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EPA Puts National Pollution Limits for Carbon Back on the Table

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The Environmental Protection Agency reversed a Trump administration January decision and is again considering nationwide caps on carbon.

The EPA told environmental groups in a [letter](#) Thursday it was withdrawing the Trump EPA's decision to reject their 2009 petition for national air pollution limits for greenhouse gases.

- The action could “enact the most consequential protection we’ve ever had for our climate,” Maya Golden-Krasner, deputy director of the Center for Biological Diversity’s Climate Law Institute, said in a statement.
- In the letter, Acting EPA Administrator Jane Nishida said the agency “did not fully and fairly assess the issues raised by the petition. The EPA intends to further consider the important issues raised by your petition before responding.”
- The Center for Biological Diversity and 350.org filed a [petition](#) asking that the EPA “declare carbon dioxide a ‘criteria’ air pollutant pursuant to the Clean Air Act” and set a limit for the gas under National Ambient Air Quality Standards at no more than 350 parts per million. Former EPA head Andrew Wheeler [denied](#) the petition on President Donald Trump’s last day in office.