

Town Council

Jan Zabriskie, Mayor

Anna Klovstad, Vice Mayor

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Becky Bucar, Public Works Director/Town Engineer

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Nicole Casey, Administrative Services Director

Kelly Carpenter, Town Clerk

Hilary Hobbs, Neighborhood Services & Sustainability Director

August 27, 2025

Re: Comment on Reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards

The Town of Truckee is a town of approximately 17,000 residents located at 6,000 feet in elevation in California's Sierra Nevada region. Our region is already experiencing serious ecological, health, and economic impacts from climate change. These catastrophic impacts are projected to intensify in the coming years unless we collectively undertake significant efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions—at the local, national and global levels. The proposed reconsideration of the 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards would run counter to empirical scientific evidence and would reverse our national progress toward emissions reduction. The EPA must uphold science-based policymaking and reject the proposed reconsideration of the endangerment finding.

Truckee has taken significant climate mitigation and adaptation steps at the local level, including converting our municipal fleet to electric and renewal diesel-powered vehicles, investing in building decarbonization, adopting a climate action plan, and procuring the majority of Truckee's electricity from renewable sources. We recognize that our local action and investments are paramount to the preservation of our community, considering the devastating climate change impacts we are already experiencing. We also view our local actions as working in partnership with the federal government's regulatory actions; meaningful progress to reverse the impacts of climate change are stalled absent EPA efforts to regulate GHG emissions.

Truckee has warmed an average of 2.0° F over the last 80 years when we compare the historical 30-year period (1937-1966) and the recent 30-year period (1987-2016). There are now eight fewer days per year below freezing, and the number of days above 90° F has increased by 10 days per year. Average snowfall has already declined by 15%. If greenhouse gas emissions continue at current levels globally, Truckee's average temperature is expected to rise an additional 5-7 degrees by the 2050s and 8-11 degrees by the 2080s.ⁱ

Experts project that catastrophic climate impacts will continue to intensify in Truckee, impacting our residents' physical health, our environment, and local economy. These impacts include increasing temperatures, changing precipitation patterns resulting in increased potential for extreme winter storms with long-term trends of reduced snowpack, soil moisture, and water supply, increases in extreme weather events, and increasing incidence of wildfire. Extreme weather-related climate impacts, including the increasing incident and severity of wildfire and atmospheric river events, are interrupting

the reliability of local power supply, supply chains, business activities, and stressing our emergency response capability. More intense atmospheric river storms and periodic shortages in runoff and water supply, as well as substantial changes in runoff patterns and timing, impact the region. This will affect groundwater recharge as well as water supply in downstream communities.ⁱⁱ

The Town of Truckee’s 2020 Climate Change Adaptation Plan identified the following climate vulnerabilities and anticipated impacts by 2080, if GHG emissions are not significantly reduced:

- **Declining Snowpack** – April snowpack is expected to decline by 84-96%
- **Wildfire and Smoke** – Wildfire area could increase by 21-72%
- **Loss of Nature** – About half of native habitat in the Sierra could become marginal
- **Rain-on-Snow** – Rain-on-snow events could become twice as frequent, causing significant flooding
- **Pests and Disease** – Pests and disease could spread, affecting people and crops
- **Larger Storms** – The amount of precipitation in the largest storms could increase 5-30%
- **Severe Heat** – Truckee could experience 32-57 more days/year above 90° F
- **Drought** – Drought stress could increase by 44-78%ⁱⁱⁱ

It is important to also recognize the economic impacts that result from climate change in our region. In Truckee, outdoor recreation—especially snow sports like skiing—are the backbone of our tourism-based economy, which generates \$244 million in annual visitor spending and approximately 1,600 jobs in Truckee alone. State-wide, snow activities accounted for \$693 million of California’s GDP in 2023, according to the US Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis.^{iv} Temperature rise and the loss of reliable snowpack stand to devastate our region’s winter visitor economy. A 2023 Scripps Institution of Oceanography study projected that, by 2100, increased rainfall due to climate change will wash out the snowpack at California ski resorts below 10,000 feet in elevation, which includes all ski resorts in the Truckee region and all but three resorts state-wide.^v

The rescission of the Endangerment Finding would run counter to science, public health, and legal precedent. It would reject decades of empirical evidence and would risk irreversible environmental, societal and economic harm. Therefore, the EPA must uphold science-based policymaking and reject the proposed reconsideration of the endangerment finding.

Sincerely,



Jan Zabriskie
Mayor



Anna Klovstad
Vice Mayor

ⁱ Geos Institute, *Climate Ready Truckee: A Climate Change Adaptation Plan*, July 2020

ⁱⁱ California Natural Resource Agency, *California’s Fourth Climate Change Assessment: Sierra Nevada Region Report*, August 2018

ⁱⁱⁱ Geos Institute

^{iv} US Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account- California, 2023*

^v Shulgina, Tamara, et al., “Observed and projected changes in snow accumulation and snowline in California’s snowy mountains,” *Climate Dynamics* Volume #61 (2023), pages 4809–4824