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March 17, 2026

The Honorable Dan Sullivan  
United States Senate  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sullivan:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business, I write in support of S.3135, the *Cold Weather Diesel Reliability Act of 2025*. This bill would repeal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines that can trigger automatic diesel engine shutdowns in cold weather. This legislation is an important step in lowering energy costs and increasing productivity for small businesses across the whole country.

NFIB represents approximately 300,000 small businesses across the United States. 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 6<sup>th</sup> most pressing issue.<sup>1</sup> In a recent NFIB member ballot, 96% of NFIB members opposed Congress restricting the purchase of consumer products based on their energy source.<sup>2</sup>

Current EPA emissions system rules mandate that engines shut down when diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) does not reach certain operating temperatures. This mandate is intended to reduce emissions. However, DEF freezes at 12 degrees Fahrenheit. In cold weather states like Alaska, where temperatures can fall below 12 degrees for extended periods of time, these rigid rules negatively impact small businesses and consumers. Moreover, an engine shutdown can cause serious harm to farmers or truck drivers who could be left stranded in remote locations in sub-zero temperatures.

S. 3135 directs the EPA to update its regulations to account for how DEF engines operate in colder weather, to prevent automatic shutdowns. This legislation is a commonsense approach that will eliminate a one-size-fits-all mandate and give more flexibility to truckers, farmers, and small businesses that use diesel fuel in cold climates.

NFIB supports repealing this burdensome rule which unnecessarily harms diesel engine reliability and increases energy costs for small businesses. We look forward to working with you to advance this bill and help ensure continued American energy dominance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis A. Bertolotti".

Louis A. Bertolotti  
Principal, Federal Government Relations  
NFIB

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

<sup>2</sup> NFIB Member Ballot, Mandate, vol. 583., September 2023, *Should the federal government ban or restrict the purchase of consumer products like new gas-powered vehicles and equipment or natural gas cooktops?* (Yes: 96% No: 2% Undecided: 2%)