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September 3, 2025

The Honorable Troy Downing
U.S. House of Representatives
1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Downing:

On behalf of NFIB, the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I write in support of H.J. Res. 104, which would repeal a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) rule that significantly restricted energy development in Montana. Repealing this BLM rule opens up potential energy development on more than 1.7 million acres of land in Montana that can create jobs and lower energy costs for small businesses across the country.

In NFIB's most recent *Problems and Priorities* survey, small businesses ranked the cost of natural gas, propane, gasoline, diesel, and fuel oil as their 6th most pressing issue and electricity costs ranked 10th.¹ In a recent NFIB member ballot, 88% of NFIB members agreed that Congress should "streamline regulations to facilitate the production and transport of oil, natural gas, and other energy sources in the United States."²

The Biden administration's last second arbitrary BLM restrictions were intended to tie the hands of US energy producers. These restrictions would reduce supply and increase production costs for energy developers that would be passed on to small businesses and consumers in the form of higher energy costs.

NFIB supports H.J. Res. 104 to repeal this burdensome BLM rule. We look forward to working with you on policies that reduce production costs and makes energy more affordable and reliable for small businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Bertolotti", with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Louis A. Bertolotti
Principal, Federal Government Relations
NFIB

¹ Holly Wade & Madeline Oldstone, Small Business Problems & Priorities, NFIB Research Center, July 2024. <http://bit.ly/40uXas5>.

² NFIB Member Ballot, Mandate, vol. 582., March 2023, *Should Congress streamline regulations to facilitate the production and transport of oil, natural gas, and other energy sources in the United States?* (Yes: 88% No: 6% Undecided: 6%)