

Attorney General Jon Bruning was joined by 11 other states in filing a motion to intervene in a challenge to the Environmental Protection Agency's recent endangerment finding for greenhouse gases.

On Dec. 15, 2009, the EPA released a final endangerment finding that concluded that atmospheric concentrations of six greenhouse gases are sufficient to constitute air pollution that endangers public health.

The agency also reported that new motor vehicles contribute four greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, nitrous oxide, and HFCs) and contribute to the endangering pollution.

"This finding is the first step toward expansive regulation of greenhouse gases that will adversely affect states and their economies," Bruning said.

On Feb 17, Alabama, Texas and Virginia filed separate petitions challenging the finding.

Several other groups, including members of Congress, trade groups, nongovernmental organizations, and industries have also filed challenges. The District of Columbia Circuit Court has consolidated all of these cases.

"This finding will result in unprecedented regulation of industry in the state of Nebraska," Bruning said. "This additional layer of oversight will hamstring the agricultural industry, not to mention small businesses, when they are just starting to recover economically."

"The EPA does not have the authority to impose such a burden," Bruning said.

In addition to Nebraska, 11 other states have joined.

