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April 13, 2026

The Honorable John Joyce, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2102 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Joyce:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business, I write in support of H.R. 6398, the *Reducing and Eliminating Duplicative Environmental Regulations [RED Tape] Act*. This legislation removes costly and duplicative layers of regulatory review under the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (NEPA). The *RED Tape Act* will help reduce bureaucratic delays, permitting burdens, and energy costs for small businesses across the country.

The permitting process in the U.S. is a bureaucratic nightmare. The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board recently noted that it takes on average “an incredible 29 years to develop a mine in the U.S., the second longest in the world after Zambia.”<sup>1</sup> This slow process delays and cancels projects in every industry, resulting in long-term negative impacts on U.S. economic growth.

Small businesses overwhelmingly support efforts to reduce red tape. In a recent NFIB member ballot, 88% of NFIB members supported Congress streamlining regulations on the production and transportation of energy sources.<sup>2</sup> The *RED Tape Act* will streamline lengthy environmental impact statement (EIS) reviews that can delay or cancel critical projects. This will reduce production and regulatory costs for small businesses and consumers.

NFIB is proud to support H.R. 6398, and urges Congress to enact reforms that will reduce the cost of energy for small business owners. We look forward to working with you to advance this bill.

Sincerely,

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

Louis A. Bertolotti  
Principal, Federal Government Relations  
NFIB

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<sup>1</sup> Editorial Board, *Wall Street Journal*. April 27, 2025. “A Copper Minefield of Obstruction.” <https://www.wsj.com/opinion/arizona-resolution-copper-mine-nepa-ninth-circuit-donald-trump-cf3c9e48>.

<sup>2</sup> 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%)