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June 1, 2026

The Honorable Russ Fulcher
U.S. House of Representatives
514 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Fulcher:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business, I write in support of H.R. 1687, the *Committing Leases for Energy Access Now (CLEAN) Act*. This legislation passed the 118th Congress with broad bipartisan support, and we are excited to see it reintroduced this year.

NFIB represents approximately 300,000 small businesses across the United States. Our recent energy survey showed that nearly all our members (80%) are finding energy costs to be a “significant” or “very significant” factor in operating their business.¹ Unsurprisingly, NFIB member ballots confirm near-universal support for to streamlining regulations on the production and transportation of energy.² Antiquated permitting processes and costly litigation can delay and cancel development projects. Small businesses understand this overly complex process is holding our economy back.

As energy demand continues to increase across the country, Congress must ensure an environment where energy producers are able to provide small businesses with affordable and reliable energy. One of the sectors with the most potential for growth is geothermal. The Department of Energy reports that installed geothermal capacity increased 8% from 2020 to 2024.³ Even still, the country has tapped only approximately 10% of what is estimated geothermal electricity market potential.⁴

Accordingly, Congress can eliminate red tape and help lower energy prices by making it easier to develop geothermal plants. Nearly 90% of viable geothermal resources are estimated to be located on federal lands.⁵ The *CLEAN Act* would improve the *Geothermal Steam Act of 1970* by requiring annual lease sales for geothermal energy. Increased diversification of our energy portfolio will only help to strengthen America's status as a rising energy superpower.

¹ Holly Wade, Peter Hansen, and Madeline Oldstone, Small Business Energy Survey, *NFIB Research Center*, February 2026. <https://www.nfib.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/NFIB-2026-Energy-Survey.pdf>.

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%)*

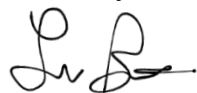
³ “2025 U.S. Geothermal Market Report,” *U.S. Department of Energy*. <https://www.energy.gov/hgeo/geothermal/market-report>.

⁴ “Geothermal Energy Factsheet,” *University of Michigan's Center for Sustainable Systems*. 2025. <https://css.umich.edu/publications/factsheets/energy/geothermal-energy-factsheet>.

⁵ Fulcher, Russ. “Geothermal: the Future Ahead.” *Congressional Western Caucus*. 26 September 2023. <https://westerncaucus.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=4424>.

Small businesses know that we need to get increase the energy supply in order to lower prices for consumers. NFIB is proud to support the *CLEAN Act*, and looks forward to working with you to advance this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Bertolotti', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Louis A. Bertolotti
Principal, Federal Government Relations
NFIB