



NFIB Vermont  
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March 11, 2025

Senator Anne Watson, Chair  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy  
Vermont State House  
Montpelier, VT 05633

**S.68 (Williams)**

Dear Chair Watson and Committee Members,

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization representing more than 700 small businesses in Vermont. The average NFIB member is a very small business, with ten employees and \$500,000 in annual sales.

NFIB Vermont appreciates the opportunity to express our support for S.68, which would repeal the Clean Heat Standard. Small businesses in Vermont continue to grapple with significant financial headwinds, including the lingering effects of inflation, worker shortages, rising property taxes, and higher energy bills.

Energy costs are a significant concern for small business owners. Every four years, NFIB publishes *Small Business Problems and Priorities*, a survey of 75 key issues facing small businesses. In the most recent edition, published in December 2024, **the cost of transportation and heating fuels was the sixth biggest problem – up 13 spots from the 2020 edition and 28 spots higher than the 2016 edition.**

Implementing Clean Heat or another heat tax will make this problem worse and would only be the start of new taxes and fees needed to meet the greenhouse gas reduction mandates in the 2020 Global Warming Solutions Act.

For the same reasons we can't keep making life unaffordable for hardworking Vermonters, we can't keep doing it to small business owners who've seen the cost of running their businesses go up and up since the pandemic.

Thank you for considering our members' perspective.

Sincerely,

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

John L. Reynolds  
NFIB Vermont State Director  
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