



August 21, 2025

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,  
EPA Docket Center, OAR Docket, Mail Code 28221T  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460

Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0194

Sent via electronic submissions on the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

Re: Comments responding to the proposal to rescind the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding

To Whom It May Concern,

These comments are submitted in response to the EPA's recent proposal to reconsider and rescind the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this issue.

As the largest food recovery organization in New England (both in terms of pounds diverted from landfills, as well as towns and people reached through our deliveries, Spoonfuls' work is intrinsically connected to and informed by this and other data indicating the importance of reducing harmful emissions – in our case from wasted food. To date, Spoonfuls has prevented over 40 million pounds of good food from going to waste, delivering it to community-based food programs (such as pantries) across Massachusetts that in turn provide it to neighbors in need.

Almost one-third of food in the United States goes unsold or uneaten every year<sup>1</sup>. Food waste accounts for about 21% of the waste stream in Massachusetts<sup>2</sup>. As that food rots in landfills, it

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<sup>1</sup><https://refed.org/food-waste/the-problem/>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-organics-action-plan-november-2023/download>

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emits greenhouse gases (GHGs) including carbon dioxide and methane<sup>3</sup>. In the U.S., unsold and uneaten food consumes 4% of greenhouse gas emissions<sup>4</sup>.

During the first Trump Administration, critical steps were taken to reduce food waste by launching the Winning at Reducing Food Waste Initiative in 2018 (now known as the Federal Interagency Collaboration to Reduce Food Loss and Waste), releasing the Winning on Reducing Food Waste Strategy in 2019<sup>5</sup>, and implementing food loss and waste policies that were authorized for the first time in the 2018 Farm Bill. In 2021, the Biden-Harris administration released the Methane Emissions Reduction Action Plan<sup>6</sup>, which recognized the importance of curbing methane emissions to reduce the harmful effects of GHGs on climate change. This plan also acknowledged the role that food waste plays in emissions and proposed food waste reduction measures including ones that aligned with the previously mentioned initiatives launched by the Trump administration and that support food security efforts, make the most of the resources we have, and support greenhouse gas emissions reduction, like the food recovery work done by organizations like Spoonfuls. In 2024, USDA, FDA, and EPA built on all of this progress by publishing the National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics<sup>7</sup>. A recent brief from the Center for a Healthy America at the America First Policy Institute aligned with the goals of these initiatives when it stated that “Government and the private sector must collaborate to reduce food loss and waste.”<sup>8</sup>

At Spoonfuls, we want to see the momentum gained from these initiatives continue. Food waste reduction efforts can support food security and nutrition programs, create jobs and positive

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<sup>3</sup> US EPA, 2022 <https://www.epa.gov/lmop/basic-information-about-landfill-gas>

<sup>4</sup> ReFED 2024, [https://refed.org/food-waste/the-problem/#what\\_is\\_the\\_impact](https://refed.org/food-waste/the-problem/#what_is_the_impact)

<sup>5</sup> *Winning on Reducing Food Waste: FY 2019-2020 Federal Interagency Strategy*, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (April 2019),

[https://19january2021snapshot.epa.gov/sites/static/files/2019-08/documents/interagency\\_strategy\\_on\\_reducing\\_food\\_waste\\_final.pdf](https://19january2021snapshot.epa.gov/sites/static/files/2019-08/documents/interagency_strategy_on_reducing_food_waste_final.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Methane Emissions Reduction Action Plan,

<https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/US-Methane-Emissions-Reduction-Action-Plan-1.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> *National Strategy For Reducing Food Loss and Waste*, THE WHITE HOUSE (June 2024),

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/NATIONAL-STRATEGY-FOR-REDUCING-FOOD-LOSS-AND-WASTE-AND-RECYCLING-ORGANICS.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup>

<https://www.americafirstpolicy.com/issues/america-first-policy-institute-releases-new-brief-urging-reform-of-federal-nutrition-programs>



economic impacts<sup>9</sup>, and protect the environment by reducing activities that lead to emissions caused by and related to food waste and the harmful effects of those emissions. Plans and policies aimed at reducing emissions can help to bring about progress across all of these areas by laying a foundation for emission-reduction approaches tied to food waste reduction. Rescinding the EPA's 2009 endangerment finding, however, would hinder this progress as it would set a precedent to potentially undermine other legal tools that support protective climate policy related to food waste and other sources of GHG emissions.

Given the large and growing body of scientific evidence supporting the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding<sup>10</sup>—which has also been upheld by the courts<sup>11</sup>—we urge the EPA to maintain the endangerment finding and its related regulations. Doing so is essential to protect people and the planet, and it will ensure that there is a supportive policy foundation for our food recovery work and for other effective solutions to reduce food loss and waste and support the economy.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and recommendations. Please reach out if you have any questions for Spoonfuls or want to further discuss the information we have shared here.

Sincerely,  
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Spoonfuls

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<sup>9</sup> [Microsoft PowerPoint - 2025 MA DEP Commercial Organics Waste Ban SWAC 6.26.2025 Presentation](#)

<sup>10</sup>

[https://library.edf.org/AssetLink/l228foh2g3g08x4qe6r8yh7tn4170ca6.pdf?\\_gl=1\\*4k2gax\\*\\_gcl\\_a\\_u\\*NDQyOTU3MjA4LjE3NTQ1ODYxOTY.\\*\\_ga\\*MTY1NTk5MzA4Ni4xNzU0NTg2MTk3\\*\\_ga\\_2B3856Y9QW\\*cze3NTQ1ODYxOTYkbzEkZzEkdDE3NTQ1ODc1MzUkajYwJGwwJGgw](https://library.edf.org/AssetLink/l228foh2g3g08x4qe6r8yh7tn4170ca6.pdf?_gl=1*4k2gax*_gcl_a_u*NDQyOTU3MjA4LjE3NTQ1ODYxOTY.*_ga*MTY1NTk5MzA4Ni4xNzU0NTg2MTk3*_ga_2B3856Y9QW*cze3NTQ1ODYxOTYkbzEkZzEkdDE3NTQ1ODc1MzUkajYwJGwwJGgw)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.edf.org/overview-epa-endangerment-finding>

