Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

AAFA Statement

EPA Endangerment Finding Repeal

In response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) repeal of the 2009 Endangerment Finding regarding greenhouse gas emissions, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) issued the following statement, which may be attributed to AAFA President and CEO Kenneth Mendez:

"The repeal of the 2009 Endangerment Finding and Greenhouse Gas Vehicle Standards puts the interests of polluters and their profits over people's health. On behalf of the 100 million people in the U.S. with asthma and/or allergies, AAFA formally opposed this repeal. Our research consistently demonstrates that climate change, which is accelerated by greenhouse gas emissions, is detrimental to the health of all people, and especially those with asthma, allergies, and other respiratory conditions. Between 9 and 11 people die each day from asthma, and air pollution is a top asthma trigger. The EPA's action today endangers public health by increasing the chances of emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and even death due to asthma episodes."

Background:

The 2009 Endangerment Finding determined that greenhouse gas emissions threaten public health and welfare and serve as the scientific and legal foundation for federal limits on climate pollution under the Clean Air Act. These protections have helped reduce emissions from major sources such as vehicles and power plants, which are significant contributors to air pollution linked to asthma episodes and other respiratory harms.

AAFA submitted formal comments and testified in opposition to EPA's proposal, urging the agency to follow the science and uphold its mission to protect human health. Climate change is already worsening air quality across the United States through higher ozone levels, longer and more intense pollen seasons, increased wildfire smoke, and extreme heat. These impacts fall hardest on children, older adults, people with asthma and other respiratory conditions, and communities that are already overburdened by pollution.