

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

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September 2, 2025

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Wright:

We write to express our serious concerns with an irresponsible and extremely flawed draft report from the Department of Energy (DOE) entitled, “A Critical Review of Impacts of Greenhouse Gas Emissions on the U.S. Climate” (“Draft Report”).¹ The Draft Report, prepared by the Climate Working Group, severely downplays the negative impacts of rising greenhouse gas emissions and threat posed by climate change, despite overwhelming scientific consensus. You released the report the same day the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its proposal to undo the agency’s landmark Endangerment Finding. Issued in 2009, the Endangerment Finding is a scientific determination that finds that greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare, underpinning EPA’s regulation of climate pollution.² DOE’s flawed Draft Report “was reviewed and relied upon” by EPA to substantiate its proposed repeal of the Endangerment Finding.³ This bogus Draft Report is part of the Trump Administration’s extremist campaign to replace sound science with a political agenda, all to manufacture a basis for the federal government to cease protecting Americans from the harms of planet-warming pollution.

One of our primary concerns with the Draft Report is the sheer lack of a sound scientific process. In the foreword, you claim the Draft Report is meant to “provide clarity and balance” to the discussion around climate change.⁴ However, you handpicked five known skeptics of

¹ Department of Energy, *A Critical Review of Impacts of Greenhouse Gas Emissions on the U.S. Climate* (July 2025).

² Environmental Protection Agency, *Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases Under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act*, 74 Fed. Reg. 66496 (Dec. 15, 2009).

³ Environmental Protection Agency, *Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards*, 90 Fed. Reg. 36288 (Aug. 1, 2025).

⁴ See note 1.

climate science that represent a small minority of scientists with fringe beliefs to join the Climate Working Group.⁵ There is not a single representative that concurs with the overwhelming scientific consensus on climate change, violating the requirement that advisory committees are fairly balanced, and represent a range of disciplines and perspectives. This was a deliberate and pointed effort to silence the broad scientific consensus on climate change, and the echo chamber you created to draft this report violated the law governing federal advisory panels by disregarding a requirement that advisory panels be “...fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented...”⁶ A truly balanced panel requires an array of independent experts selected through a transparent process, not just like-minded individuals with ties to conservative circles. Furthermore, you inappropriately influenced the panel by directing them to draft this report with a predetermined conclusion: to “cut against the prevailing narrative that climate change is an existential threat.”⁷

In the Draft Report’s foreword, you called for an “open, respectful, and informed debate,”⁸ but it was far from an open process. This charade was developed in secret in less than two months, only to be unveiled on the very day EPA released its proposal to rescind the Endangerment Finding. Notably, the Draft Report lacked any public input or scrutiny, and the Climate Working Group failed to establish a record of thorough and rigorous independent peer review by scientific experts. Independent peer review is integral to any scientific study to ensure the information is truthful, accurate, and able to withstand the scrutiny of other experts.

In yet another attempt from the Trump Administration to bury science, the Draft Report includes a multitude of inaccuracies complete with cherry picked data and misrepresentations of prior scientific studies, all to support a predetermined conclusion. Scientists have come forward since DOE’s Draft Report was released revealing that their research was misused, taken out of context, or incorrectly cited.⁹ It is clear that the goal of this report was not to accurately assess climate science, but to deliberately mislead the American people and provide a flimsy pretext for EPA’s polluters over people agenda.

In stark contrast, EPA’s 2009 Endangerment Finding rests on a vast body of scientific evidence and extensive public input – including public hearings, over 380,000 comments, and peer-reviewed scientific research.¹⁰ EPA examined the most complete and rigorous science available at the time, like work from the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) and

⁵ *Energy Dept. Attacks Climate Science in Contentious Report*, The New York Times (July 31, 2025).

⁶ 5 U.S.C. § 1004(b)(2).

⁷ *Why I Helped Organize the Department of Energy’s Climate Report*, Cato Institute (Aug. 6, 2025).

⁸ See note 1.

⁹ *Factcheck: Trump’s Climate Report Includes More Than 100 False or Misleading Claims*, Carbon Brief (Aug. 13, 2025); *How the DOE and EPA Used and Misused My Research*, The Climate Brink (Aug. 2, 2025); *Scientists Say New Government Climate Report Twists Their Work*, Wired (July 30, 2025); *‘A Serious Misuse of My Research’: Climate Scientists Say New Trump Energy Report Botches Their Work*, NOTUS (July 30, 2025); See note 5.

¹⁰ See note 2.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Major scientific assessments continue to be released, expanding our understanding of climate change and the effect greenhouse gases have on public health and welfare.¹¹ More recently, the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) – the most comprehensive and authoritative review of the scientific evidence of climate change and its impacts and risks for the United States – was compiled over several years and authored by hundreds of experts from the federal government, academia, and the private sector. NCA5 went through several rounds of peer review from external experts, federal agencies, the public, and the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) review committee.¹²

Since 2009, the scientific evidence regarding greenhouse gas induced climate change has continued to accumulate and become stronger. New records continue to be broken for climate indicators like average surface temperatures, greenhouse gas concentrations, and sea level rise. Climate change has already had broad impacts across sectors, including food production, water resources, forestry, human health, real estate values, recreation, and tourism. Some of the most comprehensive and authoritative reports of current climate science, including the IPCC assessments and Congressionally-mandated NCA, have confirmed that climate change from greenhouse gas emissions poses a widespread risk to human health and the environment. For example, the most recent IPCC report concludes that anthropogenic climate change from greenhouse gas emissions has contributed to sea level rise, extreme weather events, worsening heat waves, and health risks.¹³ Additionally, the NCA5 confirms that climate hazards have increased in intensity and speed, reiterating the need for deeper emission reductions to stave off the worst effect of climate change.¹⁴ The evidence is clear that unchecked climate change hurts hardworking Americans through negative health outcomes, reduced wages, and property loss.

Dismissing the economic impacts of climate change and describing strong action to curb emissions as “futile,” as the Draft Report does, recklessly leaves millions of American families vulnerable to the climate crisis. The Trump Administration cannot continue to ignore the fact that climate-related extreme weather events are costing Americans their lives and their livelihoods. In 2024 alone, there were twenty-seven confirmed weather or climate disaster

¹¹ Environmental Protection Agency, *EPA’s Denial of Petitions Relating to the Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases Under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act* (Apr. 2022).

¹² Congressional Research Service, *U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP): Overview and Considerations for Congress* (updated July 2, 2025) (R48478); U.S. Global Change Research Program, Fifth National Climate Assessment Presentation (Nov. 2023).

¹³ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Sixth Assessment Report* (Mar. 2023); Natural Resources Defense Council, *EPA’s Endangerment Finding: The Legal and Scientific Foundation for Cutting Climate-Changing Pollution* (Aug. 2025) (<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/epa-endangerment-finding-fs.pdf>).

¹⁴ Natural Resources Defense Council, *EPA’s Endangerment Finding: The Legal and Scientific Foundation for Cutting Climate-Changing Pollution* (Aug. 2025) (<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/epa-endangerment-finding-fs.pdf>); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Office, *Fifth National Climate Assessment: Climate change impacts are increasing for Americans* (Nov. 2023) (<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/feed/fifth-national-climate-assessment-climate-change-impacts-are-increasing>).

events that exceeded \$1 billion in damages.¹⁵ Globally, climate change is expected to cost the world economy a whopping \$7.9 trillion by 2050 – the economic consequences are undeniable.¹⁶

Americans are already reeling from the devastating consequences of the worsening climate crisis. This past July, we saw a deadly flooding event in central Texas. And at the start of summer 2025, over 255 million Americans were subject to a life-threatening heat dome.¹⁷ Each year, extreme heat causes more deaths than any other weather-related event. These are real, devastating consequences impacting millions of Americans across the country, which the Climate Working Group ignores in the Draft Report.

The blatant disregard for the health, safety, and economic security of Americans in this reckless Draft Report is compounded by the countless harmful actions the Trump Administration has taken over the last eight months. For example, DOE has forced out thousands of staffers, which will delay key energy projects and funding owed to communities for years to come. It has terminated countless projects, and just last month, the Department of the Interior ordered an offshore wind project that New England is depending upon to maintain the reliability of its electric grid to stop construction.¹⁸ And President Trump's Big Ugly Bill rescinds much-needed funding for energy projects and will increase household utility bills by nearly \$300 per year.¹⁹

¹⁵ National Centers for Environmental Information, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters* (<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/>) (accessed Sep. 2, 2025).

¹⁶ World Resources Institute, *Rising to the Climate Change Challenge* (<https://www.wri.org/climate>) (accessed Sep. 2, 2025).

¹⁷ Center for American Progress, *Climate Change Is Subjecting More Americans to Unbearable Extreme Heat* (July 31, 2025).

¹⁸ *New England grid operator says Revolution Wind stop-work order risks reliability*, Politico Pro (Aug. 25, 2025).

¹⁹ Rapid Energy Policy Evaluation and Analysis Toolkit Project, *Impacts of the One Big Beautiful Bill On The US Energy Transition – Summary Report* (July 3, 2025); *Details emerge around surge of DOE departures*, E&E News (Apr. 21, 2025).

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Under your direction, the biased Climate Working Group concocted the one-sided Draft Report to ignore reality and reflect a small minority of scientists who deny the broad scientific consensus on the impacts and intensity of the worsening climate crisis. This dangerous and irresponsible Draft Report must be withdrawn.

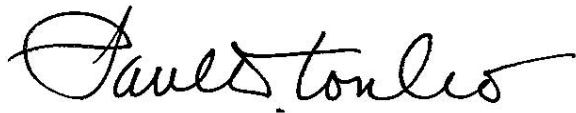
Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member



Kathy Castor
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy



Paul D. Tonko
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment