

NFIB

The Voice of Small Business®

January 28, 2014

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman:

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, urges the Committee's support for H.R. 3826, the Electricity Security and Affordability Act, introduced by Rep. Ed Whitfield, during the upcoming markup.

Electricity costs are a prominent concern for small business owners. According to the NFIB Research Foundation's 2012 *Small Business Problems and Priorities*, the cost of electricity was ranked number 12, ahead of other major problems like cash flow and poor earnings. NFIB believes the recent proposed rules by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding greenhouse gases emissions from new power plants could cause electricity costs to rise substantially. The uncertainty regarding how the rules will affect the cost and availability of electricity stand to be an ongoing deterrent for small businesses to plan for expansion and job growth.

The proposed rules take a heavy-handed approach to regulating emissions of greenhouse gases. The Electricity Security and Affordability Act is a far more reasonable means of moving forward.

First, the legislation would require EPA to issue separate standards for natural gas and coal-fired power plants. Second, H.R. 3826 would require EPA to subcategorize the coal standard to account for the different properties of lignite coal. Third, the bill addresses uncertainty from the forthcoming rule on existing power plants by requiring Congress to set an effective date before the rule can go into effect.

NFIB strongly supports H.R. 3826 and urges the members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce to vote for its passage in the upcoming markup.

Sincerely,



Dan Danner
President and CEO
NFIB

CC: Members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce