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**ATTORNEY GENERAL MADIGAN OPPOSES ILLEGAL FEDERAL ROLLBACK OF PROTECTIONS FROM HARMFUL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

***U.S. EPA Proposal Would Discard Sensible Regulations to Prevent Leaks of Climate-Damaging Pollutants from Common Appliances Across the Nation***

**Chicago** — Attorney General Lisa Madigan, along with a coalition of 15 states, opposed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) illegal proposal to roll back important protections from harmful greenhouse gas pollution.

In [comments sent to the EPA](#), Madigan and the coalition said that the agency's plan to throw out a rule designed to protect against the release of extremely potent greenhouse gases, such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), is unlawful and poses a serious threat to public health and the environment. HFCs, which are commonly used in refrigeration, air-conditioning, insulation, fire extinguishing systems and aerosols, are thousands of times more potent for global warming than carbon dioxide and are the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States and globally.

"The U.S. EPA's proposed rollback will increase greenhouse gas emissions, endanger the environment and cost businesses more money," Madigan said. "The EPA's approach flies directly in the face of common sense."

In 2016, the Obama Administration adopted a rule requiring that technicians maintain appliances and repair leaky appliances to prevent emissions of HFCs. The 2016 rule also requires that technicians undergo certain technical training and certification requirements. The requirements help protect the climate from damaging HFC emissions and reduce emissions of chemicals that harm the ozone layer.

Last month, the EPA published its proposal to roll back the rule, claiming that the agency does not have the authority to require maintenance and leak-repair for appliances that contain HFCs. The EPA also sought comment on whether it should roll back its technician training and certification programs. Madigan and the coalition said in their comments that the EPA has ample authority under the federal Clean Air Act to enforce these requirements and that failing to do so would contribute to global climate change, which is already causing forest fires, heat waves, increasing sea-levels, and other impacts that are imposing significant harm on states. The EPA failed to provide any reasoned basis for changing its 2016 position.

The EPA is also proposing to illegally delay the scheduled Jan. 1, 2019, deadline for regulated businesses to comply with certain requirements while the agency finalizes its rollback of the rule. Madigan and the coalition said that agencies cannot delay a rule simply because it is under reconsideration, and that the EPA has failed to explain why industry needs additional time to come into compliance.

In addition, Madigan and the coalition said the EPA failed to fully consider the costs of its rollback, including the harmful effects of greenhouse gas emissions. In this regard, leaks of HFCs will increase costs to businesses by causing appliances to run less efficiently and more expensively and increase the likelihood of extremely costly appliance failures. As the coalition points out in the comments, many regulated businesses supported the rule's requirements in 2016 and have committed to reducing HFC emissions. The proposed rollback, Madigan and the coalition said, will actually increase uncertainty for regulated businesses by "undermining a sensible, comprehensive regulatory program in the name of dubious cost savings."

Joining Madigan in submitting the comments were the attorneys general of California, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington, as well as the California Air Resources Board and Minnesota by and through its Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

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