10
corridors 26:9	country 20:6	creating 88:18	103:22 116:9	danger 41:13
corrupt 58:8	22:9 52:1	130:20	127:24 153:9	60:22 78:11
corruption	53:16 61:25	creation 21:9,17	153:23	89:6 157:18
151:20	68:11 69:17	49:10 79:10	currently 12:22	dangerous 63:6
cosigned 66:4	70:6 97:6	84:3 113:24	97:22 134:15	70:24 78:8
	126:23 133:10	114:12,17	134:18 136:14	117:7 124:3
			179:15	152:19 158:23

162:8 dangerously 50:4 dangers 85:20 122:14 Daniel 84:9,11 Darien 68:6,8 90:9 dark 87:18 135:12 146:8 154:24 data 6:21 25:20 45:4 53:22 65:12 78:25 91:1,1 119:19 120:12 123:17 127:19 144:5 165:4 date 1:8 8:9 dated 86:17 181:12 daughters 162:18,24 Davis 68:6,7,8 90:9 day 3:6,10 4:25 5:8 29:4 54:3 63:4 68:16 74:10 108:23 109:3 133:18 150:1 177:3 181:12 days 3:12 8:8 17:6 19:7 28:24 29:6,8,9 29:10 34:6 42:16,20 59:24 79:23 100:20 106:13 108:12 108:19,20 109:2 117:7,7 120:5,6 134:3 138:8 145:16 156:17 162:2,7 165:15 daytime 108:3 dead 123:25 124:23 177:20 dead-standing	134:12 deadliest 154:7 deadline 108:22 deadly 15:14 16:1 54:13 dealers 176:7 dealerships 176:11 dealing 15:18 179:15 deals 78:19 dear 177:23 dearly 24:11 death 84:7 131:13 154:20 166:14 177:22 deaths 19:5 22:4 28:23 109:9 119:19 120:1 123:23 158:18 160:24 Deb 173:15,19 174:6 debate 59:16 72:5 85:20 debates 86:8 decade 29:3 130:16 decades 26:19 60:20 73:12 78:25 81:9 88:16 90:4 96:25 119:7 143:13 163:24 decarbonize 20:23 December 17:8 decide 122:6 decided 64:5 147:4 decimated 71:13 decimating 150:4,11 decision 27:18 63:6 64:8 65:5 94:17 149:24 155:18 165:9 decision-maki... 130:12 148:22	164:5 decisions 5:15 47:1 56:8 65:4 65:19 78:13 126:19 133:11 decisis 145:2 decisive 43:25 52:16 declaration 26:18 decline 47:14 decrease 30:12 30:21 121:16 decreased 30:9 104:9 dedicated 87:1 121:5 163:25 deemed 64:18 64:25 147:4 deep 42:18 124:1 130:5 deeper 151:2 deeply 64:6 112:14 124:25 152:13 158:7 164:21 defective 93:25 defend 22:16 48:20,24 105:19 definition 27:22 64:10 75:20 144:21 degradation 28:20 degraded 28:16 117:8 degree 28:11 99:19 111:3 120:5 157:23 degrees 42:3,7 123:8 126:3 127:22 134:4,5 143:11 153:10 dehydration 131:8 Delaware 70:18 71:6,18,19 72:9	Delawareans 71:14 72:14 delay 80:17 delays 95:5 117:20 deliberate 80:14 147:6 delivery 55:18 demand 67:23 95:11 149:6 demanding 79:23 demands 50:17 demarcation 110:19 demise 39:20 democratic 39:18 demonstrating 81:4 denial 70:23 78:2 86:17 denies 74:2 denomination 114:9 deny 15:2 91:18 122:13 denying 15:16 152:10 department 27:13 28:12 58:4 66:14 102:8 114:22 117:24 138:4 164:20 depend 21:9 146:5 147:25 dependence 52:17 dependent 124:11,17 depending 103:9 depends 91:22 130:7 153:18 depleted 143:15 depressed 83:21 160:7 depression 38:21 141:16	deregulate 144:4 159:3 Deregulating 79:5 deregulation 5:1 dereliction 26:18 89:5 Derrick 159:12 159:13 descendants 74:20 161:6 described 8:13 descriptions 8:21 desert 120:10 deserve 74:20 105:22 122:20 deserves 36:25 37:2 80:8 desiccated 154:12 design 107:20 designed 71:21 desire 129:4 desired 167:9 despair 62:11 desperately 158:8 despite 17:13 26:11 47:17 165:17 destabilizing 80:5 destroy 49:4,11 49:12 destroyed 32:19 54:22 71:13 destroying 71:9 destruction 156:7 177:23 destructive 41:13 71:11 detailed 86:12 details 7:5 45:22 deteriorate 130:18 determination 61:9 116:10 determine
--	--	--	--	---

164:10	79:12	43:15 53:8	12:23 13:5	107:7 130:22
determined	different 20:14	62:6 104:15	97:23 98:14	146:13
21:23	69:5 148:11	105:2 110:6	99:6 136:14	dollar 52:5
determining	149:10	154:6	137:10	dollars 43:2 58:7
164:24	difficult 112:22	disasters 43:15	disproportion...	67:21 103:15
detrimental	148:19 156:12	52:5 54:4	53:20	104:16 105:1
56:11 62:4	173:22 174:8	62:16 69:18	disproportion...	150:25 164:2
120:15	difficulties 11:23	72:1 90:23	158:15	167:1
Detroit 160:5	35:24 142:3	104:24 110:4,9	disprove 119:11	dome 19:5,6
devastate	DiGiulio 24:23	112:9,12,21	disregard 54:1	128:22
105:10	24:24 25:1,2	113:1 121:11	disregards 51:6	domestic 56:21
devastated	dignity 37:5	121:18 129:11	disruption 26:3	57:7
69:16 143:18	dioxide 25:12	138:14 150:16	distant 106:15	dominion 21:7
devastating 54:6	31:19 32:7,8	151:1 155:25	116:23 157:21	domino 17:21
62:24 66:8	40:16 101:23	156:6,16	distorted 153:3	Donna 46:7,8
73:7 108:10	133:6 158:2	disclosure 10:3	distress 37:2	Doone 86:25
151:18 153:10	direct 38:10	discouraged	distributed 8:15	87:1
156:7	65:20 103:1	17:19	38:22	door 43:19
devastation	107:17 114:4	discover 130:24	distribution	doors 132:14
32:19	120:14 123:7	discovery	86:16	double 29:9 71:8
develop 5:20	129:24 130:3	165:11	ditch 169:19	172:12
developing 9:2	131:16,18	discredited	dividends 43:14	doubt 46:21
174:18	146:16 161:19	63:23 65:16	Division 3:2,16	64:11 80:14
development	161:21 166:11	discrepancies	docket 8:5,6,12	downed 154:16
39:15 56:21	166:11	56:17	10:23,23 13:3	downloads
84:14 135:3,5	directed 165:11	discusses 102:15	45:24 99:2,3	12:11
developmental	direction 120:19	discussion 6:20	137:7,7 168:18	downpours 42:9
120:3	directly 42:1	disease 17:17	168:18	dozen 28:14
Devine 21:2,3,4	53:10 69:15	22:5 27:5	docks 106:7	dozens 41:6
dew 108:4,5	88:3 118:5	71:25 87:20	doctor 115:5	66:16,24
DFW 15:22	120:1	120:2 129:23	139:21	Dr 50:25 66:18
110:22,25	director 3:1,15	137:24 147:1,1	doctors 87:20	79:23 140:21
diagnosed 17:16	25:3 44:5	158:17 166:14	123:24 139:19	145:9 152:2
87:17 112:7	48:11 55:15	169:6	150:1	draft 58:3
dialogue 2:17	66:19 75:3	diseases 25:23	doctrine 45:21	114:22
dialysis 124:2	82:13 84:11	32:1 36:9 70:8	64:16 65:2	dramatic 102:18
die 142:11	92:7 109:21	143:21 169:6	document 45:9	102:20
169:11,11,12	115:22	disinformation	45:23	dramatically
169:16,17,17	dirtier 72:6	80:16	documentary	102:17
169:22,22,22	dirty 21:24	disingenuous	58:15	drastically
170:3,3,3	dirty 39:4	14:7	documented	142:10
177:14	104:20	dismantle 64:1	81:2 153:1	drawing 72:4
died 137:22	dirtying 22:7	68:13 116:15	DOE 63:22	dream 104:14
Diego 53:6,15	disabilities	dismissing 26:20	65:11 121:21	dreams 111:9
111:19 157:9	142:3	disorder 141:16	DOE's 152:25	Drew 66:1
diesel 32:7 53:24	disagree 77:15	displaced	164:23	dried 177:20
difference	disappointed	116:21	doing 15:2 31:7	drier 126:5
172:24	179:24	display 10:25	41:18 44:12	143:9
differences	disaster 41:15	displayed 11:21	72:5 104:4	driest 143:13

drilling 14:21 58:11	26:14,19 55:1 70:24 76:11	59:13 71:10,16 73:10 85:6	176:13	164:18
drive 25:18 93:15 172:16	81:8 89:5 91:13	91:22 92:12 106:17 152:23	El 82:13	emissions 4:9,13
driven 71:25 78:1,15 111:10 117:9 129:3	dwindling 118:11	164:7 165:16 166:23	ELCA 114:9	4:20 15:6
drivers 41:3 121:14	dying 83:20 117:25 119:21 151:2	ecosystems 17:22 18:2 51:16 152:24 153:11	elder 40:2	22:18 23:21
drives 24:9,10 34:25 177:4	E	edit 11:20	elderly 116:20 154:19 174:5 174:10	24:3,5,6,9,18 27:20 28:4,6,9 28:19 29:17
driving 50:5 108:9 113:17 152:17	E 2:1,1	education 73:3 107:19	elders 40:1 58:20 76:12 83:8,21 138:5	31:23 32:3,17 34:11 35:19 36:2,10,21 40:22 43:11 46:21,22 52:18 53:24 57:10 61:1 62:4,6,8 62:15 64:21 67:6 69:13 71:17 73:9 75:17 76:15 77:23 79:5 80:20 81:18 84:17 88:16,20 90:21 94:24 95:7,21 101:3 101:21,23 102:25 109:13 110:12,14 111:5,8,25 112:8 113:3 117:1,3,10 118:4 119:3,10 119:24 122:6 127:25 128:15 129:9,24 131:12 132:19 138:18 144:2,6 144:8,12,23 154:15 155:2 156:2 161:21 163:3 179:12
drop 55:4 67:24	earlier 18:17 58:13 62:3 130:4	educational 75:11	elected 67:7 105:19	emit 133:4
dropping 123:25	earliest 119:1	educator 75:10 107:13 160:11	electric 20:21 34:25 38:4 46:19 50:14 55:17 135:6,8 158:14 167:3 176:3 177:3	emitted 141:4
drought 15:14 19:10 28:15 34:1 50:9 52:7 111:1 117:10 123:11 132:25 143:12 154:13 177:6,21 179:14	early 38:17 97:18 108:24 145:16	Edwards 133:19	electricity 73:21 169:20	emphasize 25:9 85:7
droughts 32:15 62:16 123:15	earned 87:12	effect 17:21 103:1	electronically 8:4	emphasized 144:25
drowning 151:2	earth 21:6 39:8 130:25 146:10 148:2,13	effective 56:5 144:6	elementary 100:12	emphasizes 114:17
dry 33:22,23 83:15 110:18 111:1 123:12 124:25 125:20 143:8	earth's 32:11 62:14 79:7 103:1	effectively 46:18 57:2 64:12 103:19	eliminate 76:5 85:16 143:25	emphysema 117:14 137:23
Drying 134:8	east 43:5 110:19 110:21,25	effects 32:24 34:16 38:25 58:2 63:3 83:12 112:15 133:13 141:21 160:8	eliminating 56:10	
due 10:14 17:12 17:19,22 29:7 30:9 34:7 62:9 62:14 75:17 90:19 95:2 98:19 100:15 100:16 104:25 112:13 116:19 132:12 136:23 144:16 156:7 156:18 168:20	Eastern 7:5 97:13,18 125:21 135:19 167:20	efficiency 23:5 24:13 56:20 57:4 61:3 73:13,17 96:6 104:9 166:25	elite 38:13,15	
due 10:14 17:12 17:19,22 29:7 30:9 34:7 62:9 62:14 75:17 90:19 95:2 98:19 100:15 100:16 104:25 112:13 116:19 132:12 136:23 144:16 156:7 156:18 168:20	eat 106:5	efficient 56:24	else's 78:6	
dunes 106:20	echo 18:19	efficiently 24:13	email 12:14	
duration 7:15	Ecology 32:22	effort 80:14 122:3,12 129:14	embarrassing 48:19	
dust 34:7	economic 20:10 20:19 47:10,11 51:12 63:23 77:24 80:7 93:22 94:20 111:11 124:5 141:12	efforts 17:13 73:24,25 74:15 96:8 131:19 163:4	embedded 56:6	
duty 21:12	economists 119:14	eight 110:10 134:15 169:5	embracing 135:10	
	economy 13:18 23:23 37:25 47:22 58:12	either 14:4 159:25 170:18	emergency 16:22 36:6 51:10 90:18 115:21 116:24 117:23 131:5	
			emission 4:3 43:18 52:23 56:4 70:10 75:9 76:6,20 95:4,18 100:24 103:14 111:13 116:12 138:7 147:22 161:18	

employee 181:9 181:10	50:21 51:5,12 52:22 53:13	166:6 167:11 168:1 171:3	22:13 45:4 52:24 94:18	124:18 127:13 155:17 161:14
employer 124:2	54:23 55:14	172:6,19	95:6 96:10	envision 148:18
employment 57:8	56:1,25 57:13 59:8,10 61:7	174:24 179:10	98:24 108:15	EPA 1:3,13,14
Empower 89:22	61:25 62:23	endangers 96:12	137:3	2:9 3:21,22
empowered 145:3	64:24 66:11	111:25 112:9	ensuring 95:20	4:11 5:17 7:3,8
enabled 116:10	67:9,12 68:13	112:17	176:19	7:16 8:15,19
enables 81:5	70:20 72:2,15	ended 38:18,19	entering 154:24	9:6 12:15,15
enact 20:14	74:23 75:8	endorse 81:17	entire 15:19	12:19 14:7,25
enacted 95:19	76:3,19 77:17	endorsed 41:7	26:4 39:13	21:20 22:9,15
Encinitas 157:14	78:10 80:20	ends 175:22	117:19	22:19 23:7,16
encourage 11:9	81:20 82:23	endure 157:18	entirety 26:25	24:16,18 26:13
102:23	83:23 85:17	163:8	entities 92:18,21	26:24 27:19,19
encroachment 15:18	86:12 88:14,22	endured 54:6	Entomology	27:24 30:5
endanger 25:13	89:1,4,9,24,25	108:3	102:8	31:3,8,18 32:3
27:25 40:19	91:6,16,21	energy 5:12	entrusted 49:10	32:5 35:5,6
61:9 66:8	95:16 96:21	19:11 22:13	147:7	37:8 39:19
91:15 116:9	97:2 98:6	34:16 38:5	environment	40:22 41:17
122:8 129:24	99:24 100:3	39:8,10,16	5:10 15:4 18:5	45:4,8,11 51:2
138:10 158:21	101:7 102:24	42:8 61:3	19:19 21:13	52:18,22 53:13
173:25	103:12 105:4	66:14 73:12,16	26:16 30:11	57:1 58:3,18
endangered	107:3,5,16	73:17,18,20	33:6 35:8	59:11 64:3,9
55:7 169:7	109:12,15	77:25 104:10	37:10 40:20	64:13,14,17
endangering	110:15 111:12	114:22 135:9	41:20 51:4	65:2,9 67:2,4,8
32:14 161:1	111:23 113:5	156:10,11,18	52:19 55:8	67:23 68:17
endangerment	113:13 114:5	164:20 166:1	62:25 71:22	70:3,9 75:12
1:4 2:5,11 4:2	114:25 115:12	167:6 169:15	72:12 75:22	77:11,22 78:1
4:5,8 5:4,5 6:9	116:3,4,14	171:25	79:7 87:5 88:4	78:12 79:21
13:22 15:1,11	119:9 121:7,21	enforce 168:22	88:18 97:5	80:8,10 82:5
16:3,12 17:25	122:10,12	enforced 100:5,5	101:3,20 110:1	82:10 83:11
18:7 21:21	127:1,15	enforcement	113:21 114:20	87:2,3 89:8
22:20 23:11	128:16 129:13	179:24	133:25 134:8	90:1 91:1,7,7
24:17 25:10	131:19 132:5	enforcing 10:17	139:2 142:6	91:13 92:15
26:17,25 27:15	133:22 136:5	98:22 137:1	147:3 158:24	93:3 94:2 95:8
29:15 30:6,22	137:19 138:9	engine 4:17,20	164:13	95:21 97:9
31:4,10,17	139:2,14	95:21 146:22	environmental	98:10 100:6,25
33:9 35:9	140:23 142:12	engines 4:3,10	2:4,9 3:7 14:2	101:5 102:24
36:13 37:13	143:2 144:7,22	4:16 22:7,21	18:3,14 21:11	107:15 111:11
39:3,16 40:12	145:15 146:15	England 17:18	25:3,6 27:13	111:23 112:24
41:17 43:17	147:21 149:17	42:14	29:18 40:11	113:16 119:2,8
44:11,16,21,23	149:25 151:6	enhanced	48:17 54:25	119:15 121:13
44:24 45:6,11	151:12 152:6	102:22	69:25 70:17	121:20 122:5,6
45:16,19,20	153:17,22	enjoy 85:11	75:25 76:10	127:14 129:6
46:3,13 47:4	155:3,12,19	109:1	78:17,21 85:17	131:16 132:15
48:25 49:13,19	156:22 157:5	enormous	88:1 94:19	132:21 133:21
	158:20 160:18	121:19 141:12	95:25 96:25	136:9 138:22
	161:3,17	Ensemble 87:13	99:19 107:19	142:5 144:4,11
	164:14 165:7	ensure 8:1,21	109:22 112:15	144:22,24
		10:19 21:13	114:23 123:9	145:3,4 150:8

153:16 155:1 155:11,19 157:2 158:24 163:5,24 164:2 164:16,17 165:8,11,12,15 167:11,14,16 168:6 170:13 171:5 172:21 175:3 177:10 177:17,24 178:3,11 179:11 180:6 EPA's 3:14,16 5:9 8:4 14:5 31:22 41:19 44:20,24 46:2 47:1 59:8 61:8 64:1 65:1,20 66:10 70:19,23 72:10 74:23 77:16 81:5 89:24 91:1 94:11,14 95:13 96:8 97:1 98:4 103:12 107:2,9 116:5,15 122:3 126:16 132:4 136:3 137:18 139:1 140:4 142:10 143:1 143:25 144:5 144:18 149:24 152:5,21 153:20 157:5 161:19 164:6 164:10 166:6 167:25 171:2 EPA-HQ-OA... 8:7 10:24 13:4 99:4 137:8 168:19 EPA-supported 80:15 EPAPublic 11:25 epidemic 130:15 131:10 Epiphany	139:11 Episcopal 139:12 equally 147:25 equals 104:7 Equinox 175:20 ER 75:23 87:16 117:13 139:21 era 38:24 80:1 erase 76:3 Eric 44:3,6 Erie 148:24 erode 71:12 80:16 erosion 106:6 157:13 erratic 162:15 errors 20:1 95:14 ERs 123:24 escape 154:22 Eseka 83:16 especially 22:10 25:7 30:25 46:22 101:10 118:24 138:6 141:24 154:18 166:10,14 172:8,24 173:1 178:16 essential 49:13 129:13 138:19 151:14,23 155:10 174:14 essentially 146:17 EST 1:9,9 180:10 establish 69:25 established 15:2 25:19 45:3 51:23 64:2 121:8 122:13 estate 135:3 estimated 38:8 58:7 62:18 123:5 138:14 Ethan 115:15,20 ethical 79:14	147:8 ethics 111:10 Europe 81:10 167:6 EV 48:1,2 81:11 175:20 176:6,7 evacuate 17:1 evacuation 154:23 evaluation 73:13 evangelicals 79:9 event 19:6 69:21 123:5 154:10 160:14 events 15:13 20:6 21:25 52:7,8,10,13 60:18 69:16,20 69:20 110:6 111:2 118:6 123:17 127:21 135:2 156:8 163:9 eventual 86:15 eventually 67:10 Everett 13:11,12 14:13 everybody 77:9 149:22 everyday 151:16 everyone's 7:25 evidence 7:11 25:14 26:20 40:15 49:21 51:13,16 55:24 62:2 90:5 91:9 91:13,17 97:3 116:8 119:11 119:16,19 127:17 130:8 130:13 138:12 152:10 161:20 evidence-based 153:20 evolved 51:22 evolving 93:15 EVs 176:10,24 177:2	exacerbate 29:17 109:10 129:6 exacerbated 32:16 132:12 156:9 exacerbating 31:8 exact 128:17 exactly 60:19 exaggerate 176:23 example 15:15 17:23 33:1 133:25 134:9 141:25 Examples 75:12 exasperate 15:24 exceed 121:12 exceedance 29:4 exceedances 29:6 exceeded 126:9 exceeding 110:6 exceeds 48:4 excellent 13:14 178:15 excess 62:3 excessive 17:24 21:17 excuse 7:18 9:23 33:7 107:11 149:20 163:15 executive 5:8 84:11 109:21 115:22 exercise 109:6 exhaust 36:1 70:7 104:22 exhausting 128:21 exist 88:1 existed 39:13 existence 74:2 existential 169:8 existing 57:1 93:6 109:10 exists 15:3 51:3	91:13 expand 6:15 expanded 152:7 172:11 expanding 55:21 73:25 expect 43:4 105:22 127:25 expected 12:22 58:12 131:12 expense 80:18 experience 12:10 27:7 54:4 62:15 69:7 90:11,14 93:21 111:3 123:7 134:11 143:6 155:4 161:25 experienced 17:7 19:9 29:4 52:4 68:19,23 96:24 154:5 159:19 162:1 experiencing 13:20 17:15 19:1 42:1 96:23 120:4 133:24 141:22 143:12 expert 45:16 99:22 expertise 80:11 153:16 experts 41:1 45:3 153:13 explain 92:15 146:24 explaining 47:6 explains 32:5 46:11 explicitly 64:9 exploitation 148:8 explore 109:1 exponential 30:20 exponentially 19:12
--	--	---	---	---

expose 41:12 70:5	faces 36:1	falls 37:22	faster 95:6	fifth 51:23
exposed 101:11	facet 146:5	false 20:1 66:23	fatal 45:6	131:13
exposure 96:13	facilitating 7:23	114:25 115:3	fatalities 52:12	fight 112:18
exposures 25:7	84:19 178:15	119:12 152:25	father 74:11	fighting 54:17
express 68:12	facilitator 2:14	falter 158:5	87:8 89:7	112:14
89:23 103:11	98:8 136:7	falters 158:5	115:24 125:23	figure 104:2
132:3 143:1	168:4	families 26:7	137:22	figures 104:2
145:14 172:7	facilitators 9:9	34:13 35:24	fault 14:6	filed 44:18
extended 100:18	facilities 93:10	36:3,17 50:22	favor 46:19	filled 157:18
128:23	93:13	69:16 72:7	113:20	filthy 177:21
extensive 94:15	facility 174:11	75:6 76:5	favorite 126:13	final 5:20 18:3
extensively	fact 48:2 51:23	105:10 106:13	favours 103:20	37:17 53:2
112:5	53:22 86:13	112:3 116:21	fear 37:1 78:1	56:15 89:12
externalities	103:17 119:23	126:13 129:7	90:12 120:21	111:16 114:21
38:10	124:18 128:9	129:12 137:24	feared 87:14,18	125:9 135:17
externalizing	134:5 150:9	153:6 160:1	feasibility 95:3	155:15 178:3
119:6	157:19 162:3	166:16 167:10	feature 11:24	179:1,2
extinctions	169:9	family 17:16	56:6 136:22	finalize 46:4
48:20	fact-checkers	68:18 83:20,24	fed 117:10	finalized 4:16
extra 150:14	153:2	87:7 88:10,23	federal 6:10 7:7	finalizing 6:25
extraction 148:8	factor 56:7	89:5 100:15,18	8:14,24 35:4	finally 8:19
extreme 15:13	130:14	104:6,8 106:10	43:2 45:10,15	38:24 167:7
16:1 21:25	factory 133:4	118:6 137:17	45:17 47:12	financial 103:20
22:8 26:2	facts 119:15	145:9 157:14	50:18 56:16	104:15 105:9
32:15,16 34:1	149:13	family's 34:2,23	64:5,25 70:23	financially
34:16,20 36:10	factual 20:1	126:21	107:2 124:6	181:11
50:5 59:14	65:19	famine 177:7,21	126:9 138:12	find 11:15 24:17
69:15 91:2	Fahrenheit	fantasy 133:1	138:23 165:3	34:21 75:18
102:11 108:19	111:4 127:22	far 47:16 54:20	175:22	165:12 173:9
108:20 109:15	143:11	61:4,5 62:25	federally 122:24	finding 1:4 2:5
116:21 117:9	failing 80:1	66:4,20 124:16	feedback 30:16	2:11 4:2,5,8,11
120:4,6,7	fails 52:20 122:3	138:16 144:13	feel 36:12 79:4	5:4,5 6:9 15:1
123:3,24	failure 44:24	144:13 173:11	97:3,16 120:21	15:11,24 16:3
127:21 128:22	129:25 130:16	177:1	148:14 162:16	16:4,12 17:25
128:25 134:7	130:24 131:10	farm 42:19	feeling 118:25	18:7 21:21
135:2 141:22	131:12	101:18 103:4	120:18 162:19	22:20 23:11
155:24 158:11	fair 118:23	110:3 125:21	fellow 145:11	25:10 26:18
179:17	149:1 170:2	125:22 126:11	felt 120:8	27:16,24 29:15
extremely 42:11	fairly 38:22	126:21	fend 112:11	30:6,22 31:4
62:4 73:1	faith 21:6 32:21	farmers 19:10	fertile 110:19	31:10,17 33:9
162:2	32:23 48:14	83:20 126:21	fervent 145:14	35:9 36:13
extremes 58:11	49:7 50:16,16	174:13	fever 130:25	37:13 39:3,16
Exxon 79:25	50:22 81:18	Farming 125:24	fewer 32:25	40:12,15,21
eyes 74:7 120:6	83:4 114:8,20	farmland 71:9	36:22 90:15	41:9,18 43:17
	115:2	farms 50:9	118:8	43:19 44:11,16
	fall 64:25 111:7	133:4	field 73:12 82:19	44:21,23,25
F	133:14 144:20	farther 30:17	83:5	45:6,12,16,19
face 13:23 30:15	157:17	farting 133:6	fields 42:17	45:20 46:3,13
112:12 165:8	falling 176:25	fast-track 161:4	123:25	47:4 48:25

49:13,19 50:8 50:21 51:5,12 52:22 53:13 54:23 55:7,15 56:1,9 57:1,14 59:8,10 61:7 61:25 62:23 64:24 65:15 66:11 67:9,12 68:13 70:20 72:2,15 74:23 75:8 76:4,19 77:17 78:10 80:20 81:21 82:4 83:23 85:18 86:13,19 88:14,22 89:1 89:4,9,24,25 91:6,16,21 95:17 96:21 97:2 98:6 99:24 100:3 101:7 102:24 103:13 105:4 107:3,6,16 109:12,16 110:15 111:12 111:24 112:1 112:23 113:5 113:14 114:5 114:25 115:13 116:3,5,14 119:9 121:7,21 122:11,12 127:1,15 128:16 129:13 129:15 131:19 132:5,22 136:5 137:19 138:9 139:3,14 140:23 142:12 142:16 143:2 144:7,22 145:15 146:15 147:21 149:17 151:6,12 152:6 153:17,22 155:19 156:4 156:22,24	157:6 158:20 160:19 161:3 161:17 164:14 164:15,18 165:7 166:7 167:11 168:1 171:3 179:10 findings 26:25 27:8 81:18 132:21 133:22 149:25 172:6 172:19 fine 29:5 59:19 147:15 175:5 finished 6:17 fire 30:24 60:10 60:10 148:25 150:18 154:17 157:20 162:12 179:21 fire's 125:1 fire- 34:23 fires 32:15,18 41:13 54:7,8 54:11 113:1 116:21 117:18 117:25 123:15 128:10,25 132:12 134:8 134:17 158:12 179:13 firm 23:4 firms 93:5,21 first 13:10 24:22 36:12 39:22 55:11 60:6 69:5 71:2 76:24 89:13 99:12 100:10 113:8 123:10 126:16,24 127:5 130:17 142:21 161:25 163:24 173:20 175:25 178:8 firsthand 53:8 68:20 125:24 158:2 162:23 fish 118:9 149:1	fisheries 80:4 82:1 fishing 79:24 FISKE 1:23 Fitzpatrick 63:13,14 five 19:7 60:4 69:20 77:24 121:22 142:8 five-minute 175:3 fixes 148:9 Flag 75:12 flagrant 51:6 flat 176:9 flawed 63:19,23 64:6 95:9 152:13 164:22 flaws 44:22 46:12 fleet 95:5 Flex 92:15,22,25 93:22 flexibility 92:13 94:6 flies 13:23 flood 17:2,4,5 43:1 106:3 flood-prone 34:23 flooded 42:17 60:5 flooding 19:10 26:2 28:16 34:20 52:7 71:11,15 91:3 132:25 151:1 158:11 floodings 112:4 floodplains 17:3 floods 15:14 16:16 32:15 41:15 116:22 123:15 128:11 128:24 156:8 177:5 179:14 Florida 1:11,24 151:1 181:4 flourishing	81:11 flow 64:23 focus 16:12 29:12 44:23 52:22 94:16 folks 59:24 166:9 follow 81:3 126:15 followed 2:25 87:16 followers 114:2 following 74:8 129:9 171:5 follows 80:8 food 13:17 15:17 16:23 39:10 80:5 148:2 151:9 177:7 foot 42:22 71:7 force 54:20 71:24 forced 68:21 124:3 forcefully 52:21 Ford's 177:4 foregoing 102:23 181:7 181:11 foreign 144:17 forest 60:11 132:24 134:9 forests 18:22 50:9 134:13 143:18 form 43:14 formal 5:3 7:11 formation 25:22 29:1 formed 107:16 former 82:12 forms 114:18 fortunate 131:4 fortunately 131:3 forum 6:23 84:12 forward 5:16,20 27:1 68:5 83:1	92:2 113:8 127:5 142:20 159:7,11 165:13 fossil 23:20 25:16 32:6 38:1,3,7 39:4 39:10 52:17 66:7 71:1 73:19,22 78:24 79:2 80:13 90:21 107:17 119:5,17 121:15,19 122:17 124:17 124:21 128:5 129:5 130:1 134:22 165:17 177:15 fossils 169:19 found 7:7 37:21 47:13 93:9 177:13 foundation 40:21 44:8 80:6 105:24 116:15 foundational 50:19 founder 89:22 founding 82:13 87:4 four 3:6 29:10 44:22 68:16 73:11 79:22 121:23 165:15 fourth 59:1 134:16 frack 49:11 fracked 14:21 fracking 14:24 110:14,14 fraction 47:19 fragile 152:12 framework 64:2 Francis 84:2 Franciscan 82:12 frankly 109:5
--	---	--	--	--

Fraser 79:20,21 79:23	23:20 32:6 38:3 39:4 66:7	36:23 78:5	154:15 155:2 156:2 158:25	106:8 110:2 116:10 126:15
free 97:16 109:6 115:11	73:19,22 79:2 107:17 119:18	G	159:1 161:21 166:7 167:12	139:6 151:5,7 159:5 163:7
freelancing 47:2	124:17 128:5	G 2:1	168:2 171:4	167:8
freely 138:22	130:2 177:15	Gaddi 172:1	172:8 176:4,6 177:2,11	generations' 134:24
freeway 53:19	fulfilling 5:11	gain 80:18 113:4	gas-driven 122:14	Genesis 113:23
freight 96:7	112:10 119:2	gained 164:3	gas-powered 46:19 48:1	genuinely 47:23
frequency 25:24 123:18	full 107:9 117:19	gains 23:13	158:13	George 41:23,24 130:23,25
frequent 29:1 106:1 128:24 129:10 156:5	fully 13:24 148:14	gap 47:13	gases 13:24 15:7 25:8,12,17	Georgia 55:21
frequently 160:12	function 141:19	garden 113:25 148:18	27:21,25 28:1 30:13 31:18	getting 47:5 150:23
fresh 119:22 146:9	functioning 141:24	gardener 17:14	32:9 36:14 40:13 49:1	GHG 56:4,10 57:14 89:9
friend 145:21	fundamentally 92:22	Gary 39:22,24	51:14 53:25 59:12 61:9	94:17 95:18 119:3,24
friends 32:20 76:13 100:16 118:7	funding 179:25	gas 1:5 2:5,11 4:1,2,6,7,13,14	64:3,11 75:15 81:6 91:10,14	GHGs 132:19 132:23 133:3
front 59:23 71:4	funds 174:24	4:20 6:9 14:21 14:22 15:6,8	102:12 104:25 107:1,16 114:5	giant 159:6
frontline 35:18 36:3 91:5 116:17 159:23 161:6	furniture 84:25	21:18,22 22:17 23:12 24:3,8,8	116:6,9 122:5 123:20,21	gift 89:1 105:8
fruits 101:17	further 9:5 29:17 46:20 65:8 109:14	24:18 26:10 27:1,16,20 28:9,19 30:7	123:20,21 133:5 138:10	gig 47:22
frustrating 75:18	Furthermore 64:14	30:23 31:5,21 32:3,7,17 33:10 34:10	141:3 143:24 144:20 145:2	give 5:14 10:12 45:8 78:14
fuel 23:5,23 24:13,13 25:16 38:1,7 39:10 52:17 71:1 78:24 79:5 80:13 90:21 104:6,9,12 119:5 121:19 122:17 124:21 129:5 134:23 138:14 165:18 166:25 176:5	future 4:18 18:25 22:10,13 34:2,9 37:6 40:4,14 43:11 43:13,24 53:11 54:14 61:21 62:13,24 63:1 74:18,22 75:6 76:2,17 81:10 81:23 88:24 90:4 91:22 110:2 112:17 112:19 116:10 120:20 126:1 129:2 133:3 134:24 139:6 141:7 148:18 151:7 152:23 153:18 158:22 163:2 180:3	35:19 40:22 43:11,18 50:3 52:17,23 53:9 57:10 61:5 62:15 67:6 68:14 69:12,14 70:21 71:24 80:19 81:18 82:17,19,25 83:5 84:17 85:18 93:6 94:25 98:6 99:24 100:4 101:8,21 103:13 109:13 110:12 111:12 111:24 112:8 117:3,10 127:1 127:25 128:15 129:8 130:2 135:7 136:5 137:20 138:18 140:8 142:16 144:2,12	152:11 158:21 164:25 166:10 179:12 gasoline 32:6 58:12 gasping 75:23 GDP 111:6 general 62:16 142:22,24 generally 85:11 generating 58:9 generation 61:22 63:5 64:20 85:11 101:17 generations 22:11 37:6 40:4,14 43:25 62:13 74:18,22 75:6 76:18	given 7:20 21:8 57:9 70:1 127:24 157:19 gives 158:4 giving 30:18 102:21 105:11 105:13 111:21 glacial 80:3 Glacier 150:21 glaciers 18:22 119:20 150:22 glad 69:22 global 19:25 20:18 28:9,10 28:18 37:12 41:3,3 56:22 63:3 71:8 73:5 81:11 106:25 119:13 121:6 127:24 128:6 133:24 144:16 146:11 152:17 153:8 155:6 167:6
fuel-burning 121:15	futures 34:24			
fuel-efficient 79:3				
fueled 54:11				
fueling 22:8 112:8				
fuels 21:24				

globally 119:21	82:9 101:15,15	Granny 169:2,9	52:17,23 53:9	grounded 116:7
glorious 145:24	103:8,8 104:12	granted 146:18	53:25 54:12	group 23:15
go 7:9 9:10,13	109:19 113:23	grassroots	57:10 59:12	38:15 40:2
9:18 14:14	115:7 121:3	109:22	61:5,9 62:14	80:15 152:14
58:17,17,18	125:11,15,17	grateful 3:9	64:3,11 67:6	164:23
60:7 61:4 72:3	127:11 129:18	grave 26:1	68:14 69:12,14	groups 38:13
72:4 77:4	130:22 131:23	gray 88:8	70:21 80:19	44:15 59:21
88:11 108:25	132:23 133:18	great 5:8 21:8	81:5,17 84:17	grow 74:9
109:2 113:10	140:20 142:23	33:5 38:21	85:18 91:9,14	106:22 138:8
115:9 125:12	145:8 155:16	57:22 76:21	93:6 94:25	148:1
138:24 148:7	157:2,3 171:23	79:4 82:21,24	98:6 99:24	growing 17:7
148:16,23	173:20,25	89:20 92:6	100:4 101:8,21	83:12 87:8
162:9 171:18	174:9 177:4	102:16 114:1	102:12 103:13	101:17 117:7
175:6 176:6	Goodwin 92:3,4	115:4 117:16	104:25 107:1	120:12 141:10
goal 92:14	92:6,7	126:12 146:6	107:16 109:13	148:18
God 113:23	Goose 87:22,24	148:3	110:12 111:12	grown 49:22
114:2	Gospel 115:10	great-grandfa...	111:24 112:8	93:12 117:11
God's 21:16	gotten 143:9	125:22	114:5 116:6,9	119:19 134:16
84:3 114:14,17	government	greater 22:13	117:3,10 122:5	138:13 164:7
God-given	20:8,14 35:4	54:20 60:21	122:14 123:20	grows 39:8
174:21	38:10 68:9	160:4	127:1,24	growth 28:16
goes 20:20	73:24 85:3	greatest 4:25	128:15 129:8	78:3 132:25
124:25 169:10	118:22 121:10	26:10	130:2 136:5	Guard 16:22
going 9:8,10	128:14 142:15	greatly 30:5	137:20 138:10	guidance 92:23
38:12 83:1	151:21 155:9	31:3 75:7,11	138:18 141:3	guide 107:6
144:13,13	163:4 174:20	greed 84:4	142:16 143:24	guided 65:22
148:7,7,9,11	Gracyna 155:15	green 19:20	144:2,12,20	guiding 101:1
148:16,23	155:16	20:18 89:22	145:2 152:11	Guitar 87:12
149:11,12	gradual 102:19	93:10 120:25	154:15 155:2	guitarist 87:12
150:4 151:8,12	graduate 73:2	121:1,3,4	156:2 158:21	gutting 75:9
151:18,18	87:15	143:19	159:1 161:21	90:7
160:8 163:10	graduated 99:18	greenhouse 1:5	164:24 166:7	
171:11 175:13	Grand 84:21	2:5,11 4:1,2,6	166:10 167:12	H
gold 49:5 135:5	150:17	4:7,13,14,19	168:2 171:4	habitat 78:3
Gomez 118:14	grandchild	6:9 13:24 15:6	172:8 174:24	hair 123:13
Gonzalez 118:15	158:8	15:6 21:18,21	179:12	half 7:24 10:7,17
118:15,18,19	grandchildren	22:17 23:12	Greetings 75:1	12:25 60:5
good 2:2,7,7 3:6	33:5,6 40:4	24:3,17 25:7	Gregory 48:8,10	69:10 97:25
13:12 14:18	74:6 76:21	25:12,17 26:10	grew 125:20	98:16,22
16:8 18:10	78:5 88:24	27:1,16,20,21	138:21 157:11	108:19 136:16
21:3 23:1	129:2 159:5	27:25 28:1,8	169:3	171:22
27:11 33:13,16	Grande 33:22	28:19 30:7,13	grid 135:8	Halsey 145:7,9
35:13 39:24	83:14 179:6,22	30:23 31:4,18	grids 169:25	HALSIE 145:8
41:18 46:8	grandfather	32:3,7,9,17	groaning 21:17	147:12
47:7 48:9	74:5,12 125:23	33:10 34:10	grocery 85:1	Hamlin 16:7,8,9
58:21,22 59:5	grandmother	35:19 36:14	ground 30:20	Hammond
61:16 63:17	75:3 158:7	40:13,22 43:11	117:8 119:25	60:10
66:1 70:16	grandparents	43:18 48:25	ground-level	hand 70:25
72:24 76:16	35:22	50:3 51:14	25:22	hand-picked

142:9	havoc 112:9	122:25 123:1	heard 67:3	75:14 119:17
handful 60:17	Hawaii 154:4	126:9,10,17,18	139:19,21,21	heated 134:25
handle 19:15	Hawaii's 155:4	126:24 128:18	165:14 178:19	134:25
hands 124:24	Hawks 66:2	129:11,24	hearing 1:3 2:3	heating 50:4
hangs 144:24	Haywood	130:2,7 133:9	2:10,14,15 3:4	121:6 158:3
happened	168:11,23	133:13 134:24	3:9,18,24 4:7	heavier 72:7
108:24 148:22	169:1,1	135:1 138:4,11	5:16,19,25 6:1	heaviest 36:5
160:13	hazardous 75:20	139:1,5,15,24	6:3,6,12,16,19	158:10
happening	161:22	141:1,13,15,23	7:2,10,10,13	heavy 42:12,21
39:19 58:6	hazards 14:1	142:4,5,14,18	7:18,21 8:3,8,9	heavy-duty 4:15
63:1,5 67:19	75:14	145:11 147:3,4	8:18 9:5,11,14	94:18 172:14
102:10 116:24	haze 17:20	153:13,15	9:19,20 10:16	heightened 28:6
127:18 132:18	health 13:17	155:3,10 156:9	11:22 12:2,6,7	Heigis 44:3,4,7
133:1 141:7,7	15:4 17:19	158:22 160:20	12:12,15 58:5	held 67:4 122:5
150:6 169:14	18:2 19:19	160:20 161:1,5	91:23 98:5,8,9	144:19
177:6	21:13 22:1,3	161:20,23	98:21 136:2,4	helicopters
happiness 66:10	23:10,13,16,24	163:25 164:12	136:8,8,25	16:24
happy 49:4	24:10,19 25:8	166:12,19	139:13 166:9	Hello 16:8 24:24
hard 41:7	25:13 26:10,15	172:25 177:13	167:25 168:5	29:22 53:4
172:23	26:21 27:2,6	179:20,20	171:2 178:16	68:7 76:25
hard-working	27:25 28:7,13	healthcare 81:13	180:7	89:17 92:4
177:17	28:13 29:12,13	104:17 116:1	hearing@icf.c...	96:17 99:14,16
harder 36:11	29:18 30:12	healthier 31:22	12:1	113:11 118:18
hardest 91:4	31:19 33:4	36:23 126:14	hearings 77:10	127:7 131:23
harm 15:4 28:12	34:14 35:7,17	healthiest	heart 36:9 71:25	139:10 145:8
46:21 51:15	36:14 39:6	176:15	113:17 117:5	159:13 179:4
56:19 75:21	40:13,19 41:20	healthy 18:6	147:1 166:13	help 8:1 20:16
78:15 80:21	51:3,7,10,15	21:14 23:25	heat 19:5,6	39:3 73:9 77:3
82:24 88:3	52:2,14,15,19	58:22 76:17	25:18,24 32:16	92:11 95:6
91:19 119:3,18	54:21 56:12	100:6,9,22	34:16 36:10	115:18 125:7
147:6 180:3	57:7,10 58:19	101:2 153:5	52:7 60:15,21	125:21 140:3
harmed 53:10	59:13 61:10	173:4,21	83:21 90:20	163:17 166:19
harmful 23:21	71:24 72:12	174:14,18,20	91:3 107:23	166:21
141:6	75:7,16,22	180:1	108:19 109:8,8	helped 31:21
harming 123:4	76:7,12 77:12	hear 5:18 9:1	109:15 112:2	138:24
harmony 114:19	80:7,9,18 81:3	10:19 24:24	116:21 117:7,9	helping 7:24
harms 18:1 22:2	82:2 83:9	29:24,25 33:13	117:16,18	73:9
59:14 81:3	84:16 86:6	33:15 57:21	120:4,6 123:23	helps 100:25
91:2 119:6	87:4 88:18	59:3,22 72:20	123:24 127:21	101:9 179:25
123:8 130:2	90:3 91:10,15	72:21 77:5,7,8	128:11,22	herds 15:19
156:9 161:25	91:21 100:1,17	89:17,18 92:4	130:18 131:2,7	Hernandez
164:9,10	100:22 101:9	98:24 99:14	131:8 132:8	171:17,19,23
Harvard 177:13	103:3,3 106:17	121:1,2 127:8	135:2 141:9,16	171:24
Hasapidis 41:23	107:18 109:10	127:9 131:25	143:23 158:11	hexafluoride
41:24,24	111:25 112:9	137:4 147:15	159:22 179:17	40:18
hastily 66:14	113:2 115:23	147:16 163:15	heat-related	Hi 29:23 33:16
hat 144:25	116:16,17,24	163:18 171:12	16:1 22:3	59:5 103:8
Haven 105:18	117:5 119:18	171:18 173:17	108:18	107:12 111:18
106:17 107:7	120:15 122:8	175:10	heat-trapping	149:22 161:11

hid 78:25	34:21 54:15	108:12 124:1	128:19 174:17	ignores 54:20
hide 2:21 78:10	71:15 83:16	143:8 150:21	hunt 99:9 103:7	121:8
high 19:9 34:14	88:10 104:22	150:23 154:14	103:8,10 118:9	ignoring 26:19
34:14 41:1	113:1 114:3	hotter 28:25	Hurricane	128:9
87:15 105:21	148:2 149:12	39:8 40:7	150:10	ill-conceived
106:5 108:12	149:16 154:4	106:10 126:5	hurricanes	104:5
111:8 128:23	159:25 174:11	143:9 162:14	112:4	illegal 66:12
141:22,25	176:17	hottest 63:2	hurt 106:13	67:1
156:19 159:19	homeland	108:1	hurtling 177:11	Illinois 55:20
higher 60:21	148:25	hours 16:18 17:7	hurts 148:15	175:18
71:2,15 104:6	homeless 60:5	76:9 86:2	166:24	illness 16:1 36:8
104:7 108:5	homes 16:21	house 35:1 49:6	husband 33:24	53:21 88:10
117:15 120:5	17:2 19:2	125:1 134:19	hydrocarbon	104:18
123:19 129:12	32:18 34:17	households 47:8	101:23	illnesses 22:4
135:6 156:10	54:22 60:3	120:20 156:12	hydrofluoroca...	26:1 108:18
159:20	71:13 90:12	housing 151:10	32:10 40:17	117:14 120:3
highest 37:8	106:7 112:3	hover 11:17	hydrogen	immediate
52:4 53:15	130:9 153:5	Hubenthal	158:14	129:4
90:22 108:4	154:21 156:13	173:15,16,18	hypotheses	immediately
highly 31:8	156:16	173:19 174:6	152:20	12:21
highs 108:3	hometown 54:5	Hudson 13:16	I	immigrants
highway 4:20	honest 103:14	65:25 66:1,2	I5 53:19 166:21	38:18
24:1 172:10	honor 37:10	huge 103:2	I81 59:17	immigration
highways 35:25	77:12	hum 145:19	ice 102:15 106:9	14:5
hike 118:7	honorably 87:3	human 21:13	ICF 1:13 3:23	immoral 82:23
hiker 17:15	Hoosier 127:13	31:1,25 35:7	7:22 9:9	impact 12:9
hikes 17:19	hope 77:11 78:4	36:1 40:19	178:13	25:8 36:12
hiking 17:18	126:14 151:21	41:2 43:24	icf.com 12:16	57:11 68:19
Hill 145:18	180:2	48:19 50:4	icon 2:18	73:4 92:17,25
hillside 16:20	hopeful 112:19	51:3,15,21	id 10:23 12:3	93:8,22 94:17
hindering 73:23	112:22	57:10 87:4	13:3 99:3	95:17 96:23
Hinduism	Horst 18:9,10	88:18,19	137:7 168:18	100:2,16 126:4
114:18	hose 123:14	107:18 119:18	Idaho 115:22,22	141:6,6 155:22
historic 5:7	hospice 137:24	128:4 130:7	117:6	177:15
historically 17:3	hospitable 43:23	135:1 141:4	Idahoans 118:3	impacted 13:19
18:21 19:8	hospital 36:18	148:5 152:16	idea 78:20	16:13 18:18,23
history 5:1	76:8 87:17,19	153:7 155:3,7	100:11	23:18 75:7
38:12 39:13	117:12 156:17	161:19,23	identified 28:13	87:24 162:23
90:24 134:17	hospitalization	humans 21:7	44:22 66:23	impacting 21:19
154:6	100:21	62:5 113:23	identifies 111:24	51:11 88:18
hit 32:24 91:4	hospitalizations	114:19 123:20	identify 93:23	118:5 120:14
hold 7:21 22:15	131:6	humidity 108:11	164:10	129:12 153:4
126:20 157:23	hospitals 117:19	128:22	identities 80:25	179:17
177:23	118:1	hundred 42:23	ideology 153:16	impacts 19:10
holding 176:21	host 2:22 11:25	hundreds 19:5	ignore 50:8,10	20:13 22:3
holds 90:1	20:6 85:25	32:18 60:11	91:16 106:1	23:22 26:6
Hollow 60:10	170:12 173:14	67:20 73:16	128:19 149:13	27:6 28:14
Holy 21:5	hosted 107:22	104:11,16	169:8	29:18 35:17
home 14:20 17:1	hot 28:15 60:17	105:1,5 106:12		42:1 43:12

57:9 62:17 73:7 76:7 93:2 93:4,19 103:2 116:16 119:1 120:8,19 129:10,11 134:7,9 140:25 141:13,14 142:14 159:22 159:24 179:12 179:14 impaired 108:7 130:11 impairments 130:11 imparting 76:2 76:5 implementation 165:10 implemented 92:12 implementing 52:23 78:7 implies 58:8 implore 35:6 54:16 importance 74:3 94:23 important 3:25 5:24 16:4 32:22 54:24 58:9 73:1 93:17 95:16 96:18 100:9,22 101:1,4,8 158:1 172:6,8 173:24 174:15 importantly 41:12 56:6 73:8 115:24 impossible 106:1 132:9 154:22 173:23 improving 61:3 inaccurate 165:4 inaction 34:12 54:21 inadequate	144:15 incentives 35:3 175:23 inches 16:17 42:16,19 127:23 include 9:24 44:11 75:12 82:17 95:10 included 5:3 69:19 includes 46:20 64:10 95:12 including 4:21 22:2 25:12 28:15 41:4 44:16 52:6 54:7 67:15 74:3 84:25 110:22 119:15 142:2 146:15 154:11 158:25 163:7 166:15 inclusive 92:11 96:4 118:23 income 38:22 48:4 incomplete 65:13 inconvenience 173:25 174:1 incorrectly 92:16 increase 15:20 22:1,7 24:9 25:24 28:24 29:11,16 34:15 52:9 56:22 111:4 113:3 121:8 126:3 134:15 160:25 increased 28:6 28:11,21 30:14 41:13 42:6 52:1 100:21 101:22 102:5 102:12 104:17 104:18 111:1 127:20,22	129:11 156:9 increases 28:18 141:14,17 142:1 143:20 143:23 increasing 30:23 30:24 38:4 39:4 42:23 91:3 101:24 117:15 123:18 increasingly 17:18 112:12 122:15 128:24 130:3 incredible 87:11 126:18 independent 77:15 153:1 Indiana 127:19 127:21 indicate 55:25 indicates 97:12 indication 124:20 indigenous 148:4 171:24 indirectly 88:3 individual 8:18 12:8 16:11 24:11 27:4 96:20 99:21,21 159:18 163:23 169:3 individuals 18:2 38:13 97:5 116:20 indoors 68:22 106:13 industrial 26:9 81:21 87:25 industries 88:2 89:2 119:4 164:7 industry 5:13 26:14 38:2 44:14 46:1 55:1 56:11,13 57:7 69:24 71:1 78:24	84:25 85:5,9 86:18 87:11 93:5,11 95:2 95:10,24 115:6 119:5 124:21 125:3 129:5 135:3 industry's 56:3 94:20 inevitable 17:5 inexorably 40:9 infection 28:22 infections 69:7 infectious 87:20 infirm 154:19 influence 51:21 155:7 influencing 56:8 informally 7:11 information 9:24,25 10:1,1 10:2 102:9 infrastructure 43:15 52:2 61:2 80:2 95:2 95:11 106:16 156:16 176:19 Inglis 61:15,16 61:18 inhalers 36:17 inherit 61:23 158:9 initial 94:6 injury 131:6 injustice 112:15 innovation 81:10,12 93:15 95:25 input 5:17 77:11 116:8 insects 134:11 inside 100:13,14 108:23 109:3 154:20,21 insiders 80:13 install 50:13 instance 93:9 instituted 38:22 institution 50:2	157:24 institutions 84:14 118:22 instructed 67:8 insurance 17:4 19:12 34:22 71:15 124:8 integral 112:18 integrated 87:10 Integrity 94:12 intended 6:19 intense 42:12 60:20 83:17 106:2 112:2 130:19 intensifying 90:22 121:18 intensity 25:24 52:1 123:18 intent 77:16 interconnection 30:13 interconnectio... 17:22 interest 124:13 156:22 interested 6:7,12 181:11 interestingly 117:25 interests 55:2 159:1 Interfaith 48:12 82:14,15 Intergovernm... 40:25 51:19 interim 56:15 international 40:23 56:17,23 67:11 internationally 41:10 Internet 12:5,8 interpersonal 141:18 interpretation 65:7 interrupt 178:21 intersection
--	--	---	---	---

123:1	114:8 164:11	John 1:16 79:19	115:12 119:9	123:21 136:22
interstate	issued 27:24	79:23	139:4,14	143:6 146:24
166:17 172:15	40:12 93:5	John's 115:10	177:23 179:25	148:3,15 149:9
intervening	164:20	Johnny 74:8	Kelly 111:16,18	149:11 150:13
93:12	issues 14:5 24:10	Johnson 89:16	122:22,23,24	158:2 160:21
intrusion 71:8	96:25 113:2	89:17,20,21	Kentucky 21:5	160:22 165:2
inundated	135:1 161:5	join 135:21	21:16	173:1 175:6
157:12	174:8	136:1	kept 8:8 31:22	177:16
inundation	issuing 144:22	joined 170:20	108:11	knowing 176:8
42:24	162:7	178:22	Kerrville 15:15	known 18:20
invested 56:20	iteration 146:14	joining 33:18	key 56:7 77:24	19:23 31:24
79:3 86:11		179:4	94:22	39:14 119:6
106:18	J	Joseph 29:21,22	kick 19:6	124:8
investigating	Jackson 46:7,8,9	30:1 171:17,24	kidding 17:8	knows 150:8
140:25	James 1:15 92:2	journalist 96:24	kidney 129:22	KOPIN 1:15
Investigations	92:6	journals 117:1	129:25 130:16	Krystal 68:3,4
25:4	jamming 177:11	Journet 152:1,2	130:24 131:6	Kumeyaay
investing 166:18	January 32:18	152:2	131:10,12	157:10
167:2	Jared 89:16,21	Jr 59:2	147:1	Kushler 72:19
investment	Jay 142:23	judicial 94:2	kidneys 130:17	72:20,24
43:13 56:8	Jeff 120:25	121:10	kids 36:23 50:21	
invitation 11:6	121:4	Juliana 1:10	59:22 163:1	L
140:14,15	Jennifer 139:9	181:6,21	177:12 180:3	LA 104:19 113:1
invite 81:8	139:10	July 42:15	kids' 34:24	160:12
involving 66:24	jeopardize	107:25 109:2	kill 48:21 103:18	labor 38:23
IPCC 28:8 90:5	128:18	164:20	103:18,18	69:24 173:8
128:7 153:7	jeopardized	June 19:5 88:5	104:11 105:5	lack 43:25 124:9
155:6	129:3	junk 133:11	109:9 134:11	lacking 57:4
Irene 16:17	jeopardizes 51:7	jurisdictions	143:17	lacks 4:11
irrational 78:14	jeopardy 37:11	124:11	killed 67:19	ladder 47:12
irrelevant 14:7	JESSICA 1:17	justice 33:8 37:5	123:5	Lahaina 154:17
irresponsible	Jesus 113:25	50:15 70:17	killling 131:10	lake 99:17 100:7
152:18	115:10	80:19 114:14	134:10 154:6	100:20,23
irrevocably	jettison 144:10	justifies 45:18	157:14	106:5,24
76:14	Jewish 114:15	92:19	kills 104:14	148:24
irrigation 83:15	Jews 113:22	justify 64:15	173:23	lakes 102:16,19
irritable 109:7	Jim 133:17,19	78:17 114:23	Kincaid 35:12	102:21 119:20
Islam 114:16	Joan 14:17 82:8		35:13,15	148:4
island 41:25	82:12	K	kind 20:15	Lancet's 52:13
42:2 43:7	job 18:4 19:17	Karen 171:9	48:18 163:6	land 83:20
150:10	19:18 20:17	KASAB 1:16	Kirby 27:10,11	125:20,22
islands 40:10	22:15 30:10,11	Kathy 22:24	27:12	154:11 155:8
isolated 16:19	130:22 140:2,4	23:2	Kitt 139:9,10	157:10
65:12	178:15	Keeling 157:25	Kiwe 147:18	landmark 67:2
issuance 116:4	jobs 47:17,19	keep 7:24 39:3,9	knee 42:18	landowners
issue 14:1 32:22	82:1,4 103:18	43:23 81:13,18	know 11:1 20:17	38:18
46:24 64:7	104:12 105:5	89:8 101:7	24:1 49:2 74:7	lands 18:5
65:5 69:24	124:14	106:13 107:5,7	74:20 78:12	150:18
83:7 100:11	Joe 101:14	113:5,24	80:25 115:10	landscape 56:7

131:1	learn 58:21	50:23 53:1	167:20,20	LILIA 1:17
lanes 172:12,12	learned 87:23	55:10 57:17,21	169:20 171:18	limit 7:19,22
language 65:6	126:16 139:12	57:23 58:25	level 20:9 23:9	10:18 12:24
85:23 113:18	learning 130:11	59:4 61:12	40:8 73:2,3	59:12 69:3
Laredo 110:17	142:2	63:8 65:24	90:10 117:9	97:24 98:15,23
large 10:14	leave 71:14 74:1	68:1 70:13	119:25 124:7	108:21 109:12
98:19 133:4	76:17 90:7	72:18,21 74:24	157:12	136:15 168:12
136:23	100:17 126:14	76:22 77:2,5,8	levels 20:14	168:22
largely 164:19	163:6 175:13	79:16,19 82:7	23:19 28:20,24	limitation 45:9
largest 39:12	leaves 149:5	84:8 86:21	29:9 30:10	limited 65:4
71:17 82:19	leaving 112:11	89:11,18 91:24	31:24 42:21	141:21
110:22 119:24	140:16	92:5 94:8	50:6 63:20	limiting 12:11
134:16 138:17	led 28:20 42:23	96:14 97:8,14	69:11 71:6	121:5 164:18
172:3	44:15 77:21	97:21 98:12	73:4 95:9	limits 7:14 47:1
Las 33:19	134:7,14 144:8	99:15 101:13	106:5 108:11	59:12 70:9
lasting 74:16	Lee 104:3,21	103:6 105:15	119:21 123:19	85:5 143:21
late 154:21	150:8	107:10 109:17	130:8	148:24
179:5	LEED 135:5	111:15 113:7	liars 104:2	Lindquist 22:24
Laudato 84:1	left 20:20 60:2	115:14,18	liberty 44:11	23:1,2
lauded 4:25	88:2	118:12,16	45:24 66:9	line 49:5,24
Laura 122:22,24	legacy 74:16	120:24 121:2	licensed 159:14	110:16,21,23
Lauren 63:16,17	163:6	122:21 125:8	lie 104:2	111:1
law 5:14 31:6	legal 40:21	125:13 127:4,9	life 16:13 21:10	linear 30:19
45:15,17 46:15	46:12 49:14	129:16 131:21	31:1 37:6	lined 173:12
55:7 65:6 80:8	52:18 55:24	131:25 133:15	43:24 60:12	lines 71:4
143:3 144:19	61:10 63:20	135:14,25	66:9 83:25	lineup 7:23
165:12 174:22	64:2,15 65:3	136:12 139:8	84:6,6 86:13	lingering 38:25
laws 172:22	65:17,21 78:9	140:10 142:19	88:19 105:21	69:1
lawsuit 44:17	81:4,15 99:22	145:6 147:10	114:18 118:5	lining 146:8
lawsuits 165:8	122:4 147:8	147:13,16	126:13 137:22	linked 26:3 36:9
lawyers 150:1	151:14	149:19 151:25	141:24 146:6	69:15 123:19
LCV's 68:11	legally 91:13	153:25 155:14	146:18,23	142:2
lead 20:7 29:1	legislation	156:25 159:8	148:20 152:12	list 8:15 10:25
56:16 62:6	146:16	159:11 161:9	156:23 158:3	136:24 140:17
110:7 134:25	legislative 41:19	163:13,17	162:17,20	listen 12:7 54:17
141:14	legislatures	165:20,23	173:20,21,22	140:2 170:18
leader 86:10	73:14	167:14,22,24	life-saving	listening 3:19
137:15 143:5	legitimate 86:8	168:8 170:6,23	176:22	115:5 139:17
leaders 20:8	lengthy 132:7	171:1,8,21	life-threatening	150:1
39:25 121:13	LEONARD	173:5,11,17	77:22	lit 154:16
leading 18:1	1:13 2:2 9:12	175:1,7,11,15	lifelong 125:19	literal 43:13
23:21 66:25	14:12,15 16:6	178:2,21 179:1	lift 75:19	146:9
109:8 117:20	18:8 20:24	180:5,9	lifting 31:6	literally 16:24
121:22 128:1	22:23 24:21,25	Leslie 163:14,22	76:14	73:16 156:1
131:13	27:9 29:20,24	lesson 75:13	light 4:15 43:10	179:21
leads 100:20	31:11 33:11,15	let's 18:5 103:14	48:12 82:14,15	litigation 56:18
110:4 124:9	35:11 37:16	115:7,11,12	light-duty 24:6	little 19:14 59:25
League 68:9	39:21 41:22	126:25 142:12	172:13	85:19 98:3
leanings 85:25	44:2 46:6 48:6	145:16 153:22	Likewise 21:11	121:9 139:21

147:18	140:8	54:5 118:20	27:5	142:17
livable 33:6	local 17:10,23	120:16 138:21	lymph 87:17	manmade
52:25 109:21	20:9 58:14	169:3		127:18
158:9	59:13 61:4	lose 30:25 31:1,2	M	Mann 66:18
live 2:16,18 16:9	75:4 85:3,12	90:12 169:15	M 1:10 181:6,21	Manning 161:10
18:19 21:4,15	86:7 96:12	losing 150:19,20	Macalester	161:11,12
23:18 35:24	102:4 111:20	158:3	161:14	manufacture
37:2 61:18	135:8 139:20	loss 147:21	machine 171:12	80:14
83:18,25 87:15	157:14	149:1 156:7	machines 17:11	manufactured
96:22 103:10	Locally 60:23	losses 17:5 110:6	Madison 102:7	4:21
110:10,13	locate 170:19	149:6	magazine	manufacturer
111:19 114:19	located 11:24	lost 19:2 54:22	102:14	55:18
120:9 121:4	47:16	76:8 93:20	Mahoney	manufacturers
128:22 133:19	Logan 53:18	112:3 156:16	129:17,18,20	4:17
139:10 151:8	logistical 99:22	177:8	main 42:15 85:2	manufacturing
157:7 161:12	logistics 9:10,18	lot 109:5 160:6	86:18 131:9	93:10
172:1 174:12	94:23	172:15,18,20	maintain 15:1	March 4:24
Liveable 14:19	long 26:5 36:24	172:23	16:4 23:25	113:15 164:24
lived 33:21 40:5	49:18 60:18	lots 19:1 106:3	70:9 72:15	Margaret 31:13
60:1,12 69:1	61:8 83:17	134:12	91:21 97:17	31:16
90:9 123:12,14	95:24 117:20	Lotz 142:22,23	101:2 128:4	marginalized
133:23 143:6	123:3 131:2	142:24	153:5 167:12	32:24 118:25
157:7,22	132:8 150:9	love 49:8 78:18	maintaining	158:10,15
livelihood 55:8	long-lasting	111:10 114:2,2	23:22 156:23	marina 105:20
livelihoods	54:13	114:3 118:10	maintenance	Marissa 70:14
21:19 22:16	long-term 57:6	140:5,6 146:24	38:6 176:11,11	70:17
67:22	59:15 76:13	148:15 150:19	major 16:15	maritime 53:18
Livermore 75:2	124:12 139:15	loved 54:14	26:8 43:9	market 38:4
lives 18:18 21:19	longer 4:18	112:4 137:25	44:22 45:21	56:13,17 95:4
22:16 26:22	34:18 91:10	160:9	50:2 64:4,15	95:8
31:2 32:20	110:24 116:23	low-income 26:7	116:25 141:9	marking 110:18
33:4 36:18	118:6 127:16	47:7,15 91:4	165:17 172:13	Martin 72:19
54:22 58:10	130:19 143:16	166:15	majority 79:6	mask 90:13
67:21 69:10	147:4 148:14	low-lying 40:9	110:20 115:4	mass 79:2
76:12,13 77:13	148:14	lower 5:12 38:5	122:2 158:19	Massachusetts
81:12 103:16	longest 162:5	76:7 177:2	making 8:17	23:3 27:12,19
103:24 105:12	look 5:16,20	lower-income	17:11 47:24	28:12,23 29:2
105:13 112:3	74:7 112:20	36:3	108:12 155:22	29:3,18 61:19
116:13 125:6	144:19 162:25	lowest 71:3	manage 125:21	64:8 67:2 91:7
146:23 156:16	looked 102:7	lunch 97:10,15	management	122:4 144:19
166:20,20	looking 58:2	luncheon 97:19	45:12 86:1	MassDEP 27:14
174:12 177:25	looming 74:3,19	lung 36:9 69:9	154:11	29:12
178:1	loop 30:16	117:5 137:22	manager 166:1	masses 38:14
living 14:24 20:8	loosening 76:19	lungs 19:15	mandate 119:2	108:9
26:8 39:7	Loper 144:24	174:17	mandated 76:11	Master's 157:23
68:24 145:10	Lord's 21:6	Lutheran	mandating 95:3	masters 81:20
146:10 160:4	Lori 157:1,4	113:12	manifested	match 19:24
162:16	Los 21:15 32:17	lying 71:3 104:4	117:6	materialized
lobbyists 125:3	32:21 33:3	Lyme 17:17 22:4	manipulation	95:10

materials 6:22	172:14	25:13 30:9	86:2 103:15	41:19 51:4,6
maternal 120:3	meeting 2:14,22	31:19 32:9	112:1 128:19	72:11 87:3
matter 28:25	9:16 11:25	40:16 82:21	161:2 177:2	89:8 126:16,20
29:5 33:8	87:19 97:15	83:2,4,10	minds 14:1	139:1,3 142:11
75:16 88:12	98:8 136:7	133:6	mindset 78:4	153:20 159:2
117:4	168:3 170:12	methods 8:13	mine 137:25	161:19 164:10
matters 15:25	170:20,21	45:5	177:12	mistake 93:7
61:7 107:2	178:19	Metro 160:5	minister 21:4	misunderstan...
Maui 154:5,16	mega 134:17	Metroplex	48:10	130:6
mauilessons@...	143:12	109:24	Minnesota	misunderstands
154:9	Megan 18:9,10	Metzloff 113:9	100:10 161:13	92:22
maximization	Melissa 13:11	113:11,12	162:1,6,16,25	misused 66:18
89:2	melt 80:3	Mexican 34:13	163:2	misuses 65:12
maximize 119:5	melting 119:20	Mexicans	minor 46:22	Mitch 59:6
Mayor 105:17	member 32:21	179:10	87:11	Mitchell 59:2
McClenton	58:20 59:6	Mexico 33:20	minorities 47:21	mitigate 97:4
70:15,16,17	114:10 139:11	34:19 82:13,18	minority 47:7	119:3 133:13
meal 125:4	members 6:17	83:8,12 142:25	132:21	mitigates 17:10
mean 26:19	9:4 17:16 66:3	143:6 172:1,2	minute 10:17	mobile 69:14
36:16,22 42:7	67:22 68:11	172:3 179:7,12	98:22 99:20	144:6
106:12 108:14	84:22 100:15	Mexico's 143:1	minutes 7:20,25	model 4:21
111:4 133:2	100:18 130:4	Miami 43:9	10:7 12:24,25	moderate 18:20
150:17	163:5 179:7	Michael 66:18	97:17,25 98:16	modern 164:7
meaning 105:2	men 131:10	96:15,19	135:18 136:16	Mohabir 155:15
meaningful 96:5	174:21	Michigan 84:12	168:13 171:22	155:16,16
meaningfully	Mendez 157:1,2	84:21 86:3,4	173:8 175:15	moisture 42:8
144:15	157:4 159:10	86:13,18	Mireles 68:3,4	mold 28:16
means 21:7 48:1	mental 51:11	105:18 106:24	misapply 64:14	moment 22:25
54:13 93:3	120:15 141:1	159:15,16,17	misguided 145:5	68:5 135:19
156:5,8,10	141:15,23	159:19 160:22	misinterprets	140:12,16
176:4	142:4 160:20	microphones	51:8	151:20,23
measure 64:20	mention 114:21	10:5	misleading	momentarily
measurement	mentioned	middle 103:19	65:14 66:23	136:1
4:19	114:15	104:8,12	115:1 153:1	moments 146:2
measures 43:8	Meridian	166:18	mispronouncing	moms 139:20
147:6	110:17,24	Middletown	13:8	Mona 173:7
mechanisms	Merit 44:13	43:6	misquoted 66:18	175:2,18
108:6	45:25	midst 117:17	misrepresenting	money 39:9
medical 10:1	message 11:25	Mike 1:14 7:16	165:5	43:10,12 49:25
53:5,7 112:6	76:2,4 114:13	mile 14:24	misrepresents	73:22 104:1
116:25 153:13	169:20	miles 60:5	65:12 153:2	124:15 148:23
174:7	messages 170:14	106:12 134:19	missed 104:17	170:1 179:19
medications	messaging 29:13	175:21	156:17 170:9	monsoons 83:18
130:21	met 91:12	million 13:17	173:14	month 42:19
medicine 16:23	Meteorologists	14:23,23 16:18	missing 64:13	60:1 88:5
53:6 115:21	107:25	43:2 60:2	mission 5:10	months 42:18
129:21	meteorology	110:10,13	21:12 22:15	69:1 83:15,17
medium 4:15	77:21	177:14	23:6 24:19	111:5 121:23
medium-duty	methane 15:9	millions 68:11	27:3 35:7	157:18 175:25

moose 17:23	100:10 175:18	147:17 149:22	Navajo 172:3	34:19 49:8
moral 43:22	moving 55:11	154:2 157:4	Nazor 37:18,19	53:11 106:17
76:16 78:13	62:1 86:24	159:13 161:11	37:19	114:2
79:7 80:23	89:15 92:2	163:21 165:25	near 15:18 18:25	neither 122:11
81:14 147:8	135:8 142:20	168:2,24 169:1	26:8 36:4	nephews 126:22
morally 82:6	159:7,11	171:24 173:19	121:4 169:21	nephrology
morning 2:2,7,8	165:13	174:6 175:17	nearby 40:8	129:22
3:6 13:12	multiple 16:25	179:5	68:19 157:14	Ness 57:19,20,22
14:18 16:8	29:6 63:19	name's 18:10	157:20 176:18	57:24
18:10 21:3	126:9 154:10	namesakes	nearly 15:12	network 32:22
23:1 27:11	172:17	150:19	42:6,10,16,18	48:13 96:7
33:13,16 35:13	music 87:11	Narragansett	43:2 69:10	networks 80:22
39:24 46:8	muster 121:24	42:5,22,25	71:8 85:21	Neurological
48:9 59:5	122:4	NASA 128:7	88:19 108:12	141:18
61:16 63:17	muted 10:6	Nate 53:17	110:16 157:9	neutral 86:14
66:1,5 70:16	171:12	nation 15:9	necessary 72:23	92:25
82:9 97:9	mutually 85:11	22:14 30:8	109:12 148:10	never 16:25 19:8
101:15 103:8	Mystic 21:16	71:3 73:15	necessity 67:13	48:16 60:13
125:11,16		110:4 172:4	174:19	176:6
129:18 142:23		nation's 41:20	need 7:21 10:13	Nevers 55:12,13
mortality 117:16	N	96:7	11:14 30:20	55:15
mosquitoes	N 2:1	nation-leading	35:4,5 37:14	new 4:9,10
102:3,6,21	Naeva 172:1,5,5	179:23	43:20 50:18,19	17:18 22:6
179:16	172:21	national 16:22	58:21 63:4	27:21 30:7
mother 74:11	name 2:13 11:12	23:16 24:1	72:14 74:13	33:19 34:13,19
146:9	11:14,18,21	38:23 40:1	78:12 90:14	39:11 42:13
mothers 22:3	13:9 14:18	41:5 50:1	107:8 109:6	43:9 55:22
motivated	16:8 23:2 25:2	51:24 57:6	114:21 118:22	56:17 63:22
152:22	29:22 30:1	67:15 80:7	125:7 146:11	64:14 65:2,10
motor 4:9,10	31:15 33:17	87:12 90:5	174:9,22	82:13,18 83:8
22:6 27:21	35:14 39:24	128:2 150:20	176:14 177:9	83:11 88:6
28:1 31:23	44:6 46:8 48:9	150:22	needed 8:18	91:8 95:21
46:23 47:4	53:4 55:15	nationally 24:14	39:9	104:11 119:19
101:19,21	59:5 61:17	28:4	needs 54:21	121:21 142:25
102:25 144:12	63:17 66:1	nations 177:1	88:22 96:3	143:1,6 144:12
146:4,22	68:8 70:16	nationwide	118:24 140:6	145:20,21
mountain 17:10	75:1 84:10	59:11	146:7 151:14	146:21 172:1,2
143:15	87:6 89:21	natural 18:21	Negating 15:13	172:2 175:24
mountains	92:6 94:11	51:16 53:8	negative 42:1	179:7,10,12,16
18:22 34:6	96:19 98:7	101:20 106:21	93:1	Newport 43:6
60:9 133:20	99:10,16 103:9	108:6 112:12	negatively 18:23	news 47:7 63:3
mouse 11:18	107:12 109:19	113:1 135:7	neighborhood	66:22
move 12:21 27:1	111:18 113:11	154:6 162:11	16:15 53:23	nexus 82:16
41:10 68:5	115:20 118:18	nature 62:5	145:18	Nichole 147:13
71:21 76:23	121:4 122:23	78:23 87:23	neighborhoods	Nicole 33:12,18
100:16 113:8	125:19 129:20	107:21 109:1	36:4 42:25	147:17
127:5 160:19	132:1 133:19	118:4 151:22	53:17	nieces 126:22
170:24	136:6,20	nature-themed	neighbors 16:20	night 154:24
moved 18:17	137:14 140:21	107:22 108:14	17:1 33:24	nightmare 105:9
	142:23 145:8			

162:16,19 nights 60:17 108:12 Nile 15:21 nimble 93:14 nine 29:8 ninth 100:8 Nistler 99:13,14 99:16,17 nitrous 32:9 40:16 Nixon 138:21 NOAA 52:3 62:17 69:17 nodes 87:18 non-attainment 83:11 non-peer-revi... 65:10 152:13 nonpartisan 40:2 78:23 164:5 nonprofit 75:5 111:20 171:25 nonrenewal 34:22 norm 17:9 20:22 20:22 normal 90:11 Norman 55:20 North 94:13 107:20 110:17 Northern 40:5 48:11 Northwest 20:6 notably 77:24 Notary 1:11 note 2:15 8:15 10:5 12:2,19 46:14 104:24 132:18 164:6 noted 52:14 notes 181:8 notice 7:7 8:14 noticed 101:19 102:2 130:17 notification 11:4 notified 23:16 nourishing	106:18 Nuckles 44:12 number 5:6 7:20 8:6 12:2,3,7 15:8 19:22 20:1 24:12,14 29:9 34:5 45:23 52:4 62:11 90:23 92:18 93:12 102:15 103:24 117:7 138:7 141:10 142:2 numbers 35:20 54:1 90:17 123:22 numerous 14:8 73:14 165:8 nurse 58:20 nurses 174:13 nursing 174:11 Nyssen 125:10 125:11,15,19 O O 2:1 O'BRIEN 1:16 oath 81:19 Obama 67:8 obesity 130:15 objective 164:5 obligated 93:3 obligation 52:18 52:20 77:12 79:8,10 105:19 obligations 4:18 51:8 111:9 obscured 34:7 observer 124:22 obsolete 45:21 obvious 32:1 114:6 occur 129:10 occurred 134:18 ocean 108:9 154:24 155:8 157:24 158:2,4 159:5 Oceanography	157:25 oceans 50:6 62:19 88:16 October 23:15 Odawa 147:19 offer 152:10 offered 149:14 offering 96:1 office 1:25 2:24 3:2,7,14,16,21 9:6 45:12 92:24 officer 3:3,18 6:3 7:13,17 offices 130:9 official 6:16 8:7 8:22 9:2 40:12 officially 178:20 178:24 officials 20:9 Oh 57:22 Ohio 140:22 141:11 oil 15:8 44:12,13 45:25 49:3,11 49:23 50:9 80:1 82:16,19 82:25 83:5 124:11 140:8 158:25 174:2 Ok 11:21 okay 57:24 68:4 72:24 77:9 92:4 99:14,16 115:20 125:15 127:7 132:1 140:18 163:20 171:13,19 173:11 175:9 175:17 old 40:5 61:18 83:24 146:25 older 25:25 74:9 95:6 137:23 oldest 87:9 Olechiw 1:14 7:17 oligarchy 39:17 on-highway 4:3	4:16 on-screen 10:10 once 39:11 158:4 ones 46:19 54:14 112:4 123:20 137:25 160:9 173:1 online 10:11 136:19 onshore 108:9 open 5:23 8:8 11:20 24:16 43:19 97:16 163:16 opening 2:25 178:10 operates 152:19 operational 94:20 operations 44:10 142:6 opportunities 47:16,21 118:8 161:5 opportunity 6:13 7:3 8:2,10 8:19 9:16 16:10 25:2 29:19 31:15 33:17 35:14 37:15 44:6 55:13 61:17 72:25 84:18 89:21 92:9 94:10 96:18 97:7 102:22 111:14,21 127:12 132:3 145:13 154:3 163:21 166:2 170:10 oppose 16:11 52:21 70:19 74:15 137:18 147:20 152:5 155:18 157:4 161:16 169:8 opposes 27:14	166:5 opposing 53:12 opposite 128:17 opposition 68:12 85:15,16 89:23 96:20 103:11 116:2 132:4 140:22 143:1 145:14 optimal 130:6 options 96:2 oral 6:13,14 10:16 98:21 136:25 orally 13:2 orange 88:6 123:4 orbit 79:13 ordained 21:4 order 8:16 12:22 13:5 78:22 97:22 98:13 99:6 136:13 137:10 139:14 orders 5:8 165:9 Oregon 18:11,19 19:3,8 34:6 132:2 152:3 Oregonians 152:5 organisms 17:23 organization 13:14 84:13 109:22,24 171:25 172:4 organization's 92:10 organizations 23:16 85:8 121:5 organizer 70:18 171:25 original 65:5 outages 128:25 outcome 105:9 181:11 outcomes 22:2 outdoor 138:5 outdoors 59:24
---	--	--	---	---

69:3 109:6 118:3 124:3 outlet 176:1 outreach 75:3 75:10 outrun 154:18 outside 16:20 88:11 90:13 108:22,25 132:14 162:9 163:2 outstanding 30:14 over-projectio... 95:11 overabundance 119:11 Overall 47:3 overnight 108:2 overreach 144:14 overwhelming 49:17 51:13 90:2 97:2 122:2 127:17 152:15 161:20 overwhelmingly 72:10 167:7 owned 175:25 owner 107:13 owners 17:4 176:6 ownership 47:25 owning 47:10 79:4 owns 91:1 oxide 32:10 40:16 ozone 25:22 28:20,24 29:1 29:9 75:16 83:10 90:19 117:4,9 119:25	97:12,18,20 135:24,24 167:23,23 170:14,24,25 170:25 175:8,8 180:10 pace 135:1 Pacific 20:5 54:7 Packing 44:12 45:25 page 102:15 Pages 1:19 Paige 35:12,14 paint 62:23 Palisade 54:7 Panama 42:11 pandemic 145:17 146:11 panel 6:18 24:22 24:23 37:17 39:22 40:25 45:3 51:19 53:2 55:11,12 57:18 59:1 61:14 63:9,12 63:15 68:2 70:14 76:23,23 81:16 82:9 86:24 89:13,13 89:15 92:1 94:5 96:15 111:16 113:8,9 122:18 125:10 127:5 135:17 135:18,23 140:11,13,17 140:19 142:21 142:21 155:15 159:11 163:5 panel's 80:10 panelist 11:5 13:10 14:17 35:12 53:2 57:18 140:13 140:14,18 179:2 panelists 58:13 79:22 140:11 157:2	panels 11:1 35:1 35:2 50:13 142:20 Paradoxically 144:11 parent 36:25 115:25 parents 59:22 Paris 67:11 Park 150:20,22 parking 106:3 part 6:24 27:5 34:24 79:9 101:20 107:7 109:4 110:15 111:19 126:7 145:20 166:22 partially 157:12 Participant 11:16 participants 10:12 108:16 participate 3:11 47:21 participated 3:12 participating 5:19 12:12 participation 67:11 particle 119:25 particular 162:23 particularly 19:13,19 128:5 160:21 161:7 particulate 28:25 29:5 59:20 75:16 88:12 117:4 parties 6:7,12 181:9 parties' 181:10 partner 50:19 parts 117:18 Paso 82:13 pass 121:23 122:3 passage 146:13	146:15 passed 60:24 passenger 62:10 passing 120:10 passionate 100:1 pastor 113:9,12 path 107:13 148:7,8,11,16 153:9 pathway 111:8 patience 109:5 patient 117:21 130:23 patients 53:11 54:14 116:19 117:12 118:2 123:4 124:23 146:25 patients' 130:17 patterns 42:13 102:1,11 143:22 Paul 113:9,11 161:12,15 pause 135:16,17 140:11 pay 43:14 71:24 103:16 104:8 121:17 139:18 paying 34:14 36:17 104:12 PBS 58:15 peak 145:22 peasants 38:17 peer 45:1,14 122:19 peer-review 121:24 peer-reviewed 49:20 65:13 90:6 91:9 122:1 142:9 152:20 penalty 103:20 Pennsylvania 25:5 26:24 59:7,18 60:12 Pennsylvania's 66:19	people 13:17,21 14:3 16:5 19:17 20:7,7 20:16 21:15 22:10 23:14,17 26:1,8,22 34:15 49:1 50:16 53:14 55:2 58:10 60:7,22 70:24 72:9 77:13 79:4,6 80:22 83:4,19 88:3 100:11 105:6 107:21 109:7 110:13 112:1,3 112:18 120:13 120:17 123:6 123:25 124:2 128:10,13,20 132:8,23 138:5 139:18 140:4,5 142:9,11 145:25 147:7 151:2,4,16,17 151:23 154:7 155:11,20,23 156:14,19 158:25 159:24 160:2,5,6 161:2 162:8,17 162:22,22 164:3 165:15 166:16 173:1 174:14 176:7 177:14,17 178:8,17 people's 18:18 124:1 139:24 percent 19:24 21:23 24:5,5,7 39:2,6 48:4 53:22 61:1,1 62:8,9,20 69:12 80:24 83:6 88:20 101:3 111:7 117:2 120:17 128:13 135:9
--	---	--	---	---

P

P 2:1
P-U-B-L-I-C-...
12:16
p.m 1:9 7:5

138:3 144:2,3 152:15 percentage 46:22 perfect 99:16 perfluorocarb... 40:17 period 5:22 7:4 146:8 Permian 82:17 82:18 83:9 permission 80:21 permit 61:24 perpetrators 121:18 persist 102:22 persistent 154:13 person 7:19 9:17 12:24 32:23 37:2 74:17 97:24 98:15 136:15 146:21 148:3,4 168:10 168:12 178:22 179:2 personal 20:11 27:7 33:8 137:21 146:4 161:24 persons 174:15 174:19 perspective 85:14 124:5 petition 44:17 petitions 14:8 petrochemical 159:1 phase 46:18 94:17,25 95:9 PhD 20:2 73:1 161:13 phenomenon 162:12 Philadelphia 47:13 philosophy 78:2 phone 10:11,12	11:10 12:2,3 173:13 phones 11:11 phrase 147:23 physical 51:11 physician 115:21 129:20 145:9 Physicians 25:4 26:5,23 Physics 102:14 physiological 130:6 pickups 55:18 picnic 109:1 picture 62:24 65:14 148:21 Piedmont 107:20 Pier 106:3 pillar 80:4 pilots 130:12 pitifully 124:16 place 25:25 47:1 87:23 88:23 89:5,10 103:22 107:6 119:10 139:5 151:15 157:10 173:9 places 39:7 140:5,6 placing 26:21 plagued 83:12 plan 60:25 72:17 121:20 planet 35:6 43:23 49:2,5 50:5 52:25 62:4 73:23 76:17 109:13 126:14 139:25 151:8,22 152:12 156:3 158:9 159:4 planet's 32:23 153:14 planets 153:14 planning 18:13 18:14 61:3	70:25 109:4 plans 61:4 75:13 108:15 130:20 132:4 plant 116:12 plants 52:24 64:18 67:10 121:16 132:20 play 37:1 103:16 163:1 players 38:16 playing 179:21 plays 101:1 please 2:14,22 8:15 9:1,6 10:5 10:8 11:12,23 12:1,14,19 13:6 18:4,6 27:7 55:5 58:17 76:18 84:6 97:16 99:7,9 101:7 113:5 120:22 125:2,7 126:24 133:10 136:21 137:10 140:2,5 140:15 149:13 149:16 152:6 153:19 154:8 155:4 167:19 168:24 170:11 171:21 177:19 plenty 62:2 plug 176:17 plugged 176:1 PM2.5 19:15 119:25 pneumonia 169:5 pocket 104:9 pockets 49:5,24 point 12:6 33:23 107:4 108:4,5 114:21 159:24 170:20,22 176:7 points 45:22 pole 154:16 policies 65:22	73:8 78:8 89:25 129:3 155:9 policy 35:16 41:18 44:8 46:9 55:16 59:16 70:23 78:1 79:11 92:7 107:6 111:11 118:19 145:11 159:7 176:14 policymakers 153:15 176:18 political 14:10 20:9 26:21 79:11 80:24 81:20 85:25 103:17 107:3 142:17 151:19 153:15 politically 152:21 politics 103:16 104:3 poll 120:12 pollutant 37:21 37:23 64:10 131:17 pollutants 119:17 122:5 145:3 156:5 164:25 pollute 88:2 138:22 149:4 polluted 37:3 67:25 75:24 polluter 179:11 polluter's 105:8 polluters 72:13 81:9 90:8 103:21 105:14 149:3 174:1 polluting 89:1 104:20 119:4 pollution 15:3 15:12,25 21:18 21:22,24 22:7 22:17,21 23:7	23:19,22 24:9 25:7 26:11 27:23 32:2 34:16 35:17 39:5 48:18,21 49:15 50:3 53:9,17 59:20 61:5 69:4,5,11 69:14 70:3,6 70:12,24 71:18 71:20 83:5,6 90:20 96:12 100:2 104:19 106:25 112:7 116:13 119:25 120:5 122:7 138:1,19 144:21 155:20 158:11,16 162:6 166:13 177:16 pollution-fueled 122:16 poor 22:2 32:24 34:5 38:18 47:24 48:21 59:14 104:8 120:5 154:11 156:18 poorer 155:23 Pope 84:1 population 17:24 69:10 110:21 156:20 populations 26:7 populous 42:6 porches 59:23 port 53:18 portions 43:5 Portland 18:15 19:8 132:2,7 169:2 pose 31:19 51:15 91:10 152:12 166:11 poses 40:3 49:15 86:5 position 41:11
--	--	--	---	---

positions 81:16	premised 95:8	pretty 58:8	142:4	81:9 94:19
positive 30:16	premiums 71:15	prevalence	proceed 63:15	96:5
97:5 107:14	preparation	102:2	142:20	Progressive 92:8
possibility 149:9	90:11	prevent 76:6	proceedings	118:20
157:21	prepared 66:15	83:2 165:10	13:7,15 82:11	Project 14:3
possible 10:20	139:23	180:3	96:8 99:8	projected
47:25 48:24	preparing	preventable	137:12 180:10	157:11
98:25 137:4	136:20	36:18 120:1	181:7	projections
173:21	prerequisite 4:8	138:1	process 6:24	153:9
possibly 24:16	prescribe 4:13	prevention	96:4 121:25	promise 5:12
post-traumatic	present 61:21	43:15	processes 56:14	promises 176:21
141:15	75:5 78:10	previous 29:10	164:5	promote 92:11
posted 9:22	87:2 89:14	44:15 67:3	produce 39:10	132:24 134:22
potential 23:23	92:1	69:22	73:18	179:2
33:5 47:19	presentation	price 34:14 39:5	produced 49:23	promoted 11:5
81:2 93:4	6:13	48:2 55:23	73:22 122:18	140:14
pound 106:2	presented	prices 176:3	producing 15:6	prompt 72:22,23
poverty 104:13	119:12	177:2,7	15:8 55:19	77:2 115:18
power 5:8,14	presenter	priest 139:22	product 94:12	163:17
48:12 52:24	135:17	primary 41:2	96:2	promptly 97:18
58:9 64:18	presenting	121:14 128:6	production	promulgate 67:9
67:10 82:14,15	117:13	principle 64:15	55:21 143:21	promulgated
113:5 116:11	presents 65:13	77:18	professional	56:2
121:15 128:25	Preservation	prior 4:21 5:4	116:18 161:24	proper 94:5,6
132:20 156:13	51:1	11:5 80:15	162:20	properly 56:1
169:25	preserve 35:9	145:1	professionally	property 31:1
powered 34:25	59:8 106:20	priorities 173:24	73:11	34:20 60:22
powerful 106:5	111:11 149:16	prioritize 47:24	professionals	86:6 106:6
practical 85:5	Preserving	private 16:11	26:21 86:2	proportion
practices 125:25	129:13	18:11 30:1	87:2	133:4
practitioner	President 5:7,11	33:18 80:18	professor 18:15	proposal 4:1,22
160:15	67:7 77:16	82:2 86:6,9	profit 49:1 50:11	4:23 5:17 7:8
praying 82:11	78:18 94:12	96:19 145:12	81:22 84:4	8:14,23 9:3
precedent 14:13	138:21	169:3	111:21 176:12	13:22 19:18,22
63:22 65:21	President's	privilege 37:11	profiteering	19:25 21:20
precious 75:22	77:18 79:13	105:18	82:2	22:19 28:4
76:11	presiding 3:3,18	probably 19:4	profiteers 78:15	51:5 52:20
precipitation	6:2 7:12,17	124:22 125:17	174:2	62:22 63:18,24
102:1	press 9:4,6	problem 26:12	profits 89:2	64:1 65:20
precisely 56:23	press@epa.gov	30:15 31:6,7,8	119:5 121:19	66:10 70:19,22
predicted 79:1	9:7	63:1 74:13	129:4 165:19	85:16,18 91:20
predominant	pressing 11:11	106:25 107:24	profound	92:19 94:11,14
85:23	pressure 78:14	124:14 144:16	141:13	95:5,14 104:11
preemption	80:22	176:23	program 46:17	104:14,16
56:16 95:17	pressures	problem-solver	66:20 73:13	105:13 119:8
prefer 85:9	106:16	78:19	75:13 95:21	119:12 120:23
premature	presumably	problems 72:4	programs 12:11	137:19 140:23
28:22 119:18	77:20	82:21 83:22	56:18 84:15	142:10 143:3
158:17 166:14	preterm 142:1	106:15 141:15	progress 71:23	143:25 145:5

152:9 177:10 propose 4:14 proposed 3:20 4:4,17 6:8,20 6:25 8:22 23:10 27:15 44:19,20 45:9 46:2 55:4 65:8 68:12 77:14 78:11,20 82:22 92:16 105:3 128:11 143:2 145:14 147:20 152:5 155:18 161:18 proposes 93:18 144:4 164:17 proprietary 9:25 prosperity 104:13 protect 16:5 17:4 18:4 19:18 21:8,12 24:19 26:13 29:14 35:5,7 37:13 51:3 52:19 55:3,7 70:24 71:22 74:21 76:11 77:12 80:9 84:16 87:4 88:23 90:14 100:25 107:7 109:13,14 113:25 126:17 129:14 130:20 138:20 139:1 139:15 140:4 142:5 147:7 149:5 151:22 153:17 155:10 155:20 158:24 161:19 163:25 164:12 165:16 166:19 174:20 177:17 protecting 5:10 37:9 41:20 59:12 140:7	142:16,17 147:3,5 protection 2:4,9 3:7 15:12 18:4 21:11 27:13 40:11 48:17 55:1 57:3 75:21 76:10 78:17 85:17 91:19 106:19 114:24 124:19 151:14 protections 22:20 36:21 50:19 54:12 57:5 71:14 90:16 116:11 138:15,24 139:4 protects 23:9 80:2 180:3 protocols 165:13 prove 125:2 proven 69:6 73:15 provide 6:1,23 8:9,10,18,22 10:15,22 13:2 37:15 58:22 98:20 99:1 103:20 130:13 136:25 137:6 166:3 168:17 provided 40:21 56:14 75:12 Providence 43:5 provider 116:1 provides 6:12 64:12 providing 178:10 Psych 159:17 psychologist 79:24 140:24 159:14 160:17 psychology 159:16 161:13 161:14 public 1:3,11 2:3	2:10 3:9,24 5:22,25 9:11 9:14,18 12:15 12:18 13:23 15:4 23:10,24 24:19 25:13 26:13,14 27:2 27:25 28:7,13 29:12,13 31:19 35:6 40:13 41:18 44:7 47:18 51:7 52:19 54:18 55:25 56:12 57:25 58:14,19 58:19 59:13 61:9 70:2 72:11 77:10 80:9,18 82:1,2 84:16 86:6,9 90:1,7 91:10 91:15 96:12 97:21 98:5,13 106:6 111:25 112:9 116:8,24 119:7,14 121:8 122:18 123:1,9 126:10 129:11 131:18 136:4 136:13 138:11 139:1 149:14 150:18 160:19 161:5 166:12 167:7,25 168:8 171:2 174:7 176:19 177:13 178:15 public's 124:12 publication 152:20 publicly 9:22,23 published 3:25 6:10 8:23 58:3 67:16 publishing 152:15 pump 49:11 104:22 167:1 purchased 69:2	purely 162:11 purifier 69:2 purpose 6:6 95:20 96:11 112:10 pursuant 56:4 pursuit 66:9 pushes 59:20 put 27:2 30:17 47:23 62:6 126:24 167:5 172:19 puts 33:3 179:10 179:20 putting 49:1 135:19	quote 31:23 32:6 32:13 74:8 quoting 142:7
R				
R 2:1 R-A-N-J-A-N-A 109:20 R2 55:22 race 124:10 167:6 Rachel 107:11 107:12 Racine 103:4 racism 38:25 Radiation 2:24 3:8,14,22 radical 79:8 radio 102:4 raging 117:18 169:2,9 rain 17:8 42:11 42:13,16,19 108:10 rainfall 16:17 127:20,22 162:14 rains 42:9,21 rainy 17:6 raised 29:11 raising 50:5 Rajan 50:24,25 50:25 Ramona 175:12 range 28:13 59:21 ranges 130:7 Ranjana 109:18 109:20 ranked 110:11 rapid 56:14 134:25 rapidly 38:3 93:15 Rapids 84:21 rarely 176:7 rate 30:24 42:23 71:7,8 rates 34:22				
Q				
qualified 122:24 quality 3:3,17 28:17,21 29:11 31:2 34:5 44:15 46:2 58:5 59:15,25 68:21 75:4 100:7,8,9,11 100:15,17,20 100:22 101:11 105:21 117:8 120:5,11 126:8 132:12 134:19 138:2 156:18 156:23 162:2,5 quarter 85:21 question 24:16 50:7 64:4 124:6,13,15 145:1 questionable 63:20 questions 2:22 6:18,21 9:5 12:20 45:21 64:16 quick 154:3 quickly 83:7 quiet 145:17 quite 109:5 156:1				

53:15,20 85:10 100:21 159:20 176:4 rationales 14:6 reach 22:25 76:9 136:22 170:11 173:14 read 2:17 102:13 reading 96:9 ready 95:4 97:10 98:9,10 136:8 136:9 168:4,6 168:7 171:5,7 171:9,19 175:6 175:9 180:7,8 real 35:17 48:18 66:6 67:19 73:6 88:15 93:20 106:16 128:9 132:6 133:12 135:3 143:7 150:5 156:21 162:22 169:7 realities 94:21 reality 47:18 50:8,8,10 151:19 153:19 157:22 realization 154:22 realize 53:14 148:10 really 20:12 34:2 37:20 54:16 reap 121:19 rearrange 108:15 reason 24:20 88:1 135:11 reasonable 7:14 14:10 85:10 reasonably 122:8 reasons 45:24 63:24 102:23 176:14 Rebecca 127:6 rebuild 19:13	rebuilding 72:1 156:15 rebuttal 8:10 recall 145:16 receive 6:7 11:3 38:7 117:22 170:14 received 5:22 42:16,19 140:14 recess 97:10,19 100:14 109:1 135:24 167:20 167:23 170:25 175:8 recision 165:13 reckless 31:6 51:4 72:16 129:3,6 158:23 reckoning 148:6 recognition 49:14 recognizable 148:19 recognize 94:23 119:15 131:16 142:14 recognized 36:13 138:9 143:13 recognizing 94:20 recommend 12:10 170:17 recommending 82:3 reconfirmed 67:14 reconsider 26:17 30:5 31:9 44:21 46:3 63:6 137:19 158:23 reconsideration 1:4 2:4,10 4:5 5:3 23:11 27:15 29:15 75:8 76:18 92:17 93:18	94:1 98:5 99:23 103:12 105:3 113:13 116:2 136:4 155:12 157:5 166:6 168:1 171:3 172:5 reconsidered 63:25 112:1,23 reconsidering 45:18 reconvene 170:18 record 6:16 8:7 13:7 29:7 55:25 56:3 63:2 95:24 99:8,10 108:1 108:4 123:22 137:11 154:14 158:1 162:5 168:25 181:8 record-breaking 117:17 recorded 9:20 recording 9:21 recoup 149:6 recourse 149:5 recovered 131:3 recurrent 131:8 red 88:9 143:19 reduce 34:10 36:21 43:20 52:17 73:9 74:15 81:12,22 95:7 117:3 128:14 179:11 reduced 116:13 reducing 43:10 94:24 114:7 reduction 84:17 144:9 reductions 28:3 reefs 62:20,21 refer 9:1 reflects 130:5 Reform 92:8 118:20 refuse 81:17	176:9 Reg 92:15,22,25 93:22 regardless 85:24 region 13:16 15:22 51:25 83:10 107:20 108:1 111:3 region's 117:19 regional 17:11 28:19 96:13 Register 6:11 7:7 8:14,24 registered 8:2 8:16 10:14,25 12:13 98:19 136:23 168:20 170:9 173:13 178:23 registrants 10:15 98:20 136:24 168:21 regressive 104:10 regular 42:24 126:7 176:1 regularly 59:20 101:10 regulate 27:20 40:22 67:5 91:14 95:22 108:17 116:6 125:6 129:8 145:4 regulated 78:24 101:5 107:18 124:6 165:1 regulating 4:9 37:24 64:2,4 64:21 81:5 144:11,23 regulation 20:15 45:10 56:15 64:18 73:12 112:21 121:14 124:9 133:3 153:18 159:22 174:1 regulations 4:3	4:15 5:4 22:6 43:18,20 45:4 64:23 75:25 81:22 88:1 89:3,9 95:1 132:15 144:5,8 147:23 155:9 164:12 172:22 regulations.gov 8:5 regulatory 26:15 51:2 56:7,14 92:11,13,20 94:6 96:4,10 144:10 Reilly 154:1,2,2 reinforced 128:7 reining 32:4 reinvention 86:15 reiterated 81:2 reject 19:18 72:16 74:22 76:18 79:14 91:20 129:14 153:4,21 155:12 rejected 152:14 Rejecting 152:18 rejoin 97:17 related 28:14 29:17 57:8 80:20 109:9 Relations 38:23 relationships 85:12 relative 181:9,10 release 55:22 releases 25:16 32:7 releasing 123:21 relentless 60:16 78:3 146:4 relevance 65:4 reliable 78:13 145:21 reliance 146:4 152:21 164:4
--	---	---	---	--

relies 45:21 56:13	27:16 28:4 29:16 30:22	165:18	rescission 6:8 65:9 143:2	responsibility 21:8 25:5 26:5
relieve 92:20	31:3,9 37:22	reporter 1:10 9:21 10:9 13:6	165:10	26:24 31:5
religion 113:18 113:19	41:9 43:20 47:6 59:9	98:1,17 99:7 136:17 137:11	rescue 60:7	36:20 43:23
religious 78:16	77:17 81:3,7	168:15	research 14:2 46:15,20 47:10	67:5 76:16
relocated 43:3	82:22 83:1	REPORTER'S	48:25 65:13	79:15 147:9
rely 5:5 142:6 147:25 157:16	91:5 96:20 99:23 102:24	181:2	80:15,23	responsible 79:6 79:10 85:3
relying 65:10 165:4	107:15 109:15 119:8 121:7,20	reporting 1:22 4:19 102:6	100:14 131:17 140:24 162:21	110:1 119:2 120:1 147:2
remain 88:22 96:1 97:16	122:3,12 128:11,16	represent 127:12 179:6	Reserve 47:12	responsive 118:24
112:22 132:14 151:15	129:15 131:19 140:23 145:15	representative 8:20 12:19 114:10	resident 87:7 99:17	rest 47:6 108:23 109:3 133:14 135:9
remaining 57:2 165:23 168:9	147:20 151:6 151:11 152:6,9	representing 84:23 152:4 166:4 172:4	residents 14:24 43:3 71:24	restart 97:18 136:1
remains 25:11 165:16	155:18 156:24 160:18 161:16	represents 44:9	105:22 110:10 121:17 174:11	restate 66:6
remand 94:2	163:4	reprieve 146:3	resides 110:21	restoration 148:12
remarks 2:25 139:23 178:10 178:18	repealed 17:25 146:20	republic 39:18	resilience 61:4 86:7 96:6	restore 5:14 96:9
remember 24:18 74:9 104:2,19 140:7 145:17 145:19,21 146:2 150:10 155:4	repealing 16:11 30:6 39:2,16 80:19 126:25 134:22 139:2 153:21 156:4 156:21 161:3	reputable 86:3 request 6:21 37:22 107:14	resist 63:4	restricted 10:3
remind 7:1	repeals 161:18	required 23:9 64:20 109:4 144:23 145:4	resistance 176:13	restrictions 62:5 62:10,12 75:19 76:14
reminder 97:23 98:14 136:14 168:12	repeat 108:25 repeatedly 67:12 164:16	requires 65:18 92:22 155:19	resolution 60:24	result 16:2 28:5 76:8 114:4 143:9 146:17 154:13 160:24 162:15 169:4
reminding 146:7	replacement 95:6	requiring 29:12 60:6 86:14 117:21	resolved 13:24	resulted 16:17 28:3 160:24
remove 4:2,14 89:3	replaying 58:15	rescind 4:1 15:1 16:2 21:20 22:19 31:3 51:5 53:12 70:20 94:17 164:17	resources 18:21 33:1 75:11 160:2	resulting 32:11 39:5 128:25
removed 180:2	report 51:18 63:22 65:10,12 65:16 66:14,21 66:22,24 69:9 93:9 102:4,13 114:22 121:21 121:25 122:19 128:7 142:8 152:9,13,25 155:5 164:19 164:21 165:2 181:7	rescinded 61:25 112:23	Respect 149:14	results 32:2 122:16 152:21
Removing 83:23 89:4	reported 1:10 51:24 52:3,10	rescinding 15:23 43:19 45:18 52:21 54:17 62:23 72:2 86:19 93:17 95:16	respected 132:17 153:2	resume 98:9,10 136:8 168:4
renewable 39:15 73:20 135:9 169:15		rescinds 165:7	respectfully 127:14 155:11	retain 33:9 81:22
Renewables 38:2			respects 80:10	retains 95:22
renowned 145:23			respiratory 25:23 28:21 32:1 36:8 37:1 53:21 69:7 70:7 83:22 104:18 117:13 120:2	retention 82:3
reopen 16:25			respite 124:4	retired 129:21 163:22 174:6
repeal 18:6 21:21 22:12,20			respond 6:22 86:9	retraction 81:17
			responders 16:22 60:7	Retraining 124:14
			responds 4:23	return 135:12
			response 6:24 53:8 116:16	

153:19	rigorously 76:3	role 20:4 81:5	166:25 172:7	San 53:6,14
returned 88:9	rinse 123:13	101:1 135:4	179:11	111:19 139:11
reveals 127:19	Rio 33:22 83:14	143:5 164:6	ruling 40:12	157:9
revenues 93:20	179:6,21	roles 115:25	64:11 65:3	SANCHEZ 1:15
Reverend 21:1,3	ripped 60:3	126:13	run 37:1 77:10	sanctuaries
48:10	rise 24:12,14	roll 36:21 70:20	running 3:23	50:14
reversal 14:10	33:2 39:11	149:24	runoff 87:24	SanDiego 350
reversals 56:16	40:9 131:7	rollback 66:15	runs 39:18	111:20
reverse 13:22	153:10 157:12	67:1,18 89:24	166:17	Sandy 150:10
23:13 125:3	risen 42:22 71:6	103:13,25	rural 16:14 20:5	Santa 30:2
149:8 153:22	126:2 143:10	104:5 105:4	rushed 121:23	Sarah 131:22
172:22	rises 62:14	133:21 166:7	RYAN 1:22	132:1
reversed 57:14	rising 19:10,11	179:9		save 33:1 58:12
reversing 56:9	25:21 28:18	rollbacks 114:24	S	73:17,22,23
65:15 124:19	34:17 42:7,21	rolling 70:3,4	S 2:1	81:12 103:25
176:20	50:10 54:21	71:13 91:15	Saad 149:20,22	125:6 128:10
review 45:1,14	73:4 119:21	116:14 138:15	Sabeeca 53:2,5	149:8 166:25
45:17 65:3	130:1,13	166:24	Sabol 101:14,15	176:5 177:25
94:2,5 121:10	134:14 155:24	Ron 154:1,2	101:18	179:19
122:19	158:1 163:3	room 36:6 90:18	sacred 49:10	saved 103:23,24
revise 85:18	risk 22:1 26:1	97:16 131:5	84:3	116:13
revitalize 5:13	27:3 30:12,18	148:21	sacrifice 36:24	saving 58:10
revoke 66:10	33:4 53:23	rooted 49:19	sad 100:18	164:1 177:24
114:24 132:4	76:7 94:1	76:4	155:1	saw 53:8 54:5
132:22	138:6 143:20	round 143:16	Safdie 131:22,23	90:22
revoked 142:12	143:23 156:9	route 20:20	132:1,1	saying 120:13
revolution 20:19	156:13 179:10	routine 130:23	safe 87:23	says 2:18 21:6
Reyes 179:3,4,5	179:20	row 19:7	101:10 153:5	24:2 83:24
Rhode 41:25	risks 17:19	Royal 41:5	155:23 158:9	115:6,10
42:2 43:7	28:21 70:7	royalty 38:16	180:1	SBA 92:23
Ribbon 45:2	142:2	rule 3:20 4:4	safeguard 26:15	scarcity 33:25
Rickwa 111:17	Rita 14:17,18	5:14,20 13:22	72:11 90:1	scheduled 9:14
111:18,18	river 33:22	14:8,10 24:20	126:18 139:5	97:10
rid 147:23	106:4	44:19,21 46:2	safeguards	school 36:7 53:6
riding 145:22	rivers 18:22	46:4 55:5	177:24	53:7 87:15
right 11:19	177:21	57:25 58:3,18	safer 22:13 30:8	123:14 159:16
19:12 54:12,24	Rivian 55:16,17	68:12 77:14	30:8 167:9	174:7 177:13
59:10 63:1	56:9,19 57:13	78:11,20 82:23	safety 13:17	school's 75:3
76:20 77:7	roads 16:24 60:4	83:1 125:4	21:25 24:1	Schoonmaker
82:6 91:19	71:12	172:9	26:3 77:12	84:9,10,11
94:25 104:4	roadways 36:5	ruled 64:9	84:16 86:6	science 13:24
129:2,18 132:8	robber 38:19	rulemaking 6:8	90:4 108:16	14:11 25:3,19
149:15 150:7	Robert 59:1	6:20,25 8:6,22	128:18 132:2	26:17 37:20
150:17 166:17	robust 49:22	94:4	155:3,10	41:5,7 44:25
174:21	ROCKLEDGE	rules 7:11 56:15	Saguaro 150:19	45:2,8,13,22
rights 38:24	1:24	67:9 83:2,2	sake 16:4	49:21,23 51:7
66:9	Rocks 60:10	93:7,18 103:22	Salt 99:17 100:7	60:19 66:13
rigorous 49:20	Rogers 29:21,22	124:20 148:23	100:20,23	72:8 76:4
116:7	29:23,25 30:1	164:11,18	Saltwater 71:8	77:19 78:13

80:9 81:2	SCOTT 1:16	security 13:18	sense 77:18	129:10 154:11
87:10 88:13	scratch 94:4	38:23 57:6	78:17 79:5	156:5 162:13
90:2,6 91:9	screen 2:19 11:4	80:5 149:15	86:11 133:9	severity 43:12
97:1 107:6	11:17,19,24	see 32:12 60:16	143:4 147:24	Seward 79:24
115:5 121:9	12:23 13:6	63:2,11 68:4	162:19 179:18	shaken 105:24
122:13 126:24	97:23 98:14	68:20 69:22	sensitive 59:21	shambles 61:23
127:16 128:4	99:6 136:14,20	70:2 73:3 77:5	sent 72:21,23	shaped 79:25
128:12,18	137:10 171:22	85:10 86:23	90:18 163:17	157:11
129:9 133:11	screwworm	89:14,18 99:15	sentiment 13:23	share 38:5 49:7
138:10 139:4	15:18	113:9 116:18	September 5:23	85:15 154:3
141:3 142:7	Scripps 157:24	117:6,12 120:6	7:4 175:22	sharecroppers
143:3,24	Scrub 169:19	121:2 125:11	series 77:10	38:20
145:11 150:13	scrublands	125:14,24	84:19	shared 45:11
151:3 152:11	154:13	127:7,9 131:23	serious 51:15	shares 45:10
152:19,22	sea 42:21 50:5	131:24,25	65:9 74:8 83:9	86:10
153:21 164:4	50:10 71:6	135:21 136:20	seriously 32:25	sharing 140:1
164:15	119:21 157:12	142:14 147:16	69:2 77:11	Sharpies 72:4
science-based	Sean 94:9,11	152:7 160:15	seriousness	sharply 165:3
51:2 59:11	search 84:6	162:23 163:18	13:14	shelter 60:5
126:19	154:8	169:14 170:14	servants 35:6	shield 75:21
sciences 50:1	season 54:6	173:16,17	serve 2:13 3:3	shielded 45:16
77:21 128:2	90:10 106:9	179:24	13:20 72:13	shift 110:18
scientific 40:15	143:16 162:12	seed 81:9	86:19 90:8	122:15 126:5
41:4 45:5,17	seasons 17:12	seeing 42:13	98:7 113:25	shifted 110:24
46:12,14,20	34:18 102:17	54:2 71:11,12	136:7 161:4	shifting 64:20
49:16 50:2,7	148:15	99:11 118:8	168:3	Shiles 59:2,3,5,6
51:13,20 55:24	Sebree 159:12	150:6,17,24,25	served 42:10	Shiprock 172:2
62:2 63:22	159:13,13	151:21 172:17	87:3 116:5	172:2,10
65:8,15,22	second 14:20	seek 78:16 86:14	serves 13:16	shocked 58:5
66:21 80:17	52:4 62:8	seeking 160:2	service 26:14	68:20
81:15 86:12	69:12 101:17	seen 28:23 35:17	serving 7:12,17	shore 106:24
103:17 116:8	164:6	40:7 41:14	160:5	shoreline 106:2
119:14,15	second-year	57:4 73:7	session 97:9	106:19 107:8
121:24 128:1	53:5	106:1 124:13	178:5 180:6	short 36:19
153:16 161:20	seconds 7:20	130:9 156:6	set 14:13 23:7,9	133:8 141:21
165:5	175:16	sees 34:4	59:11 115:11	short-term
scientifically-...	Section 4:12	seldom 72:4	148:25	78:15 81:19
41:11	45:7 95:18,23	selectively	setback 22:14	shortened 106:9
scientist 30:2	sector 23:20	132:21	Seth 29:21,22	shortly 2:6 11:5
121:22	24:3 57:12	self-interested	30:1 86:22,23	67:7
scientists 19:23	69:15 86:9	174:22	165:24,25	show 2:20 17:12
19:25 21:23	88:21 93:16	sell 176:9	sets 148:23	91:8 102:8
65:11 66:16,25	94:23 117:2	selling 83:20	settled 14:11	125:5 144:5
67:14 76:1,2	166:11	177:1	49:18 63:21	153:9
79:1 122:2	sectors 24:4	send 7:3 12:14	64:7 65:21	showed 78:21
132:17,22	77:24	77:2 115:18	81:2	shower 123:13
139:19 150:2	secure 80:18	senior 34:8 46:9	seven 162:7	shown 129:9
152:16 153:14	81:23 126:15	55:15 118:19	severe 26:6 52:6	141:19
155:6 158:19	148:14,14	seniors 59:23	69:20 119:1	showroom 176:8

shows 14:3 47:10 53:22 56:4 80:23 90:3 119:20 120:12 130:8	sit 59:23 74:6 150:4 159:16 173:10	106:22,24 107:13,19 125:20 126:4 152:13 174:13	solid 40:15	11:2 12:13
shrinking 17:12	site 14:25 66:22	smaller 124:10	solution 176:24	13:6,15 16:10
shudder 148:21 151:19	sites 26:9 110:14	smart 20:15	solutions 86:11 163:11	33:17 35:14 54:4 55:14
shuttering 156:4	sits 59:17	smog 58:16 90:20 104:19 138:23	solve 106:25	61:17,20,21,21 61:22 75:5
Shyamala 50:24 50:25	sitting 124:1 149:25	smoggy 68:23	solved 124:14	84:18 85:14 90:17 96:18
si 84:1	situation 15:24 132:15	smoke 17:17 19:14 29:2,7 34:7 68:25 83:22 88:12 91:3 106:11 116:20 117:8 117:16 123:2,5 126:7 141:20 157:18 162:3 162:11	somebody 20:2 27:4	97:7,25 98:16 99:7,20 105:20 127:12 133:21 136:16,20 137:11 157:4 157:21 163:21 168:13 170:11
siblings 138:20	situations 160:1	smokestacks 169:19	son 34:4,8,25 87:9 88:3 137:21	speaker 10:7,18 12:22 13:5,10 16:7 18:9 21:1 22:24 24:22 27:10 29:21 31:13 33:12 37:17 39:22 41:23 44:3 46:7 48:8 50:24 55:12,12 59:1 61:14 63:9,12,16 65:25 68:2,2,5 70:14 72:19 74:25 76:24 79:19 82:8 84:9 86:22,24 89:12,15,16 92:1,2 94:9 96:15,15 98:23 99:5,9,12 101:14 103:7 105:16 107:11 109:18 111:16 113:8 115:15 118:14 120:25 122:22 125:9,9 127:6 129:17 131:22,22 133:17 137:2,9 137:12 139:9 142:21 145:7 147:13 149:20 152:1 154:1
sick 36:23 82:22 83:21	six 123:3	smoking 115:7	son's 88:10	
sickened 17:24	sixth 51:18 155:5	smoky 159:20 162:15,25 163:11	song 145:19	
sicker 155:23	ski 17:10,12	snow 17:11 149:2	soon 55:21 131:14	
sides 172:12	skies 88:5,8 157:19 159:20 162:15 163:12	snowmobiling 118:10	sophomore 87:9	
Siding 60:2	skiing 118:10	snowpack 118:10 143:15	sorry 171:19 173:9 179:4	
Sierra 37:19 70:18 179:6,21	skilled 104:12	so-called 132:22 133:3 148:9	sorts 48:14	
signal 81:7	skin 104:20	social 25:4 26:5 38:23 58:6 79:23 80:22 103:22 114:11 114:12	soul 82:22	
significant 28:3 28:12 63:18 91:8 92:17 93:7,21 130:14	skins 124:1	society 39:3 41:6 51:1	souls 84:6	
significantly 23:24 70:6 114:7 116:12	skipped 99:11	soil 21:14 148:1	sound 57:23 111:11 171:11 171:15	
signing 78:22	sky 123:4 162:25	soils 134:8	soundtrack 145:20	
silver 146:8	skyrocket 34:22 113:4	solar 35:1 50:13 73:21	source 23:21 64:22 71:17 138:17	
similar 102:9 146:2	skyrocketing 104:24 177:7	solely 14:6 51:3 89:2	source-specific 64:24	
Similarly 56:2	slam 177:9		sources 61:5 69:14 85:11 121:10 144:7	
simple 25:15	slavery 38:19 161:6		south 1:23 17:7 105:17 106:3 106:17 107:6	
simply 62:6 71:23 86:13 140:1 176:25	slaves 38:18		Southeast 101:18	
Sims 115:15,16 115:20,20	sleepless 60:17		southern 33:19 34:19 71:6 120:9 152:3,4	
simultaneously 144:14	slide 39:17 97:12 135:20,21		space 9:17 106:6 157:8	
sinful 82:24	slot 170:10 173:14		spare 170:1	
singing 169:10	slow 54:24 56:21 158:13		spared 88:8	
single 54:3 86:3 119:24 172:11 172:11	slower 117:23		sparks 154:16	
sister 82:12 137:23	slowing 39:15		speak 8:2,16,19 9:15 10:8,8	
	slowly 10:8 40:9 97:25 98:16 136:16 168:14			
	small 19:15,22 20:4 60:4 92:18,21 93:4 93:14,19,20 94:5 105:20			

155:15 156:25	154:17	127:2 134:22	statements 6:15	105:11 133:1
159:12 161:10	spring 60:8	136:6 137:20	20:2 66:24	133:10 149:8
163:14 165:23	157:17	138:7,19	115:1 153:1	156:1
165:24 168:23	spur 81:12	147:22 149:18	states 2:3,8 5:2	store 35:23
168:23 170:7,9	spurious 122:19	159:2 161:18	5:15 15:7	stories 150:3
171:8,15,17	square 60:5	164:18 166:8	23:18 31:23	storm 16:16
173:7,13,15	St 161:12,15	166:24 167:4	37:9 44:13	60:1 69:20
175:2,11 178:3	stability 26:4	167:12 168:2	45:25 62:7	101:25 150:13
178:23 179:1,3	80:7	171:4 172:9	71:19 82:20	storms 32:15
speakers 7:22,23	stable 82:1	174:25 176:20	90:24 104:6	34:7 40:7 52:6
10:14 11:1,10	staff 79:22 82:10	standing 61:8	107:1,15	60:20 62:16
81:1 89:12	stakeholder	standpoint	112:25 141:12	72:6 106:2
98:19 136:24	94:22	115:2	179:13	116:22 123:15
168:9,20	stakeholders	Stanford 129:21	station 102:5	128:10,25
173:12	5:19 69:25	star 11:11	statistics 62:22	141:9 150:15
speaking 8:20	85:8	stare 145:2	73:2 139:24	stormwater
11:3,5 12:22	stakes 71:2	stark 110:20	status 37:10,11	106:19
41:25 48:13	stance 30:6	start 72:22 94:3	statutory 4:11	story 154:4
59:7 62:12	stand 30:25 31:1	115:16 171:20	47:2 51:8	straight 110:16
66:2 96:19	31:1 35:7	started 34:8	144:14	113:17
97:22 98:13	53:11 63:4	38:24 162:7	stay 68:21	strain 37:3
114:9 136:13	82:5	starting 32:12	100:13,14	straining 52:2
140:19,22	standard 29:5	42:12 55:23	101:9 130:20	strapping 105:9
145:12 159:17	45:9 65:18	state 1:11 11:12	131:11	strategies
161:16 163:22	91:12	15:5,8,9 18:15	staying 68:18	179:25
170:9,10	standards 1:5	18:19 34:23	stays 101:4	streaming 12:11
special 164:6	2:6,12 3:1,16	48:15 60:14	steals 149:7	streams 149:2
specialist 34:4	4:6,13 6:10	69:9 71:2,3,23	steep 34:13	street 85:2 86:18
specialty 143:19	21:22 23:6,7,9	73:14 84:22	stem 153:18	streets 106:3
species 48:20	23:12,23 24:13	95:17 99:10	stenographic	145:18
148:6	27:2,17 28:2,3	103:25 108:2	1:10 181:8	strengthen
Specifically 23:8	28:5 29:16	113:2 117:19	stenographica...	36:20 55:6
spectrum 20:10	30:7,23 31:5	117:22 127:19	181:7	126:25
speculation	31:20,21 32:3	127:24 134:17	step 112:24	strengthened
25:19	33:10 35:10	137:16 138:4	159:6	25:14 118:23
speed 52:1 71:20	36:16,22 52:24	142:25 143:7	steps 140:17	stress 126:6
94:25	56:5,10 57:1,2	154:4,6 155:7	Stevens 48:8,9	131:9 141:16
speeds 154:17	57:15 68:14,17	159:14 166:5	48:10	stricken 50:9
spend 43:4 47:6	70:1,4,5,10,21	168:24 179:15	stewards 30:11	strictly 10:17
Spenser 142:22	71:20 72:16	181:4	49:9 76:10	98:22 137:1
142:24	75:9 76:6,20	state's 42:5,15	113:24	168:21
spent 43:10,13	81:12,18 85:19	110:20,21	stewardship	stringency 95:9
53:7	93:6 94:18	state-specific	79:7 95:25	stripped 180:1
spew 133:5	95:18 98:7	56:18	110:1	strive 179:22
spill 80:1	99:25 100:4,4	stated 6:6 14:5	stick 31:9	stroke 143:23
spills 50:10	100:5 101:8	41:1 51:19	sticker 48:2	strong 22:13
sports 77:20	103:14 105:5	62:3 164:21	stood 60:23	27:1 36:22
spot 87:12	111:13 116:12	statement 7:15	74:21 106:8	40:23 50:18
spread 143:21	119:10 126:9	114:12	stop 14:9 49:1	69:25 70:9

74:19 80:8	40:9	42:8 60:17,18	91:17	178:10
81:11 85:15	submission	83:17 102:16	Supreme 27:18	
89:23 103:11	152:8	106:13 107:22	46:25 63:21	T
116:2 119:9	submit 7:6 8:10	107:23,24	64:7,16 65:5	tailpipe 71:17
138:6,18	8:11 10:22	108:1,11,12,14	67:4 91:6	102:25 117:1
165:17 166:25	13:2 99:2	108:20 111:5	122:4	118:4
176:14	137:6 168:17	117:17,24	sure 146:2,7	take 22:25 47:19
stronger 51:17	submitted 46:11	132:10 134:3	171:18	63:4 70:11
72:7 138:13	submitting	157:17 162:1	surpassed 24:4	73:3 74:19
164:16 166:22	94:15	163:2	surreal 162:16	77:11 93:19
167:8	subsequent	summers 40:7	surround 60:9	104:21 118:6
strongest 48:23	46:14 56:10	60:15 106:10	survey 120:12	128:14 140:15
strongly 27:14	144:8	117:22 126:5,8	surveys 20:7	145:22 148:7
53:12 55:25	subsidies 38:9	162:14	survive 170:1	158:5 163:11
70:19 85:7	38:10 129:5	summertime	survived 154:23	167:20 170:13
97:3 113:12,20	substances	134:5	surviving 121:9	170:17 171:13
123:19 137:18	75:20	sun 88:6,9	survivors 154:25	175:3
155:17	substantial	169:25	Susan 140:19,21	taken 71:19 73:2
struggle 34:21	65:19 92:18	sunny 53:14	168:11,23	97:4,19 112:6
39:6	130:10	Super 125:15,15	169:1	takes 52:16
struggled 137:21	substantially	supercharged	susceptible	talk 20:7 35:19
struggling 35:22	88:17 131:7	150:13	108:18	talked 84:2
47:11 116:22	substantively	supplemental	Susie 74:8	talking 35:20,21
student 53:6	92:25	8:11	suspected 31:25	107:3
112:13	substitute	suppliers 81:14	sustainability	targeted 71:21
students 75:14	153:15	supplies 119:22	78:3 84:15	targeting 55:23
100:12 130:11	subtitles 2:20,21	supply 15:17	85:24	targets 60:25
139:19 150:2	suffer 34:15	85:1	sustainable	Tarrant 14:20
162:18,24	36:9 43:21	supplying 93:10	13:15 84:12	110:13
studied 30:3	53:20 83:9	support 44:20	85:10 135:4	tasked 164:24
157:25	112:2 138:1	46:2 55:14	sustained 158:4	taught 174:16
studies 20:3	158:16 169:12	66:15 70:2	SUV 55:22	tax 35:2 38:9,22
73:16 90:6	169:18,23	72:10 84:13	SUVs 55:18	104:10
99:20 107:21	170:4	85:3 95:5 96:8	swallowed	taxpayer's 105:8
122:1 123:9	suffered 132:11	100:3 107:8,9	110:25	taxpayers 105:1
141:18 161:14	suffering 43:25	153:3 172:5	sweeping 64:10	121:17
165:5	76:9 81:22	supported 66:13	swim 87:21	teach 75:14
study 47:12	83:19 112:18	119:13	swimming 87:22	161:13
80:22 131:5	128:21 146:6	supporters	swing 102:20	teacher 75:2,10
162:20	suggest 167:16	67:23 179:7	swings 102:18	174:7
studying 87:10	suggests 144:11	supporting 6:22	swollen 87:17	teachers 174:13
stunning 34:6	suicidal 153:23	44:18 73:24	sworn 55:2	teaching 129:21
subarctic 119:20	suicide 100:21	106:22 164:15	system 51:22	teachings 148:5
subject 4:6 73:1	141:17	supports 88:13	92:11	team 10:10
96:18 122:19	suit 96:2	94:14 121:20	systematic 51:20	87:20 98:2,18
145:2 156:20	sulfur 40:17	123:17 167:7	systems 52:2	128:8 136:18
subjecting	summarize	supposed 72:11	106:20	168:15
156:14	44:20	142:6 165:15	Szabo 1:14 2:23	tech 177:3
submerging	summer 34:18	suppress 80:14	3:5,13 44:5	technical 11:23

56:2	testified 68:16	41:22 44:1,2,5	149:21 151:23	110:11
techno 39:17	73:13	46:4,6 48:6	151:25 153:24	Thompson
technological	testifiers 7:21	50:22,23,25	153:25 154:2	60:10
93:15 148:9	9:15 170:19,22	52:25 53:1	155:13,14	thought 18:3
technologies	testifies 62:3	55:9,10,13	156:24,25	48:16 126:17
176:15 179:19	testify 3:11 11:7	57:15,17,20,24	157:3 159:8,8	130:22 131:9
technology 38:3	11:12 25:2	58:24,25 61:12	159:10,18	thoughtful
38:14 39:1	29:19 44:6	61:16 63:7,8	161:8,9,11	20:15 178:18
81:11 85:5	68:8 89:21	65:23,24 67:25	163:12,13,20	thousand 38:15
87:10 93:11	92:9 111:22	68:1 70:13	163:20,24	thousand-year
124:15 167:3	129:19 137:16	72:17,18,24,25	165:20,22	60:1
teenagers 87:8	149:24 178:17	74:23,24 76:22	167:14,21,22	thousands 76:1
TeKolste 127:6	testifying 92:14	77:4,6,9 79:16	170:5,6,14,22	86:1 90:6
127:7,11	testimony 3:20	79:18,21 82:6	170:23 171:16	104:7,11 105:5
television 58:15	6:1 7:19,24	82:7,9 84:7,8	171:23 173:5	167:1
tell 20:12 48:17	8:11,12 10:4	84:10,17 86:21	173:18,18	threat 31:19
123:25 124:24	10:16 11:13	87:1 89:10,11	174:25 175:1,7	40:3 49:14
139:18 147:5	12:18,20,24	89:20 91:22,24	175:17 178:1,2	86:5 91:10
163:8	18:17 23:5	91:25 92:8	178:6,6,8,9,11	107:17 116:23
telling 133:17,18	67:3 81:4,25	94:7,8,10	178:16 180:4,5	129:1 152:12
133:19 146:21	84:19 91:23	96:13,14,17	180:9	166:12
150:3	97:22,24 98:13	97:6,8,14	thanks 68:7	threaten 15:16
temperature	98:15,21	98:12,23 101:6	166:2 167:13	21:25 26:3
25:22 42:4	125:12 130:4	101:11,13,16	theory 51:23	36:14 40:13
62:14 102:16	136:13,15,25	103:5,6 105:14	therapist 160:6	104:5 141:23
102:20 108:17	166:3 168:9,13	105:15 107:9	therapy 160:16	threatening 71:9
111:4 127:20	169:10 175:16	107:10 109:16	they'd 176:6	119:22 126:10
143:10	testing 100:24	109:17 111:13	thick 35:25	163:4
temperatures	152:19	111:15,21	88:11 138:23	threatens 15:19
19:9 28:10,18	Texas 14:20	113:6,7 115:13	thing 76:20	23:12 80:6
28:25 33:2	15:5,17 37:19	115:14 118:13	90:14 132:23	90:3 106:7
42:7 73:5	41:16 44:7	118:15,16,16	134:23	152:23 157:15
108:2 118:1	82:18 109:23	120:23,24	things 21:14	threats 15:20
124:4 126:2	110:3,3,7,17	121:3 122:20	46:18 84:15	28:6 75:16
128:23 134:10	110:20 179:8	122:21,23	86:15 133:7	86:10 90:15,16
134:14 141:22	thank 3:4,5 5:24	125:7,8 127:3	138:16 156:20	three 3:12 17:7
141:25 155:24	5:25 6:3,4 9:7	127:4,10,11	160:15	23:17 42:16,18
156:14	9:11,12 10:18	129:15,16,19	think 59:3 69:8	87:8,16 89:12
temporarily	13:13 14:11,12	131:19,21	78:19 125:16	96:25 123:23
135:25	14:15 16:5,6,9	132:3 133:15	140:5 149:12	134:1 162:4
Ten 43:2	18:8 20:24	133:18 135:12	151:4,7,19	thrive 105:25
tend 160:15	22:22,23 23:1	135:14,15,23	156:15 159:21	134:12
tentative 8:16	24:21 25:1,1	136:11,12	160:4,18,22,22	thriving 82:1
Teresa 57:18	27:8,9 29:19	137:2 139:6,8	160:23 175:9	153:6
term 141:22	29:20 31:11,11	140:9,10,20	175:13	throng 145:25
terms 48:24	31:14 33:10,11	142:15,19	thinking 14:3	throwaway 84:2
test 81:14,15	33:16 35:10,11	145:6,13	32:17 47:17	84:5
Testament	35:13 37:14,16	147:10,12,15	120:20	throwback
83:24	39:20,21 41:21	147:17 149:19	third 57:18	58:14

thrown 84:3 ticks 17:15,24 102:3,6,21 Tidal 145:22 tied 110:24 tightness 14:13 timber 134:13 time 1:9 2:7 3:10 7:5,22 10:17 11:6,22 13:5 20:24 31:11 40:6 46:25 47:6 48:6 52:11 57:16 61:12 63:7 64:21 69:3 73:10 74:21 79:16 87:18 91:23 93:11 97:13 98:22 99:6 101:6,12 101:16 103:5,9 107:9 108:21 109:6,6,16 113:6 117:23 118:12,12 126:6 133:8,15 133:19 135:13 135:19 137:2 137:10 146:7 147:10 148:4,6 148:24 159:8 159:18 165:20 167:13,16,21 168:22 169:15 171:14 173:5 176:3 178:17 timer 10:10 171:22 times 43:4 53:24 87:16 117:16 117:21 126:9 135:22 169:5 174:8 tinder-dry 154:12 Title 45:7 titled 4:4 6:8 tobacco 115:6	today 3:11,14,19 5:16,18 6:6 8:10,17,20 9:1 11:3 12:13 13:2 14:25 16:10,12 19:6 23:17 25:11 32:12 33:17 35:8,14,15 36:16 37:12,15 44:19 46:24 48:13 53:10 55:4,14 68:8 68:10 72:5 84:18 85:15 87:6 89:23 91:23 92:9,14 94:16 97:13 99:1,25 102:14 103:11 107:5 116:1 125:21 126:20 129:19 135:2 137:6,16 142:25 144:9 145:12 154:25 159:18 161:16 163:21 166:5 166:10 168:17 today's 2:14,15 3:4,9,18,23 4:7 6:3 7:2,10,10 7:13 9:5,10,13 9:13,18,20 98:8 136:7 tolerated 61:24 Tomorrow 46:10 tone 74:8 tool 144:10 toolbar 11:17 tools 54:24 144:1 179:24 tornadoes 128:24 total 29:10 52:8 110:7 121:11 totaling 90:24 totality 81:24 touches 42:5	tourism 106:14 town 16:19 33:19 59:17 60:9 79:25 105:19 154:17 166:18 towns 20:5 toxic 130:10 toxicity 129:25 130:3 131:18 toxics 31:24 TPPF 44:9 track 56:3 95:24 104:25 tracks 157:15 trade 81:21 traditional 121:24 traditionally 146:1 traditions 48:14 49:7 106:10 traffic 59:19 145:19 172:18 tragic 15:15 155:4 train 157:15 traits 20:11 trajectory 104:13 148:20 153:23 transcends 79:11 transcribing 2:15 transcript 2:19 8:3 9:22 181:7 transfers 117:22 transformative 64:19 transition 85:4 95:13 158:13 transport 86:15 transportation 3:2,17 23:20 24:3 26:8 47:18 57:12 58:4 69:4,15 70:12 77:25	88:21 94:22 117:2 119:23 138:17 144:3 166:11,19 transportatio... 110:11 trap 25:18 trapped 39:11 154:20 trauma 154:25 traumatic 160:14 traumatized 160:7 travel 107:1 travels 29:2 160:11 Traverse 147:19 treasure 174:15 treated 36:24 trees 60:3 83:19 134:10 trend 42:4 144:9 trends 17:12 127:25 Tri 75:4,15 tribal 147:18 172:16,17 trigger 65:2 triggered 75:24 90:19 trillion 103:24 121:12 trillions 24:15 103:15 105:2 tropical 16:16 52:6 69:20 trouble 12:5 Truck 59:19 trucking 44:13 46:1 95:1,24 trucks 68:14 69:13 70:4,10 94:13 164:19 true 22:15 126:20 181:7 truly 104:1 Trump 67:23 Trump's 5:7,11	trust 153:13 164:3 truth 36:15 115:8,10,11,12 try 34:17 135:5 139:18 149:24 trying 34:23 76:25 140:3 173:9 177:17 tsunami 79:25 Tucson 103:10 Tuesday 81:1 turn 2:16,17,21 2:23 6:2 9:8 11:2,8 70:12 135:25 156:11 177:9 turned 10:6 88:6 88:8,9 123:3 Turning 130:16 turnover 95:5 Turnpike 59:18 two 7:24 10:7,17 12:25 15:7 16:15 17:1 38:15 42:20 54:8 60:8 67:16 69:5 83:15,17 89:13 97:24 98:15 115:24 117:25 126:12 129:23 132:11 134:1,3 136:16 143:13 158:5 171:21 two-and-a-hal... 137:2 168:22
			U	
			U.S 1:3 14:8 24:2,8 41:1,4 41:10 45:7 51:23 52:4,16 56:11,12 57:2 57:11 62:18 67:13,15 69:10 73:24 85:16 98:4 100:9 109:9 111:6	

117:3 120:4 121:11,17 124:18 131:8 135:11 136:3 138:14,18 144:2 154:7 155:9,19,23 167:5,25 171:2 172:10,21 176:25 177:2 U.S.'s 67:10 UC 30:3 53:6 UK's 41:5 ultimate 155:22 ultimately 65:20 78:8 165:11 UN 51:18 unable 88:11 159:25 unacceptable 62:13 115:1 unachievable 95:1 unambiguous 27:22 65:6 unanticipated 164:9 unbearable 108:13 uncertain 151:9 151:10,10 uncertainties 56:19 uncertainty 167:5 unchanging 25:16 unchecked 88:2 uncle 74:11 uncomfortable 108:5 underclass 39:11 underestimat... 95:12 undermine 23:13 78:9 128:17 152:22 undermines	78:4 142:10 undermining 71:23 underpins 43:17 underreprese... 161:7 underserved 159:23 understand 20:18 73:4 understanding 85:4 understood 57:13 underway 20:19 undo 38:24 63:21 74:22 81:9 undoubtedly 28:5 unequivocal 49:18 51:17 119:16 155:7 unequivocally 28:9 153:8 unexpected 146:3 unfavorable 57:5 unfold 112:21 unfortunate 113:19 155:1 unhealthy 23:19 28:24 29:9,14 59:21 69:11 106:12 132:12 134:20 162:9 uninhabitable 43:1,6 unintended 164:9 union 15:5 United 2:3,8 5:1 23:18 37:9 62:7 71:18 82:20 90:24 107:15 112:24 universe 39:14 University 18:16	66:19 99:18 102:7 129:22 145:11 unlawful 145:5 unleash 5:12 unleashing 121:13 unmute 11:7,10 unmuting 13:13 Unpolluted 174:18 unprecedented 19:6 46:17 unpriced 38:9 unquote 74:16 unrecognizable 149:12 unreviewed 152:22 unscientific 120:22 unserious 119:13 unstable 143:22 Unsurprisingly 93:13 unworkable 78:2 updating 135:21 upgraded 106:19 upgrading 61:2 upheld 14:7,9 67:13 72:8 122:10 138:11 uphold 21:12 26:25 27:7 37:13 41:17 48:24 72:15 76:11 111:23 127:14 139:4 153:17 167:11 upholding 153:20 upholds 163:10 upward 104:13 urban 14:21 urge 19:20 21:20 22:19 24:18	26:24 30:5 31:3,8 33:9 37:12 41:17 46:4 48:23 55:4 70:9 74:21 89:7 91:20 107:5 111:23 126:20 139:4 153:16 155:3,11 156:24 167:11 urgency 86:11 urgent 36:15 158:21 urgently 66:5 urges 114:19 urging 172:21 USA 81:7 use 11:23 81:16 134:23 136:21 147:23 156:19 169:16 176:4 ushered 39:1 Usrey 39:23,24 39:25 usual 145:19 usually 42:9,11 117:23 Utah 99:18,19 utilities 85:2,12 utility 73:12 129:12 154:16	22:4 vegetables 101:18 vehicle 1:5 2:6 2:11 4:6,10,17 4:20 6:9 23:12 24:17 27:1,16 28:2 29:16 30:23 31:21,23 33:10 34:25 35:1 36:1,10 36:16,22 47:20 55:17 56:20,21 56:24 57:3 59:19 70:1,7 70:21 72:16 75:9,17 76:6 76:15,20 85:19 95:21 98:6 99:24 100:4,24 101:8 103:13 105:4 111:13 116:11 119:10 136:6 137:20 138:7,19 146:5 146:21 147:21 149:17 161:17 168:2 171:4 172:8 174:24 176:20 vehicles 4:4,9,16 14:6 20:21,21 21:22 22:6,21 23:7 24:6,7 27:21 28:1 30:7 32:2 46:24 47:4 50:14 52:24 55:20 62:10 69:6 79:4 94:18 95:4,7 101:4,20,22 102:25 121:15 127:2 144:4,12 154:21 158:13 158:14 166:8 167:3,12 172:14,18 venture 132:13
---	---	---	--	--

VEPA 144:19	146:10 147:1	85:7 112:19	87:21 101:24	weakened 46:15
verbal 2:17 7:19	virus 15:21	132:3 140:1	109:25 119:22	57:15
12:24 97:24	visibly 123:4	142:14 156:20	169:25	weakening
98:15 136:15	visit 36:6 103:4	158:8 163:6,24	waterfront	36:16 54:12
168:13	130:23	164:6 176:8	106:7	159:1 167:4
verdict 49:16	visits 36:18 76:8	wanted 179:9	waters 18:6 94:9	174:23
Vermont 16:9	117:15 131:6	wants 20:14	94:10,11 148:1	weaker 47:5
16:14 17:2	156:17	53:25 104:21	Watkins 63:10	71:16
version 8:23 9:2	vital 47:10 93:16	war 58:16	63:11	wealth 38:21
152:7	177:24	warm 32:11	wave 117:18	weaponize 80:16
versus 27:19	voice 139:16	warmed 42:3	131:2 132:8	wear 90:13
64:8,17 67:2	voices 89:22	127:21 155:8	waves 25:25	weather 15:13
91:7 122:5	140:3	warmer 106:8	52:7 106:5	16:1 19:7
veterans 174:13	volume 10:14	108:8	112:2 123:24	21:25 22:9
vetted 76:3	98:19 102:14	warming 21:18	130:18 131:7	26:2 28:15
Vice 94:12	136:23 168:20	22:8 26:20	141:9,16	34:1 50:5
Vidana 86:22,23	volunteer 121:5	28:10 32:23	way 83:7 86:16	59:14 69:16
165:24,25,25	volunteered	41:3 51:22	114:11 118:5	90:23 102:11
video 57:22,23	157:8	62:19 63:3	131:14 149:11	105:24 109:8
72:23 76:25	Vote 66:3	87:9 88:16	159:3 176:13	110:4 120:7
115:17 125:12	Voter 14:2	102:19 128:6	179:18	133:24 134:1
125:14 163:16	Voters 68:10	133:24 152:17	ways 25:6 69:5	141:23 143:22
171:14	155:17	153:8 156:3	120:14 129:23	150:25 155:24
videos 175:12	vulnerable 26:6	warned 26:6	we'll 20:20	156:6,7 163:9
view 2:20 41:7	49:9 65:17	60:20	55:11,22 62:15	weather-related
79:6	90:7 91:18	warning 10:12	68:5 76:23	111:2
viewing 12:9	94:1 141:11	109:14	89:14 142:20	webinar 12:3
viewpoints	154:18 166:15	warnings 26:20	169:11,16,22	website 7:8 8:4,5
19:23		washed 16:24	170:3 176:5	31:23 32:5
views 6:13 17:20	W	Washington	179:2	102:8 142:8
violate 80:23	wage 47:13	68:24 125:21	we're 30:18 34:2	weeds 126:6
violated 45:15	wait 117:20	126:2,8 137:16	35:20,21 61:2	week 33:3 54:18
92:15 165:12	136:24	138:3 145:10	83:12 86:23	82:10,11 87:19
violates 45:20	waited 106:18	166:5	96:22 127:2	131:2 134:6
115:2	waiting 135:20	Washingtonian	135:21 148:6,7	149:14 178:10
violation 45:5	157:20	125:20	148:7,9,16	178:13,19
45:17 51:6	waitlist 10:15	wasn't 54:8,9	149:11 150:6,9	week's 81:24
violence 141:18	98:20 168:21	104:15 122:19	150:17,24,25	weeks 107:22
violent 40:8	walk 35:23	waste 27:14	151:21 171:7,9	117:25 123:3
Virginia 39:25	109:2 176:7	87:25	172:17 173:3	132:11 134:1,4
40:6 64:17	wall 176:1	watch 36:25	177:8 179:23	162:4
87:7 88:8,20	wallets 23:14	137:25	we've 33:21,21	weight 21:17
virtual 1:3 2:3,9	Waltermire	watched 33:22	55:19 57:4	welcome 2:8 3:6
3:9,23 9:10,17	33:12,13,16,18	123:15	60:23 106:1,18	3:8 98:4 136:3
97:15 98:4	want 20:16 25:9	watching 50:12	143:12 170:19	146:3 167:24
136:4 167:25	33:4 49:24	water 16:23	175:25 178:18	171:1
171:2 180:7	55:5 58:16,17	21:14,24 22:8	weak 47:5	welfare 23:10
virtually 85:7	58:20 74:9	33:25 39:7	weaken 26:17	24:20 25:13
114:20 146:5	77:6,9 79:13	42:4 83:16	59:9 83:2	26:15 27:25

28:7 31:20	29:1,7 52:7	witnessed 60:8	92:12	169:17,22,22
36:15 38:8	54:6 60:13	60:13 80:13	world 22:8 30:8	169:23 170:3,3
40:14 56:12	68:25 69:21	Witnesses 6:14	49:12 50:2	170:4
57:11 61:10	90:10 91:3	woke 79:8	61:22 62:9	writing 6:15
91:11 122:9	116:19 117:8	women 115:25	81:25 82:5,20	written 5:21
134:24	118:6 123:2	women's 77:20	87:9 97:6	6:24 7:3,4,6
well-being 13:18	126:7 134:8	wonder 43:8	112:20 123:19	8:3 9:2,22
25:8 51:12	141:20 143:16	49:24 163:1	133:14 134:25	19:22 46:11
126:19 133:10	154:7 157:18	wonderful	135:2,10 141:3	70:23 130:13
141:1,13	162:3,11	177:16	143:5 151:11	152:8
161:23 163:25	wildfires 17:17	Woods 107:11	151:17 153:20	wrong 66:12
172:25	19:2 26:2 34:8	107:12,12	170:2	67:18 70:12
well-documen...	60:8,21 62:15	Worcester	world's 62:8,20	125:2 134:23
57:12	68:19 88:7	140:22	158:1	148:16 159:6
well-established	106:11 117:9	words 168:10	worldwide 41:4	wrong-headed
164:4	134:15 141:9	work 14:19	105:7 110:12	67:24
well-known	150:24 156:8	18:13 20:4	131:13 153:12	www.regulati...
23:15 143:19	160:13 162:3	25:6 36:7	161:2	10:23 13:3
well-proven	177:6	38:14 55:6	worried 20:13	99:3 137:7
73:8	willing 125:5	66:16,17,25	34:2 59:22	168:18
well-run 84:19	wind 73:20	76:8 77:1	133:2 162:22	wxpr.org 102:5
well-supported	169:25	82:10,14,24	162:24	
65:15	windier 162:14	84:16 86:2	worry 33:25	X
wells 14:23	window 11:19	104:17 115:7	78:6 100:12	
went 64:20	windows 132:14	115:11 122:24	worse 15:25	Y
66:20 87:15	winds 154:12	124:3 126:11	34:21 112:12	Yakima 137:15
123:12	Wineburgh-F...	140:7,16,17	123:16 132:20	138:2
west 15:21 18:20	31:13,14,16	148:11 153:3	138:3,16 149:7	Yeah 167:19
18:24 19:1	winter 17:6 52:6	156:17 157:3	151:13 154:14	170:16
64:17 110:18	102:17 106:10	163:25 166:1	worsen 52:16	year 19:3 24:11
172:2 179:8	143:17 149:2	171:11,14	69:6 132:16	29:7,8 33:24
Western 38:12	winters 106:8	172:23 174:10	166:12	34:5,8 42:17
44:13 45:25	wintertime	176:18 179:5	worsened 90:20	43:2 52:5 53:7
wet 108:9	133:25	worked 23:4	worsening 28:19	54:5,8,10,10
wetlands 106:21	wipe 15:19	69:24 73:11	54:11 70:7	55:22 61:1
Wharton 163:14	104:20	83:3,4 84:13	116:19 163:9	62:19 63:2
163:15,20,22	Wisconsin	106:20 108:20	179:16	69:18 70:1
165:22	101:18 102:6,7	125:23 157:7	worsens 25:22	71:10 90:19
whatsoever	103:5	worker 143:23	worst 15:5,9	91:3,4 103:25
66:21	wisdom 149:13	workers 38:20	36:12 87:18	104:18 105:2
wheat 125:20	wise 94:2	81:13 83:8	100:7,8 120:11	117:11,11
white 38:17	wish 9:15	103:3 138:5	138:2 148:19	120:11 134:3
47:14 49:6	wished 132:6	working 39:12	154:5	143:16 146:18
wide 20:1	wishful 47:17	53:7 57:22	worth 19:4	146:19,22,23
widely 63:23	withdraw 81:20	69:23 72:7	37:24 109:24	150:15,15
65:11	119:8 120:22	82:16 84:24	147:5	156:6 175:20
wife 87:14 88:23	145:4	115:6 122:25	wrap 10:13	176:5 177:14
160:11	witness 7:15	149:10 164:23	wreck 169:11,12	year's 69:8
wildfire 19:14	115:3	works 20:3 74:4	169:12,17,17	years 4:21 15:2
				16:16 17:2

23:4 25:15	zones 36:25	13 61:18 140:11	2006 131:5	63:2 110:5
28:23 29:10	zoom 11:15,16	140:13,19	2007 27:18 64:8	138:13 165:19
33:21 38:15	63:11,15 68:4	14 16:16 102:15	67:1	2025 1:8 4:24
40:5,6 42:10	86:23 89:14	142:21,21	2008 162:7	5:23 6:11 7:5
42:12,23 43:5	92:1 99:11	15 25:15 155:15	2009 1:4 2:5,10	8:24 102:14
49:18,21 60:12	170:8 173:13	150 62:18	4:1,5,7 5:3 6:8	107:25 131:8
61:18 65:23	178:4	15th 102:5	21:21 23:11	181:12
67:16 68:16		16 15:2 159:11	25:9 27:24	2040 131:14
83:3 84:13	0	16.5 62:9	30:6,22 31:4,9	2050 61:2 86:14
93:13 101:19	1	1612886000	31:18 36:13	111:2
102:2 105:23	1 1:19 14:23	12:4	40:11 41:9	209(a) 95:19,19
112:20 117:11	24:22 28:11	1670 1:23	43:17 44:10,21	22 1:8
121:12 122:1	39:2 69:19	17 33:21 69:19	45:11 46:3,13	22,000 175:23
123:23 126:10	97:12,18 110:6	18 60:2	47:3 49:19	22nd 5:23 7:4
137:23 141:1	121:12	180 138:14	51:13 53:12	24 16:18 120:18
143:8,14	1,000 123:6	181 1:19	54:23 55:14	120:18
154:14 157:10	176:5	182.7 52:8	57:13 85:17	25 83:5
160:23,23	1,200 93:10	190 110:5	88:14 95:16	25-year-old
165:10 174:7	143:13	1900 126:3	98:5 99:23	162:18
yields 177:8	1.1 127:22	1950s 169:4	100:3 101:7	26 60:25
York 43:9 88:6	1/2 14:24	1970 87:4	103:12 107:15	26,000 175:23
young 60:16	1:00 97:20	143:11 146:14	111:23 116:4	27 69:17
74:6,17 107:21	1:47 135:24	1970s 51:21	119:9 127:14	27th 181:12
115:24 120:13	1:55 135:18,24	1980 110:5	136:5 144:7	28 144:2
120:17 131:10	10 2:7 29:8	1982 133:23	145:15 152:6	29 24:4 69:12
146:25 151:4	42:12 83:3	1991 15:23	155:12,18	117:2
154:19 162:17	108:24 109:2	1998 30:3	157:5 158:20	
162:22,22	113:8,9 117:11	1st 3:25 6:11	161:17 164:14	3
173:1	121:12 125:10	8:24	166:6 168:1	3 39:22 42:3,6
younger 163:7	134:2 135:18	2	171:3 172:20	53:2 68:2
youth 83:21	139:16 141:1	2 7:19 13:11	174:23	89:15 94:17
120:16 126:22	169:5	24:23 37:17	2011 16:17	95:1,9 103:23
Z	10-county 13:16	55:12 98:22	2012 138:12	107:23
Zeldin 5:2 44:4	100 66:23	126:3 143:11	2017 24:2 93:9	3:15 167:17,18
80:12 104:3,21	114:25 135:9	175:15	202 4:12	167:20,23
113:15 150:8	152:25	2,000 152:4	202(a) 95:23	3:20 170:25
177:19	100-degree 19:7	2,500 24:11	2020 103:23	3:28 170:25
Zeldin's 4:24	100-plus-degree	2.1 14:23	123:2 134:18	3:30 170:13,17
104:4,22	131:2	2.5 12:24 168:13	143:11	170:24
zero 95:3 134:2	100s 33:2	2:40 167:23	2021 19:5 29:6	3:40 175:8
zero-emission	100th 110:16,24	20 43:4 112:20	55:20 110:12	3:52 175:8
20:21	102 154:6	134:2,19	117:1 128:7	3:58 1:9 180:10
zero-waste	11 127:5 135:17	162:18	132:11	30 7:20 8:8
157:8	11:55 97:19	200 116:25	2022 144:1	60:12 84:12
ZEV 95:11,13	11:59 7:5	200,000 103:24	2023 23:15 29:8	112:20 175:15
Zika 15:20	12 107:23	2000 143:12	42:15 87:14	30-second 10:12
zone 103:9	123:11 135:18	2003 30:3	88:5 90:22	321)636-4450
148:25	135:23	2004 120:17	154:5	1:25
	12.6 62:7		2024 52:3,13	32955 1:24

340 175:21	7,000 66:3			
35,000 179:7	70 101:3			
350 137:15	700 16:18			
38 60:12	70s 58:16			
	730 48:13 50:12			
4	74 128:13			
4 42:19 55:11,12	75 60:3			
57:18 59:1	76 40:5 59:17			
61:14 63:9,12	760 38:8			
68:5 92:1	78 102:14			
4.2 13:17				
4.3 111:7	8			
40 23:4 42:10	8 16:17 42:16			
172:15 174:7	102:15 150:14			
400 14:22	154:5 177:13			
400,000 109:23	80 61:1 144:3			
402 110:8	805-697-4398			
42 45:7	12:1,17			
4365 45:7	83 138:3			
45,000 55:23	84 53:22 62:20			
491 172:10				
	9			
5	9 108:24 111:16			
5 63:15 68:2	9:29 1:9			
70:14 76:23	90 120:17 134:4			
92:2 111:3	134:5			
153:10	90s 33:2			
5-seater 55:22	91 24:7			
5.6 127:23	92 90:24			
50 38:11 88:20	95 45:24 80:24			
143:8 157:9	97 21:22 152:15			
500 84:22	99 39:6			
56,000 48:3	99.9 19:24			
568 52:12				
6				
6 11:11 76:23				
86:24,24 89:13				
131:22				
6.7 111:7				
60 19:2 24:5				
40:6 48:4				
150:12				
600,000 90:18				
669-254-5252				
12:3				
7				
7 89:13,15 92:1				
96:15,15				