



June 15, 2015

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
United States House of Representatives
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
United States House of Representatives
2407 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Morgan Griffith
United States House of Representatives
1108 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
United States House of Representatives
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I write in support of H.R. 2042, the *Ratepayer Protection Act*. The legislation would safeguard electricity consumers from the resulting rate hikes expected from the Environmental Protection Agency's forthcoming rules on greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing power plants.

Electricity costs are a prominent concern for small business owners. According to the NFIB Research Foundation's 2012 *Small Business Problems and Priorities* survey, the cost of electricity was ranked number 12 out of 75 issues, ahead of other major problems like cash flow and poor earnings.

NFIB members expect the EPA's forthcoming rules will cause electricity rates to rise substantially. In addition, the uncertainty regarding how the rules will affect the cost and availability of electricity will deter small businesses planning for expansion and job growth.

H.R. 2042 would address these concerns in two important ways. First, it would extend the time for states to have their implementation plans approved by the EPA until after all court challenges to the rule are completed. This would help ensure that states do not waste taxpayer resources in the event the rule is overturned. Second, the bill would allow states to forgo implementing a state or federal plan that the state's governor, in consultation with other relevant state officials, determines would have a significant adverse effect on retail, commercial, or industrial ratepayers; or the reliability of the state's electricity system.

The *Ratepayer Protection Act* is a commonsense solution to ensuring that small businesses are not negatively impacted by the EPA's rules. We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you to ensure H.R. 2042 is enacted.

Sincerely,

Amanda Austin
Vice President
Public Policy