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September 15, 2026

The Honorable Vince Fong
U.S. House of Representatives
243 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Fong,

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I write in support of H.J. Res. 210, to repeal an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule requiring ocean-going vessels to reduce emissions while docked at California ports. This mandate has increased shipping costs for energy, consumer products and inputs, and increased electricity demand and costs for small businesses and consumers.

NFIB data shows that nearly all small businesses (80%) report that energy costs have become a "significant" or "very significant" factor in operating their business. In fact, 92% of our members indicated that their energy costs have increased since 2023.[1] Much of this increase follows years of burdensome regulations on American energy producers and consumers.

The 2023 EPA rule is one such example of these burdensome regulations. It authorized a California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulation requiring ocean-going tankers to cut emissions while docked at California ports ("at-berth"). The expansion of at-berth regulations to ocean-going tankers primarily impacts crude oil transportation to the state, thereby driving up energy costs across the West. Today, Californians pay about $1.70 more per gallon of gas than the national average.[2] Requiring tanker terminals to install new emissions-control technology that isn't yet commercially available further strangles industry in the state.

The rule also requires at-berth vessels to plug into the local electrical grid, increasing demand for electricity and costs for small businesses and consumers. This increased demand could jeopardize the electrical grid that is already facing strained capacity.

Small businesses understand burdensome regulations hold the US economy back. In a recent NFIB member ballot, 88% of NFIB members support streamlining regulations on the production and transportation of energy sources.[3] At a time of rising gas prices, small businesses need Congress to

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[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] *GasBuddy*, "1 Month Average Retail Price Chart." https://www.gasbuddy.com/charts.
[3] 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%)*

overturn unworkable regulations that make it harder for business owners to be able to afford to own, operate, and grow their businesses.

On behalf of approximately 300,000 small businesses across the United States, NFIB supports and appreciates your leadership on H.J. Res. 213. We look forward to working with you to reduce regulatory burdens and transportation and energy costs for small businesses across the country.

Sincerely,

Louis A. Bertolotti
Principal, Federal Government Relations
NFIB