



June 13, 2012

The Honorable James Inhofe
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

The National Federation of Independent Business is pleased to support S.J. Res. 37, a Resolution of Disapproval pertaining to the Environmental Protection Agency's Utility Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) rule. NFIB opposes this rule because our members are concerned over the high energy prices likely to result if it is implemented.

The price of energy is a significant concern to NFIB's 350,000 members. Small-business owners depend on energy supplies at globally competitive prices to operate and effectively run their businesses. The cost of energy has consistently been a top problem for small businesses according to the *NFIB Small Business Problems and Priorities* publications. In addition, 35 percent of small-business owners cite the cost of energy as one of their top-five business costs.

Unfortunately, the way the Utility MACT rule is structured will mean significant increases in energy rates. The rule, which was finalized by the EPA in February, is the most expensive in U.S. history, with an estimated cost of \$90 billion. This cost will be passed down to energy consumers, such as small businesses. At a time when small businesses are being asked to help create jobs – two-thirds of the net new job growth in the United States is from small businesses – asking these companies to substantially increase the amount they spend on energy is a burden they cannot shoulder.

The Resolution of Disapproval will overturn EPA's rule and prevent the agency from issuing a substantially similar rule. This means that it will give the agency the opportunity to achieve its goal to reduce mercury in a more cost-effective way that protects energy consumers.

NFIB appreciates your leadership on this critical issue and urges the Senate to vote in favor of S.J. Res. 37.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Eckerly". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Susan Eckerly
Senior Vice President
Public Policy