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February 23, 2022

Dear Members of the House Climate and Energy Committee,

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) is the largest small business organization in Minnesota, with over 10,000 small business members in every corner of the state. Over 75% of our members have fewer than 10 employees and our mission is to advocate for Main Street businesses.

NFIB members have concerns with several proposals on the committee's agenda:

**House File 831, DE3 (Long):** "Stretch energy codes" have served as a gateway to local government bans on energy sources. Over 95% of NFIB Minnesota members oppose energy source bans, including bans on the installation of natural gas hookups. While the DE3 amendment is less permissive than previous iterations of this legislation, we believe any "stretch code" should clearly prohibit a state agency or local government from adopting any form of energy source ban as part of an energy code.

**House File XX (Long, AS080):** This legislation requires small businesses to set aside often limited parking spaces for EV charging spots. At a time when many small businesses are struggling with supply chain issues, inflation and lost sales, the cost of complying with this regulation is an untimely and unfair burden. Further, the mandate is not reflective of market conditions. Small businesses know their customers and employees. They are fully equipped to make decisions about how to best serve them without interference.

**House File 2234 (Boe):** NFIB opposes the use of Renewable Development Account (RDA) funds for the purpose of installing EV charging stations. The RDA is funded by a tax on Xcel Energy electric customers. Over 94% of NFIB members oppose increased taxes, fees or assessments to fund EV subsidies.

Thank you for your consideration of hardworking small businesses across our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John L. Reynolds'.

John L. Reynolds  
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National Federation of Independent Businesses  
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