Many of the current federal regulations that protect our air, water, and land are derived from agency rulings and capacity to make rules. If the U.S. Supreme Court strikes down *Chevron* deference, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules against pollutant emissions that benefit the planet—and the economy—are at risk. The following highlights just some of the benefits that environmental regulations provide to everyday Americans, and what the Supreme Court is putting at risk.

**Regulatory environmental benefits to everyday Americans:**

- The economic benefits of environmental regulations outweigh the costs 30 to 1. Further, international studies reflect that, compared with maintaining the status quo, enacting rules aiding the transition to lower emissions will lead to 2.3 percent higher gross domestic product growth, 85 million more jobs around the globe, and two times more workers in renewable energy—significantly boosting the economy. Other empirical studies refute the false contentions that stringent environmental regulations negatively affect the economy; rather, they boost economic production, with long-term positive effects.

- It was projected in 2011 that in 2020, clean air regulations would prevent 230,000 premature deaths, 200,000 heart attacks, 5.4 million lost school days, and 17 million lost workdays.

**Regulations at stake:**

- **Oil and gas plant methane rule:** This regulation, finalized and promulgated on December 2, 2023, tightens rules against methane flaring and leaking at oil and gas plants. Methane is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide, and reductions are critical to meeting goals of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius to abate catastrophic climate change. Eliminating *Chevron* deference would give courts more leeway to strike down this rule, allowing more of this extremely potent greenhouse gas to leak into the atmosphere.

- **Light- and heavy-duty vehicles emissions standards:** The EPA is expected to issue updated emissions standards for both light-duty vehicles and heavy-duty vehicles, such as commercial trucks and buses, in 2024. These standards are
different from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s fuel efficiency rules, the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards, and are a critical tool for limiting emissions of carbon and other pollutants—some of the largest contributors to climate change. Losing Chevron deference would threaten a critical component of the EPA’s ability to limit greenhouse gas emissions, severely setting back the fight against climate change.

- **Fossil fuel power plant emissions standards:** The EPA is expected in April 2024 to finalize its power plant emissions standards regulation, which is tailored to comply with the major questions doctrine created by the U.S. Supreme Court in *West Virginia v. EPA*. The rule will help significantly reduce greenhouse gas and particulate pollution from fossil fuel power plants but would be threatened by a decision striking down Chevron deference; conservative jurists and advocates have long been hostile to the EPA’s exercise of Clean Air Act Section 111 authority, which is what empowers the EPA to establish this new rule.

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**Endnotes**


5 Dechezleprêtre and Sato, “The Impacts of Environmental Regulations on Competitiveness.”


9 Ibid.


13 Ibid.


17 Gunasekara, “Environmental Protection Agency.”