



To: Members of the Senate Committee on Licensing, Regulatory Reform, State and Federal Affairs; Assembly Committee on Government Operations, Accountability, and Transparency
From: Luke Bacher, State Director
Date: October 9, 2025
Subject: Support for AB 274 / SB 277, AB 275 / SB 276, AB 276 / SB 275, AB 277 / SB 289

Chairpersons and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the Red Tape Reset legislative package.

I am here today representing members of the NFIB (National Federation of Independent Business). Here in Wisconsin, we have over 10,000 members, which includes many members from each legislative district. In fact, 95% of NFIB Members have 10 employees or less and represent every industry from family farms to manufacturers to small-town main street store fronts.

NFIB strongly supports these reforms because they address a long-standing challenge that affects every entrepreneur in our state: the burden of outdated, duplicative, and unchecked regulation.

Running a small business means navigating a complex web of rules and requirements -- many of which have been on the books for decades without review or justification. These regulations often create confusion, increase costs, and slow innovation. The Red Tape Reset package offers a common-sense solution: it restores legislative oversight, improves transparency, and ensures that every rule earns its place.

Why This Matters to Small Businesses:

- **Predictability and Clarity:** AB 274 / SB 277 introduces a seven-year sunset review for every chapter of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. This gives small businesses confidence that the rules they follow are current, necessary, and justified—not burdensome relics of a bygone era.
- **Fairness in Legal Challenges:** AB 275 / SB 276 ensures that if a small business successfully challenges an invalid rule, they can recover attorney fees. This levels the playing field and encourages accountability in government rulemaking.
- **Transparency from the Start:** AB 276 / SB 275 requires one rule per scope statement, preventing agencies from using vague or overly broad authority to expand regulations without public input. This helps small businesses understand what's coming and respond accordingly.



- **Balanced Growth:** AB 277 / SB 289 establishes a net-zero regulatory budgeting system. It's a smart approach that forces agencies to offset new costs by eliminating outdated rules—just like we do in business when we introduce new expenses.

Wisconsin ranks 44th in GDP growth and 42nd in business growth. That's a warning sign. We need to modernize our regulatory framework to compete with pro-business states that are attracting investment and expanding opportunity. The Red Tape Reset is a commonsense step in the right direction.

On behalf of small business owners in Wisconsin, I urge you to support this package. It empowers citizens, strengthens oversight, and creates a more dynamic and responsive regulatory environment—one that works for businesses, workers, and communities across Wisconsin.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke Bacher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "L" and "B".

Luke Bacher
State Director
NFIB