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House File 483 (Lawrence)

Chair Igo, Chair Howard, and Members of the Committee -

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) represents about 10,000 small businesses across Minnesota. **We appreciate the opportunity to share our support for House File 483**, which would prohibit local governments from passing ordinances that ban natural gas or propane hookups in new or existing buildings.

Small businesses consistently cite the cost of energy as one of the largest costs in operating their business. These Main Street businesses rely on affordable and reliable energy sources to operate competitively. In contrast, local natural gas bans eliminate choice, increase the cost of doing business, and create a patchwork of different ordinances across the state.

In a recent NFIB member ballot, 94% of NFIB members opposed local government bans on the use of types or sources of energy on the basis that they will decrease access to affordable and reliable energy. Rather than be subject to limited choice and increased costs, small business owners should be able to decide what source of energy is best for their operations, equipment, and customer needs.

We respectfully ask that the committee support House File 483. Thanks for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Boesche".

Jon Boesche
Minnesota State Director
National Federation of Independent Business