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*for Healthy Environments et al. (Additional*  
6 *Plaintiffs and Counsel Listed on Signature Page)*

7  
8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10 ALLIANCE OF NURSES FOR HEALTHY )  
ENVIRONMENTS, AMERICAN LUNG )  
11 ASSOCIATION, AMERICAN PUBLIC )  
HEALTH ASSOCIATION, AMERICAN )  
12 THORACIC SOCIETY, CENTER FOR )  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, CITIZENS )  
13 FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S FUTURE, )  
CLEAN AIR COUNCIL, CLEANAIRE NC, )  
14 CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION, )  
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND, )  
15 GEORGIA INTERFAITH POWER & )  
16 LIGHT, MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL )  
COUNCIL, NATURAL RESOURCES )  
17 DEFENSE COUNCIL, NORTHEAST OHIO )  
18 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE CENTRE, )  
19 RIO GRANDE INTERNATIONAL STUDY )  
CENTER, SAVANNAH RIVERKEEPER, )  
20 and SIERRA CLUB, )

21 Plaintiffs, )

22 v. )

23 LEE M. ZELDIN, Administrator, United )  
States Environmental Protection Agency, in )  
24 his official capacity, )

25 Defendant. )  
26  
27  
28

Civil Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY  
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

**INTRODUCTION**

1  
2 1. Congress entrusted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA” or “Defendant”) with the profound obligation of ensuring that all Americans breathe clean air. Yet EPA has  
3 refused to carry out one of its essential duties that Congress mandated to achieve this objective—  
4 the designation of areas where levels of air pollution violate federal clean air standards and thus  
5 seriously threaten public health. EPA’s unlawful refusal to take this nondiscretionary action is  
6 depriving communities across the country of the Clean Air Act’s most fundamental protections.  
7

8 2. Plaintiffs Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, American Lung Association,  
9 American Public Health Association, American Thoracic Society, Center for Biological  
10 Diversity, Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future, Clean Air Council, CleanAIRE NC, Conservation  
11 Law Foundation, Environmental Defense Fund, Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, Michigan  
12 Environmental Council, Natural Resources Defense Council, Northeast Ohio Community  
13 Resilience Centre, Rio Grande International Study Center, Savannah Riverkeeper, and Sierra  
14 Club bring this action for declaratory judgment and injunctive relief to compel Defendant Lee M.  
15 Zeldin (“Administrator”), in his official capacity as the EPA Administrator, to carry out his  
16 overdue legal obligation to officially identify, via publication in the Federal Register, those areas  
17 of the country that are suffering from dangerous levels of fine particulate matter pollution, a  
18 necessary step toward bringing those areas into compliance with federal clean air standards by  
19 legally mandated deadlines.

20 3. Millions of Americans are currently being exposed to unhealthy concentrations of  
21 particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less, also known as fine particulate  
22 matter or PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution can cause cardiovascular disease, respiratory  
23 disease, cancer, and premature death.

24 4. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to establish health-based national ambient air quality  
25 standards to limit the amount of particulate matter allowed in the outdoor air. Areas with  
26 pollution levels that violate these standards must clean up their air, and areas whose emissions  
27 contribute to poor air quality in downwind communities must reduce those emissions.  
28

1 5. On February 7, 2024, based on extensive scientific study, EPA strengthened the health-  
2 protective primary national ambient air quality standard for PM<sub>2.5</sub> by adopting a final rule setting  
3 the annual limit at 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) (“the 2024 standard”). EPA’s  
4 promulgation of this final rule on February 7, 2024, triggered the Administrator’s non-  
5 discretionary duty to “promulgate the designations of all areas” of the country as meeting (“in  
6 attainment of”) or not meeting (“in nonattainment of”) the strengthened standard within two  
7 years—*i.e.*, by February 7, 2026—and to publish notice of such promulgation in the Federal  
8 Register. 42 U.S.C. § 7407(d)(1)(B)(i), (d)(2)(A).

9 6. The statutory deadline for EPA’s non-discretionary duty has passed and the  
10 Administrator has not yet promulgated designations for all areas of the nation. EPA’s failure to  
11 meet the deadline that Congress prescribed violates the Clean Air Act and deprives Plaintiffs and  
12 their members of the health and other protections to which they are entitled. Plaintiffs thus seek  
13 declaratory relief and an order to compel the Administrator to complete the mandatory  
14 designation process forthwith.

### 15 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

16 7. This action arises under the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7407(d). This Court has  
17 jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a)(2) and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1361.  
18 This Court may grant the relief Plaintiffs request pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a) and 28 U.S.C.  
19 §§ 2201, 2202, and 1361. Plaintiffs have a right to bring this action pursuant to the Clean Air  
20 Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a)(2); 28 U.S.C. § 1361; and the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C.  
21 §§ 701-706.

22 8. By certified letter to the Administrator posted on February 10, 2026, Plaintiffs provided  
23 notice of this action as required by 42 U.S.C. § 7604(b)(2) and 40 C.F.R. Part 54. More than 60  
24 days have elapsed since Plaintiffs provided such notice, and the Administrator has continued his  
25 failure to complete the mandatory designation process.

26 9. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e) because a) Plaintiff Sierra Club  
27 maintains its principal place of business in this district; b) this district is one in which Defendant  
28 EPA resides and performs its official duties; and c) a substantial part of the events and omissions

1 giving rise to this claim has occurred and is occurring in this district because Defendant’s failure  
2 to act as complained of herein threatens the health of district residents, including members of  
3 Plaintiffs (as further detailed herein), and because EPA’s Regional Office in San Francisco,  
4 California, has a substantial role in implementing the nondiscretionary duties at issue in this case.

5 10. Pursuant to Civil L.R. 3-2(c), (d), this case is properly assigned to the San Francisco or  
6 Oakland Division of this Court because Plaintiff Sierra Club’s National Headquarters is located  
7 in Oakland, California, and Defendant EPA’s Region 9 Office is located in San Francisco,  
8 California.

9 **PARTIES**

10 11. Plaintiff **Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments** (“ANHE”) is a national  
11 nonprofit organization based in Maryland that works with nurses and nursing organizations  
12 across the country at the intersection of health and the environment. ANHE supports nurses in  
13 promoting planetary health and equity globally by educating and leading the nursing profession,  
14 advancing research, incorporating planet-safe practice, and influencing policy.

15 12. Plaintiff **American Lung Association** is a corporation organized and existing under the  
16 laws of Maine. American Lung Association is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to a  
17 world free of lung disease and to saving lives by preventing lung disease and promoting lung  
18 health. Its Board of Directors includes pulmonologists and other health professionals.

19 13. Plaintiff **American Public Health Association** is a nonprofit organization incorporated  
20 in Massachusetts, and has members from all fields of public health. Its issues include those  
21 affecting personal and environmental health and pollution control, chronic and infectious  
22 diseases, and health equity.

23 14. Plaintiff **American Thoracic Society** is an international, nonprofit medical-professional  
24 organization organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York. Its members  
25 protect public health by preventing and treating respiratory disease, critical care illness, and  
26 sleep-disordered breathing through research, education, care, and advocacy.

27 15. Plaintiff **Center for Biological Diversity** is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation  
28 incorporated and existing under the laws of the State of California, with its main California

1 office in Oakland. The Center for Biological Diversity has over 93,000 members throughout the  
2 United States and the world. The Center for Biological Diversity’s mission is to ensure the  
3 preservation, protection, and restoration of biodiversity, native species, ecosystems, public lands  
4 and waters, and public health through science, policy, and environmental law. Based on the  
5 understanding that the health and vigor of human societies and the integrity and wildness of the  
6 natural environment are closely linked, the Center for Biological Diversity is working to secure a  
7 future for animals and plants hovering on the brink of extinction, for the ecosystems they need to  
8 survive, and for a healthy, livable future for all of us.

9 16. Plaintiff **Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future** is a nonprofit organization that works to  
10 aid the transition to a clean energy economy in Pennsylvania and beyond; to protect our air,  
11 water, and land; and to empower citizens to build sustainable communities for future  
12 generations.

13 17. Plaintiff **Clean Air Council** (“CAC”) is a nonprofit, membership-based organization  
14 dedicated to protecting and defending everyone’s right to a healthy environment, including  
15 everyone’s right to breathe clean air. CAC is headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with  
16 offices in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Wilmington, Delaware.

17 18. Plaintiff **CleanAIRE NC** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in  
18 Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. CleanAIRE NC works to protect the health of all North  
19 Carolinians through community-centered strategies to address air pollution, environmental  
20 injustice, and climate change. CleanAIRE NC partners with schools, healthcare systems, and  
21 community organizations to educate the public on the health impacts of air pollution, conducts  
22 Health Impact Assessments, and operates air monitoring programs to identify and address health  
23 risks from air pollution.

24 19. Plaintiff **Conservation Law Foundation** is a nonprofit, membership-supported  
25 corporation organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.  
26 Conservation Law Foundation’s mission is to protect New England’s people, natural resources,  
27 and communities, by working to promote renewable energy and fight air and water pollution;

1 build healthy fishing communities and protect marine habitat; and fight sprawl, promote public  
2 transit and public health.

3 20. Plaintiff **Environmental Defense Fund** is a national nonprofit corporation organized and  
4 existing under the laws of the State of New York. It links science, economics, and law to create  
5 innovative, equitable, and cost-effective solutions to society’s most urgent environmental  
6 problems.

7 21. Plaintiff **Georgia Interfaith Power & Light** (“GIPL”) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit  
8 organization headquartered in Decatur, Georgia. GIPL’s mission is to inspire and equip  
9 communities of faith to promote environmental justice, sustainability, and the stewardship of  
10 Creation. GIPL partners with more than 350 congregations across the state of Georgia,  
11 representing a wide variety of faiths, and has over 150 congregationally-based member Green  
12 Teams working in partnership to advance GIPL’s objectives.

13 22. Plaintiff **Michigan Environmental Council** (“MEC”) is a statewide environmental  
14 nonprofit organization founded in 1980 and based in Lansing, Michigan. MEC has over 100  
15 member groups and a collective membership of over 300,000 people who live, recreate, and  
16 consume energy in Michigan. On behalf of its members, MEC advocates at the local, state, and  
17 federal level for lasting protections of its members’ health and economic well-being, as well as  
18 protections for Michigan’s air, water, and land. This includes promoting policies that protect  
19 Michigan residential utility ratepayers, increase adoption of clean energy sources, reduce  
20 harmful pollution, and address the causes of climate change.

21 23. Plaintiff **Natural Resources Defense Council** (“NRDC”) is a national nonprofit  
22 environmental membership organization, incorporated and existing under the laws of the State of  
23 New York, with hundreds of thousands of members nationwide. NRDC’s purpose is to safeguard  
24 the Earth—its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends.  
25 Part of NRDC’s core mission is to improve air quality and protect public health by combatting  
26 air pollution.

27 24. Plaintiff **Northeast Ohio Community Resilience Centre** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit  
28 organization headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, and established in 2011. Its mission is to create

1 equity in the African American community by addressing the cumulative impact of racial,  
2 economic, environmental and social justice inequities in education, employment, housing, and  
3 health, including health disparities caused by air pollution, by working to educate, advocate for,  
4 and empower the community.

5 25. Plaintiff **Rio Grande International Study Center** (“RGISC,” pronounced “risk”) is a  
6 chartered nonprofit organization headquartered in Laredo, Texas, and founded in January 1994.  
7 RGISC is a frontline environmental advocacy group dedicated to using science, data, people  
8 power, and creative actions to preserve and protect the Rio Grande-Rio Bravo watershed, local  
9 ecosystems, and its people. RGISC pushes for a positive vision of our South Texas border region  
10 via research, public awareness campaigns, grassroots building, signature community events, and  
11 advocacy for local ordinances and policymaking.

12 26. Plaintiff **Savannah Riverkeeper** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in  
13 Richmond County, Georgia, with additional offices in South Carolina and coastal Georgia.  
14 Savannah Riverkeeper works to protect and restore the 400-mile Savannah River and its 10,577-  
15 square-mile watershed through advocacy and education, tackling water, soil, and air pollution to  
16 sustain a healthy river for communities and ecosystems across the Savannah River basin.  
17 Through its Healthy Communities of Augusta initiative, Savannah Riverkeeper works to make  
18 the Augusta metropolitan area healthier and reduce the disproportionate industrial pollution  
19 burdens borne by Augusta residents by collaborating with stakeholders in the fields of education,  
20 healthcare, transportation, agriculture, and faith communities.

21 27. Plaintiff **Sierra Club** is a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of  
22 the State of California, with its headquarters located in Oakland, California. It is dedicated to the  
23 protection and enjoyment of the environment.

24 28. Collectively, Plaintiffs have over 1.5 million members, with members living, working,  
25 worshipping, and engaging in outdoor activities in all 50 states.

26 29. Defendant Lee M. Zeldin is the Administrator of the EPA. In that role, he is charged with  
27 the duty to uphold the Clean Air Act and to take required regulatory actions according to the  
28 schedules established therein. Administrator Zeldin is sued in his official capacity.

**STATUTORY AND REGULATORY BACKGROUND**

1  
2 30. Congress enacted the Clean Air Act “to protect and enhance the quality of the Nation’s  
3 air resources so as to promote the public health and welfare and the productive capacity of its  
4 population.” 42 U.S.C. § 7401(b)(1). One “primary goal” is “pollution prevention.” *Id.* § 7401(c).  
5 Congress found the Act to be necessary in part because “the growth in the amount and  
6 complexity of air pollution brought about by urbanization, industrial development, and the  
7 increasing use of motor vehicles, has resulted in mounting dangers to the public health and  
8 welfare.” *Id.* § 7401(a)(2).

9 31. Central to the Act is the requirement that EPA establish national ambient air quality  
10 standards for certain widespread air pollutants that endanger public health and welfare, referred  
11 to as “criteria pollutants.” *Id.* §§ 7408-7409. One criteria pollutant is particulate matter. *See* 40  
12 C.F.R. §§ 50.7, 50.13, 50.18, 50.20.

13 32. The national ambient air quality standards establish allowable concentrations of criteria  
14 pollutants in the outdoor air. Primary standards must be set “requisite to protect the public  
15 health,” including that of sensitive populations such as people with asthma, children, and older  
16 adults. 42 U.S.C. § 7409(b)(1). EPA must review and, as appropriate, revise these standards at  
17 least every five years. *E.g., id.* § 7409(d)(1).

18 33. After EPA sets or updates a standard, the implementation process begins. Within one  
19 year of the standard’s promulgation, states and Tribes must provide EPA with any  
20 recommendations for initial area designations, which classify all areas within the state or tribal  
21 land as “nonattainment,” “attainment,” or “unclassifiable” under the standard. *Id.*  
22 § 7407(d)(1)(A). A nonattainment area is one that does not meet the standard or that “contributes  
23 to ambient air quality in a nearby area that does not meet” the standard. *Id.* § 7407(d)(1)(A)(i).  
24 An attainment area is an area that meets the standard and does not contribute to a violation of the  
25 standard in a nearby area. *Id.* § 7407(d)(1)(A)(ii). An “unclassifiable” area is “any area that  
26 cannot be classified on the basis of available information as meeting or not meeting” the  
27 standard, and is treated for regulatory purposes as an attainment area. *Id.* §§ 7407(d)(1)(A)(iii),  
28 7471.

1 34. Then, “as expeditiously as practicable, but in no case later than” two years after  
2 promulgating or revising a standard, “the Administrator shall promulgate the designations of all  
3 areas (or portions thereof) submitted” by states and Tribes. *Id.* § 7407(d)(1)(B)(i); *see also id.*  
4 §§ 7601(d)(1), 7602(d). If a state or Tribe does not submit recommendations for an area, the  
5 Administrator still must promulgate a designation for that area. *See id.* § 7407(d)(1)(B)(ii). The  
6 Administrator must “publish a notice in the Federal Register promulgating” these required  
7 designations. *Id.* § 7407(d)(2)(A).

8 35. The two-year deadline to promulgate designations “may be extended for up to one year”  
9 for certain areas, but only if “the Administrator has insufficient information to promulgate the  
10 designations” for those areas. *Id.* § 7407(d)(1)(B)(i).

11 36. In deciding how to promulgate these designations, the Administrator may modify a state  
12 or Tribe’s recommendations, but if he intends to do so, the Administrator must notify the state or  
13 Tribe at least 120 days in advance of promulgating the designation. *Id.* § 7407(d)(1)(B)(ii).

14 37. A nonattainment designation triggers requirements for states to ensure that air quality in  
15 nonattainment areas will attain the applicable standards by specified deadlines. *Id.* §§ 7410(a),  
16 (c), 7502, 7513(c), 7513a; 40 C.F.R. pt.51, Subpart Z. Among the protections is a  
17 preconstruction permitting program, which requires large new and modified factories and power  
18 plants in nonattainment areas to comply with the most protective emission limits and to secure  
19 reductions in air pollution from other sources sufficient to at least fully offset the new pollution  
20 they will introduce. 42 U.S.C. §§ 7502(c)(5), 7503. Each state must adopt a “state  
21 implementation plan” that includes all the protections Congress required for nonattainment areas  
22 and any specific measures the state determines should be implemented to address local sources  
23 of air pollution contributing to elevated particulate matter levels. *Id.* § 7410(a)(2)(I).

24 38. The requirements—and deadlines—for states to adopt the specific programs Congress  
25 mandated to control harmful emissions in nonattainment areas depend on the areas being  
26 designated nonattainment. *See, e.g., id.* §§ 7502(b), (c), 7503.

27 39. When the Administrator fails to perform a non-discretionary duty, such as the duty to  
28 promulgate and publish designations of all areas no later than two years after adopting an

1 updated national ambient air quality standard, the Clean Air Act authorizes any person to bring  
2 suit to compel the Administrator to perform the overdue non-discretionary duty. *Id.* § 7604(a)(2).

### 3 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

4 40. EPA updated the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards most recently on February 7, 2024, strengthening the  
5 primary annual standard by limiting the maximum annual average level of PM<sub>2.5</sub> allowed in the  
6 ambient air to 9.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, averaged over three years, down from the 12.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup> allowed under  
7 the prior version of the primary annual standard. Mem. from Joseph Goffman, Ass't Adm'r,  
8 EPA, at 1 (Feb. 7, 2024)<sup>1</sup>; *see also* Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality  
9 Standards for Particulate Matter, 89 FR 16,202 (Mar. 6, 2024).

10 41. EPA's promulgation of the 2024 standard was based on substantial scientific evidence  
11 regarding health impacts from exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution, including "quantitative exposure/risk  
12 analyses." 89 FR at 16,203. This body of evidence demonstrates that there is a "causal  
13 relationship between long- and short-term exposures and mortality and cardiovascular effects"  
14 and that there is "likely to be a causal relationship between long-term exposures and respiratory  
15 effects, nervous system effects, and cancer." *Id.* This body of evidence also demonstrates that  
16 "health effects can occur over the entire distribution of ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations evaluated,"  
17 as the "epidemiologic studies conducted to date do not identify a population-level threshold  
18 below which it can be concluded with confidence that PM<sub>2.5</sub>-associated health effects do not  
19 occur." *Id.* at 16,238.

20 42. Based on this evidence, EPA's independent Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee  
21 unanimously concluded that the previous annual standard of 12.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup> was "not sufficiently  
22 protective of public health." *Id.* at 16,253, 16,275.

23 43. EPA's promulgation of the 2024 standard was also informed by "strong evidence" that  
24 there are "racial and ethnic disparities in PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposures and PM<sub>2.5</sub>-related health risk." *Id.* at  
25 16,235. In particular, EPA found there is "evidence of health risk disparities for both Hispanic  
26

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>1</sup> Available at [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-02/pm-naaqs-designations-memo\\_2.7.2024-\\_jg-signed.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-02/pm-naaqs-designations-memo_2.7.2024-_jg-signed.pdf).

1 and non-Hispanic Black populations compared to non-Hispanic White populations for cause-  
2 specific mortality and incident hypertension.” *Id.* EPA’s risk assessment also demonstrated that  
3 “disparities by race and ethnicity persist even at an alternative standard level of 8  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .” *Id.* at  
4 16,251.

5 44. EPA estimated that implementation of the 2024 standard would yield up to \$46 billion in  
6 net benefits for public health, including “up to 4,500 avoided premature deaths, 800,000 avoided  
7 cases of asthma symptoms, and 290,000 avoided lost workdays (in 2032).” EPA, *Final Rule to*  
8 *Strengthen the National Air Quality Health Standard for Particulate Matter, Fact Sheet 1* (Feb.  
9 7, 2024).<sup>2</sup>

10 45. EPA’s strengthening of the  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  standard on February 7, 2024, triggered the  
11 Administrator’s non-discretionary duty to promulgate air quality designations for all areas of the  
12 country—via publication in the Federal Register—as expeditiously as practicable, but no later  
13 than February 7, 2026. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 7407(d)(1)(B)(i), (d)(2)(A).

14 46. Some 45 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 3  
15 Tribes submitted designation recommendations to EPA. *See* Earthjustice, *Assessing 2024  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$*   
16 *Standard Implementation So Far: Who’s on Track to Get Clean Air and Who’s Left Behind 7-8*  
17 (Nov. 2025), [https://earthjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/ej\\_pm2.5-](https://earthjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/ej_pm2.5-whitepaper_final_v5.pdf)  
18 [whitepaper\\_final\\_v5.pdf](https://earthjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/ej_pm2.5-whitepaper_final_v5.pdf).

19 47. They did so with ample guidance from EPA regarding what kind of information it needed  
20 to make final designations. *See, e.g.,* EPA, *Particle Pollution Designations Memorandum and*  
21 *Data for the 2024 Revised Annual  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  NAAQS* (last updated Feb. 4, 2026),  
22 [https://www.epa.gov/particle-pollution-designations/particle-pollution-designations-](https://www.epa.gov/particle-pollution-designations/particle-pollution-designations-memorandum-and-data-2024-revised#B)  
23 [memorandum-and-data-2024-revised#B](https://www.epa.gov/particle-pollution-designations/particle-pollution-designations-memorandum-and-data-2024-revised#B).

24 48. As of the February 7, 2026, statutory deadline, the Administrator had not promulgated  
25 designations under the 2024 standard for all areas of the country, as required by the Clean Air  
26 Act.

27  
28 <sup>2</sup> Available at <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-02/pm-naaqs-overview.pdf>.

1 49. As of the date of this filing, the Administrator has not promulgated a single designation  
2 under the 2024 standard for any area. The Administrator also has not notified any state or Tribe  
3 that he intends to modify any of their recommended designations pursuant to 42 U.S.C.  
4 § 7407(d)(1)(B)(ii). Nor has EPA attempted to extend its now-passed deadline pursuant to 42  
5 U.S.C. § 7407(d)(1)(B)(i).

6 50. More than 75 million of the roughly 335 million people in the United States live in the  
7 hundreds of counties where the most recent official EPA data reveals that PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution levels  
8 violate the 2024 standard, including urban areas like Atlanta, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Los Angeles,  
9 Pittsburgh, and San Jose, yet EPA has failed to take legally required action to drive their  
10 compliance with the 2024 standard. *See* EPA, *PM<sub>2.5</sub> Design Values, 2024 (xlsx)* (June 3, 2025),  
11 [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-06/pm25_designvalues_2022_2024_final_05_28_25.xlsx)  
12 [06/pm25\\_designvalues\\_2022\\_2024\\_final\\_05\\_28\\_25.xlsx](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-06/pm25_designvalues_2022_2024_final_05_28_25.xlsx); *see also* Earthjustice, *Assessing 2024*  
13 *PM<sub>2.5</sub> Standard Implementation So Far: Who's on Track to Get Clean Air and Who's Left*  
14 *Behind* 8.

#### 15 **PLAINTIFFS' INJURIES**

16 51. Plaintiffs' members include individuals who live, work, worship, travel, and/or recreate  
17 in areas where air quality violates or has recently violated the 2024 PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard, including  
18 areas that state governors have recommended be designated nonattainment, but for which the  
19 Administrator has failed to promulgate designations in the Federal Register in the timeframe  
20 required by 42 U.S.C. § 7407(d)(1)(B)(i) and (d)(2)(A), including in cities like Atlanta,  
21 Charlotte, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, and Pittsburgh.

22 52. The acts and omissions of the Administrator alleged herein harm Plaintiffs' members by  
23 prolonging air quality conditions that adversely affect or threaten their health, and by nullifying  
24 or delaying measures and procedures mandated by the Act to protect their health from PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
25 pollution in places where they live, work, worship, travel, and/or recreate. Indeed, PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels  
26 that exceed the 2024 standard can cause Plaintiffs' members and staff to suffer from adverse  
27 health effects such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease, and  
28

1 cancer—causing physical problems that force them to limit activities that they would otherwise  
2 be able to do and enjoy.

3 53. The acts and omissions of the Administrator alleged herein harm Plaintiffs' members  
4 even in areas with air quality that does not violate the 2024 standard. As explained above, studies  
5 have found no safe level of PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution—it can cause adverse health effects even in  
6 communities that comply with the 2024 standard. 89 FR at 16,238. In addition, PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution  
7 can be transported long distances. *See, e.g., EPA v. EME Homer City Gen., 572 U.S. 489 (2014)*  
8 (considering EPA rule governing interstate transport of fine particulate matter). Thus, the  
9 pollution controls required due to nonattainment area designations can and will result in air  
10 pollution reductions even in areas meeting the 2024 standard, and those reductions will benefit  
11 Plaintiffs' members in both nearby and farther downwind areas.

12 54. The acts and omissions of the Administrator alleged herein also harm Plaintiffs'  
13 members' welfare interests—including their recreational, aesthetic, spiritual, educational, and  
14 professional interests—because their reasonable concerns about the health effects of their PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
15 exposure diminish their enjoyment of activities they engage in or would like to continue to  
16 engage in, and of areas they visit or would like to continue to visit.

17 55. The acts and omissions of the Administrator alleged herein further deprive Plaintiffs and  
18 their members of procedural opportunities to protect these concrete interests, opportunities to  
19 which they would otherwise be entitled, including, but not limited to, the right to judicially  
20 challenge final PM<sub>2.5</sub> designations adversely affecting their members, the right to enforce  
21 requirements of the Act for preparation and implementation of plans to remedy violations of the  
22 2024 PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard in nonattainment areas and prevent violations in attainment areas, and the  
23 right to comment on and judicially challenge such plans.

24 56. The acts and omissions of the Administrator alleged herein also hamper certain Plaintiffs'  
25 ability to perform certain programmatic functions essential to their missions, such as ensuring  
26 that states put in place the public health and environmental protections that accompany  
27 nonattainment designations, and educating the public about these protections.

28

1 57. Accordingly, the health, recreational, aesthetic, procedural, and organizational interests of  
2 Plaintiffs and their members have been and continue to be adversely affected by the acts and  
3 omissions of the Administrator alleged herein.

4 58. A court order requiring the Administrator to promptly promulgate and publish notice of  
5 air quality designations for all areas, as the law requires, would redress Plaintiffs' and Plaintiffs'  
6 members' injuries.

7 **CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

8 59. The allegations of all foregoing paragraphs are hereby incorporated as if set forth fully  
9 herein.

10 Violation of the Clean Air Act

11 60. The Administrator was required to promulgate air quality designations for all areas of the  
12 country under the 2024 PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard via publication in the Federal Register "as expeditiously  
13 as practicable, but in no case later than" February 7, 2026. 42 U.S.C. § 7407(d)(1)(B)(i),  
14 (d)(2)(A).

15 61. The Administrator failed to carry out his non-discretionary duty of promulgating  
16 designations for all areas in the country by the statutory deadline of February 7, 2026, publishing  
17 no notices in the Federal Register promulgating any such designations.

18 62. As of the filing of this Complaint, the Administrator has not promulgated designations for  
19 any areas in the country, similarly publishing no notices in the Federal Register promulgating  
20 any such designations.

21 63. The Administrator's failure to promulgate designations, via publication in the Federal  
22 Register, constitutes a "failure of the Administrator to perform any act or duty under this chapter  
23 which is not discretionary" within the meaning of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a)(2), and  
24 thus a violation of the Act. The Administrator's violation of this non-discretionary duty is  
25 ongoing and will continue unless remedied by this Court.

26 64. In the alternative, even if the Administrator's duty to promulgate designations were  
27 distinct from his duty to publish notice in the Federal Register promulgating such designations,  
28 the Administrator has failed to complete each such duty, each constitutes a "failure of the

1 Administrator to perform any act or duty under this chapter which is not discretionary” within  
2 the meaning of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a)(2), and is thus a violation of the Act. The  
3 Administrator’s violation of these non-discretionary duties is ongoing and will continue unless  
4 remedied by this Court.

5 **RELIEF REQUESTED**

6 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court:

- 7 (1) Declare that the Administrator’s failure to timely promulgate air quality designations for  
8 all areas of the country under the 2024 national ambient air quality standard for fine  
9 particulate matter, via publication in the Federal Register, by the deadline established by  
10 42 U.S.C. § 7407(d)(1)(B)(i) constitutes a “failure of the Administrator to perform any  
11 act or duty under this chapter which is not discretionary” within the meaning of 42 U.S.C.  
12 § 7604(a)(2);
- 13 (2) Enjoin the Administrator from continuing to violate the above-described non-  
14 discretionary duty;
- 15 (3) Order the Administrator to promulgate air quality designations for all areas of the country  
16 under the 2024 national ambient air quality standard for fine particulate matter via  
17 publication in the Federal Register forthwith;
- 18 (4) Retain jurisdiction to ensure compliance with the Court’s decree;
- 19 (5) Award Plaintiffs the costs of this action, including attorneys’ fees; and,
- 20 (6) Grant such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.
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1 Dated: April 13, 2026

2 Respectfully submitted,

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28 <sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Civil L.R. 5-1(i)(3), I attest that all other signatories have concurred in the filing of this document.

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