

Resolution No. _____
City of Laredo, State of Texas

**Resolution urging the Environmental Protection Agency to continue to enforce the
Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding and Motor Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Standards**

WHEREAS, on July 29, 2025, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed to rollback its 2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding and all motor vehicle greenhouse gas standards; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Endangerment Finding that a mix of six greenhouse gases endangers public health and welfare represents one of the most thoroughly vetted scientific determinations in EPA's history. In the intervening 16 years, the scientific evidence has only grown stronger; and

WHEREAS, the Endangerment Finding is a legal prerequisite for regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, allowing EPA to reduce harmful pollution from power plants, cars and trucks, and oil and gas operations. If the Finding is rescinded, the increase in emissions and resulting climatic impacts will be devastating; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo, as the largest port of entry in the Western Hemisphere with the majority of trade occurring with tractor-trailer transport with approximately between 14,000 and 18,000 commercial trucks crossing two international bridges **daily** and with approximately between 11,000 and 13,000 non-commercial vehicular traffic crossing three international bridges **daily**, is poised to see an exponential rise of gas emissions if the regulations of greenhouse gases are dismantled; and

WHEREAS, the combustion of fossil fuels such as gasoline and diesel to transport people and goods was the largest source of CO₂ emissions in 2022, accounting for 35% of total U.S. CO₂ emissions and 28% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. This category includes domestic transportation sources such as highway and passenger vehicles, air travel, marine transportation, and rail (source: [epa.gov](https://www.epa.gov/ghg-reports/2022-ghg-emissions)); and

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo to this day depends solely on the Rio Grande river for its potable water, a river that has been named by the American Rivers as 5th on the 2025 list of America's Most Endangered Rivers® in the United States due to its declining flows from extreme heat and prolonged drought, believed to be exacerbated by a warming climate, and growing demand. Flows have been reduced by more than 30% in recent decades, according to the latest International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) data. Today, less than one-fifth of the river's flows reach the Gulf (source: americianrivers.org); and

WHEREAS, diesel and gas engine emissions are harmful, increasing the risk of asthma, respiratory illnesses, heart disease, and cancer, particularly for children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing conditions. Immediate effects can include eye, nose, throat, and lung irritation, headaches, and nausea, while chronic exposure is linked to more severe outcomes like heart attacks, lung cancer, and reduced lung function. These pollutants also contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, which further harms respiratory health and eco-systems; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo has a vested interest in protecting the public health of its citizens, as they bear the burden of these pollution impacts in order that the economic prosperity of the nation is enabled by Laredo's Port operations. The observable impacts of climate change are no longer distant projections. To suggest that this vast and ever-growing body of scientific evidence is now invalid is to reject objective reality and would require EPA to ignore overwhelming scientific consensus and its own prior determinations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo recognizes that consideration of local government impacts is entirely within EPA's purview under the Clean Air Act, and yet the EPA fails to consider—or even mention—local government interests in this Proposal while also failing to address key factual findings underlying the Endangerment Finding and Motor Vehicles Standards,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the City of Laredo, Texas, urges the Environmental Protection Agency to continue to uphold the Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding and Motor Vehicles Greenhouse Gas Standards without delay, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager or City Clerk, no later than September 21, 2025, shall submit this Resolution as allowed by EPA's comment-gathering process to <https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0194-0093>.

PASSED AND ADOPTED as a resolution of the City Council of the City of Laredo, State of Texas, at its regularly scheduled meeting held on September 15, 2025.