



**2025**  
END-OF-YEAR

# ENERGY POLICY UPDATE

Electricity demand in the continental United States [twice broke peak records](#) in July of this year. At the same time, the U.S. is producing more oil than any other nation in history, according to the Energy Information Administration. Ultimately, this increase in production has not been enough to satisfy rising demand. Additionally, overly restrictive policies have sought to mandate less efficient and more costly energy sources and products. Americans are using more energy than ever, and this new reality is hitting small businesses hard.

Affordable and reliable energy is a necessity for small businesses. This year, NFIB has played an active role in supporting federal legislation to reduce costs and red tape for small businesses and energy producers.

In June, NFIB supported [H.J. Res 88](#), which passed Congress and was signed into law by President Trump. Before the passage of this bill, California's waiver authority under the Clean Air Act allowed the state to impose a de facto electric vehicle (EV) mandate that extended beyond the state's borders, affecting millions of small businesses nationwide. If it had not been stopped, 100% of all new vehicle sales would have been required to be zero-emissions by 2035 in over a dozen states.

NFIB has also supported the [Energy Choice Act](#), which prohibits state and local governments from banning energy services based on the type or source of energy. This legislation will prevent one-size-fits-all mandates from wreaking further havoc on small businesses and their local economies.

Yet, true energy abundance will only come about once we reform the bureaucratic and antiquated regulatory system that hinders domestic production. Reforms to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are especially

needed, as the U.S. economy demands more energy for advanced manufacturing, AI, and data storage. NFIB is supportive of the [SPEED Act](#), which is currently working its way through the U.S. House of Representatives and would expedite permitting reviews under NEPA.

Finally, this year Congress has reasserted its necessary role in the regulatory process, passing numerous resolutions to repeal burdensome regulations. Doing so removed many onerous rules, such as one that [increased the cost of consumer gas-fired](#) instantaneous water heaters, another that established a [methane fee](#) for oil and natural gas production, and others that [limited energy production](#) in states such as [Alaska](#), [Montana](#), and [North Dakota](#).

In repealing these regulations, Congress recognized that the needs of consumers and small businesses in Los Angeles may differ from those in Des Moines, for example, and our nation's regulatory approach must balance these differences.

Yet, there is still much work to be done. The DOE estimates that overall energy demand will increase between 35% and 45% over the next ten years. They further believe that power outages could increase by 100 times in 2030 if the U.S. continues to take reliable power offline due to renewable mandates and other energy restrictions.

Unleashing America's full energy potential is a complex task, but NFIB is up for the challenge. We know that doing so will boost energy production and fuel small business expansion. Energy abundance will be a boon for small businesses, their employees, and their customers.

NFIB will continue to work with the administration and Congress on bold action to seize this

opportunity and encourage the affordable, reliable, and American energy that will continue fueling our nation's economy.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE ACTION NOW

- ▶ [Support affordable and reliable energy](#)
- ▶ How are energy costs impacting your small business? Share your story [here](#).