



October 27, 2025

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Room 530, Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sen. Whitehouse,

I am writing in response to your letter regarding Heritage's work¹ to promote the proposed repeal of the 2009 endangerment finding by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

I want to be clear that my response is voluntary. Heritage, of course, will gladly cooperate with any valid and legally authorized oversight from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, or any other relevant committee of the United States Senate. But your letter lacks any legal authority to compel the internal work product demanded, which would squarely violate Heritage's rights under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The basic premise of your letter is that any challenge to the endangerment finding, and anti-fossil fuel policies more broadly, is obviously unscientific and immoral, and corrupt; therefore, Heritage or anyone else challenging anti-fossil-fuel policies is corrupt and in need of investigation.

But if you read our work, you would understand why our position is in fact the scientific and moral one.

As Heritage and others have argued, anti-fossil-fuel "climate policy," including but not limited to the endangerment finding, has been poisoned by the practice of *only looking for negative climate effects of fossil fuel use*, while deliberately ignoring the enormous positive climate effects as well as other contributions to human health and welfare. For a recent example, see Alex Epstein's debunking of the recent National Academy of Sciences climate "report,"² which admits to considering no climate or other positives of fossil fuels.

¹ The Heritage Foundation, *Reversing the EPA's Endangerment Finding on Greenhouse Gases*, July 30, 2025, <https://www.heritage.org/environment/report/reversing-the-epas-endangerment-finding-greenhouse-gases>.

² Alex Epstein, "The National Academies' Perversion of Science," Substack (blog), September 26, 2025, <https://alexepstein.substack.com/p/the-national-academies-perversion>.



Our view has been and remains that if you consider the full effects of fossil fuel use on climate livability, human health, and human welfare, fossil fuel use is enormously beneficial, having driven a 98% decline³ in climate-related disaster deaths over the past century—and broad, unprecedented improvements in human health and welfare.

I stand behind our research and policy proposals related to the endangerment finding. We're so proud of it, in fact, that we publish it online for the world to see and actively seek publicity for our positions.⁴ It is in no way unusual that government officials notice and utilize Heritage's work. On the contrary, that is the point. We regularly use our First Amendment rights to both criticize and support government policies—as every American is entitled to do.

Heritage proudly applauds the EPA and Administrator Lee Zeldin for reviewing the endangerment finding and hope to see it on the trash heap of other terrible Left-wing ideas very soon.

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Roberts, PhD
President

³ Alex Epstein, "The National Academies' Perversion of Science," Substack (blog), September 26, 2025, <https://alexepstein.substack.com/p/the-national-academies-perversion>.

⁴ The Heritage Foundation, *Is the Sky Falling? Reconsidering the Endangerment Finding*, May 13, 2025, <https://www.heritage.org/climate/event/the-sky-falling-reconsidering-the-endangerment-finding>.