

FACTS ABOUT THE ENDANGERMENT FINDING

In February 2026, the Trump Administration announced it would be repealing the Endangerment Finding. It has been used to impose regulations on a variety of industries, including the auto manufacturing industry, with estimated costs exceeding \$1 trillion since its implementation.

Did you know?...

- When the Endangerment Finding's repeal was announced, the EPA [projected](#) that it would reduce the average cost of purchasing a new car by more than \$2,400.
- [According](#) to Federal Register of the National Archives, the best available data indicate that greenhouse gas emissions from light and medium-duty vehicles in the United States amounted for approximately 1.8% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2022.
- Previous administrations have at times relied on executive action rather than pursuing [legislation](#) through Congress. For example, President Obama supported cap-and-trade legislation, but it did not pass the Senate.



The Endangerment Finding was **issued** by the Obama Administration in 2009, determining that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare and may be regulated under the Clean Air Act. It served as the legal justification for several regulations, including auto emission standards, power plant emission rules, and standards for oil and gas facilities.

The Facts About The Endangerment Finding

Executive Summary

In February 2026, the Trump Administration announced it would be repealing the Endangerment Finding, an executive action that determined the federal government could regulate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act.

The Endangerment Finding has been used to impose regulations on a variety of industries, including the auto manufacturing industry, with estimated costs exceeding \$1 trillion since its implementation. With its repeal, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that removing these regulations would save Americans \$54 billion annually, including through lower costs for new vehicles.

Greenhouse gas emissions subject to regulation under the Endangerment Finding have declined steadily since World War II, and the implementation of the finding did not result in a significant decrease in greenhouse emissions beyond existing trends. Additionally, after the Supreme Court overturned the Chevron Doctrine, it's not clear whether the Endangerment Finding would withstand legal scrutiny, as it is an executive action without legislative authority.

Facts About the Endangerment Finding

- The Endangerment Finding was [issued](#) by the Obama Administration in 2009, determining that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare and may be regulated under the Clean Air Act.
- The Endangerment Finding [served](#) as the legal justification for several regulations, including auto emission standards, power plant emission rules, and standards for oil and gas facilities.
- In August 2025, the EPA [announced](#) they would review the 2009 endangerment finding, calling the effort one of the largest deregulatory actions in American history. The agency stated that repealing all greenhouse gas standards would save Americans \$54 billion annually.
- In February 2026, the White House [announced](#) that President Trump and EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin would issue a final rule rescinding the Endangerment Finding. The administration described the move as the largest deregulatory action in American history, estimating it would save the American people \$1.3 trillion in what it characterized as “crushing regulations.”
 - According to White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt, the majority of these savings would come from [reduced](#) new vehicle costs, with the EPA projecting average savings of more than \$2,400 per light-duty car, SUV and truck.

Cost of the Endangerment Finding

- Since its inception, the Endangerment Finding has served as the justification for regulations that have cost more than \$1 trillion, [according](#) to the Environmental Protection Agency.

- The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that [repealing](#) the Endangerment Finding, along with the regulation that rely on it, would save Americans \$54 billion annually by eliminating all greenhouse gas standards.
- The Endangerment Finding has been used to justify regulations that have caused increased vehicle costs, [including](#) the Biden Administration’s electric vehicle mandate, which critics argued priced new cars out of reach for millions of Americans.
- When the Endangerment Finding’s repeal was announced, the EPA [projected](#) that it would reduce the costs of purchasing a new car by more than \$2,400 on average.

The U.S. Has Continued to Decrease Greenhouse Emissions

- U.S. greenhouse gas emissions have [declined](#) since the end of World War II, and the 2009 policy change did not result in a meaningful additional reduction in emissions.
- [According](#) to Federal Register of the National Archives, the best available data indicate that greenhouse gas emissions from light- and medium-duty vehicles in the United States amounted for approximately 1.8 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2022.

Legal Status of the Endangerment Finding

- The Endangerment Finding was [issued](#) in response to Massachusetts vs. EPA, in which the Supreme Court ruled that greenhouse gases are "air pollutants" under the Clean Air Act and directed the EPA to determine whether they endanger public health and welfare. From that decision, executive branch officials relied on Endangerment Finding as the legal basis for regulation, even though the finding itself was not a law passed by Congress.
- In 2022, the Supreme Court [ruled](#) that federal agencies may not issue regulations of “vast economic and political significance” without clear authorization from Congress. In 2024, the Supreme Court [overturned](#) the “Chevron Doctrine,” holding that the courts are not required to defer to agency interpretations of ambiguous statutes when agencies claim expanded regulatory authority.

Reminder: The Endangerment Finding Was an Executive Order, Not Legislation

- Previous administrations have at times relied on executive action rather than pursuing [legislation](#) through Congress. For example, President Obama supported cap-and-trade legislation, but it did not pass the Senate. Because the Endangerment Finding is an action taken by the executive branch, it falls within the executive branch’s authority to revisit or repeal it.