

The Abolition of Emissions Rules in the U.S. on July 29, 2025

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A colossal turning point for climate protection, or a chance for economic revival?

On July 29, 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under the leadership of Lee Zeldin, announced the repeal of key emissions regulations for vehicles and industry. This includes, most notably, the “Endangerment Finding” of 2009, which had served as the legal foundation for regulating greenhouse gases. This step, which has met with sharp international criticism, deserves—at least in my view—a rational, nuanced, and sober analysis, free from ideologically driven alarmism.

The Arguments and Potential Consequences of This Decision:

What Happened?

The “Endangerment Finding” had previously been a “scientifically and legally” sound decision by the EPA, stating that greenhouse gases pose a threat to public health and therefore must be regulated.

Based on this, the so-called “Tailpipe Standards” were established, requiring car manufacturers to develop low-emission vehicles. With the announcement of July 29, 2025, this regulatory foundation was completely withdrawn.

As a result, core regulations aimed at limiting **CO₂ emissions in the transportation sector** automatically lose their legal validity.

The EPA's Justification:

The new EPA leadership cited the following arguments for this move:

- **Cutting Red Tape and Reducing Costs:** Zeldin referred to the regulation as a “hidden tax” that had burdened businesses and consumers for years.
- **Economic Competitiveness:** The repeal is intended to strengthen American manufacturers in global markets and foster innovation.

- **Democratic Oversight:** Environmental policy should once again be shaped by Congress rather than “unelected agencies.”

Criticism and Counterarguments:

The repeal of the “Endangerment Finding” eliminates a key legal foundation introduced under the Obama administration for regulating CO₂ emissions.

This affects, in particular, the “Tailpipe Standards,” which had imposed significant additional costs on both industry and consumers in efforts to reduce vehicle emissions.

This decision is not a “scorched-earth” policy for environmental protection, but rather a return to democratic accountability:

Instead of technocratic paternalism by unelected bureaucratic institutions, climate policy is once again placed in the hands of the elected Congress. According to the Trump administration, this marks a return to political sanity—and to constitutional principles.

Economic and Social Impacts:

Industry: The U.S. auto industry welcomes the regulatory easing, as it allows a delay in investments in zero-emission technologies.

Society: The political divide between climate activists and opponents of government intervention is deepening. American environmental organizations are preparing legal challenges.

International Signal: The withdrawal of the U.S. from a widely publicized “scientifically grounded climate regime” undermines global climate protection efforts and damages the credibility of American environmental policy.

Why the Trump Administration Believes This Step Is Right:

1. Deregulation and Personal Responsibility:

The previous regulations functioned as a hidden tax, particularly burdening the middle class and low-income earners through more expensive vehicles, rising energy costs, and innovation-stifling mandates. Repealing these rules opens up space for technological development without

government micromanagement.

2. Protecting America's Industrial Base:

American companies regain the freedom to develop competitive technologies independently, without being constrained by rigid guidelines. In an era of global competition—especially with China—this move is seen as a necessary boost for national industry.

3. Skepticism Toward Climate Dogma:

The scientific discourse on climate is more complex than some activists would suggest. A one-sided focus on CO₂ emissions as the sole metric for environmental policy ignores other ecological and economic factors. The “Endangerment Finding” was ideologically charged from the beginning and served less to protect the environment than to expand the EPA’s power.

Critical Voices and Their Weaknesses:

While environmental groups warn of health risks and a “climate collapse,” it remains unclear how a single regulatory step in a technologically advanced country could cause such globally catastrophic consequences.

Often, political and ideological motives are at the root of the criticism—frequently coupled with the desire to expand state control.

Even the much-cited figure of **“200,000 preventable deaths”** is based on models with significant uncertainties and questionable assumptions. Turning away from such speculative scenarios is not only justifiable, but—**in my opinion—also necessary.**

International Dimension - An Overdue Change in Course

With this decision, the U.S. sends a clear message:

Climate policy must no longer serve as a tool for global equalization, whereby Western industrialized nations weaken themselves through overreaching regulations.

Germany, in particular, should take a close look:

It is not a sign of “backwardness” when a sovereign nation prioritizes its industrial policy interests over imposed and unrealistic climate goals. It is simply **common sense.**

A Return to Realpolitik

The repeal of U.S. emissions regulations is **not a “colossal step backward,”** but an example of balanced environmental and economic policy. It lays the groundwork for a growth-oriented, technology-open future—without ideological blinders.

Europe, and especially Germany, would do well to learn from this **de-ideologization of environmental policy.**

What is needed is a policy once again grounded in **practical reason, democratic oversight, and economic viability**—not one that continues down a path toward bankruptcy driven by globalist wishful thinking.

Conclusion:

The abolition of emissions rules in the U.S. in 2025 is not just a technical adjustment, but a **symbol of a fundamental shift** in U.S. climate policy. While short-term economic relief is emphasized, critics warn that the long-term costs for health, the environment, and international credibility could be significant.

The U.S. once again stands at a crossroads:

Between urgently needed economic pragmatism and an ideologically driven sense of ecological responsibility.

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Kind regards,

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