



June 22, 2015

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Capito:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I write in support of S. 1324, the *Affordable Reliable Electricity Now Act of 2015*. 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.

S. 1324 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 *Affordable Reliable Electricity Now Act of 2015* 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 S. 1324 is enacted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Austin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amanda Austin
Vice President
Public Policy