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Testimony of

Christopher Carlozzi, State Director, National Federation of Independent Business
In Support of House Bill No. 7150
Relating to Cities and Towns – General Powers
Before the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
February 3, 2026

Chairman Casey and Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing:

My name is Christopher Carlozzi. I am the Rhode Island State Director of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). A non-profit, non-partisan organization, NFIB is the nation's and Rhode Island's largest small business advocacy group. In Rhode Island, NFIB represents hundreds of small and independent business owners involved in all types of industry, including manufacturing, retail, wholesale, service, and agriculture. The average NFIB member has five employees and annual gross revenues of about \$450,000. In short, NFIB represents the small Main Street business owners from across the state. On behalf of those small and independent business employers in Rhode Island, I urge you to support House Bill No. 7150 prohibiting municipalities from imposing bans on certain types of lawncare devices.

House Bill No. 7150 will prevent municipal governments from harming small businesses that provide lawncare services. When local governments ban the use of specific types of lawn equipment it often results in landscapers needing to purchase new, more expensive equipment to conduct business in those communities. If costs for businesses that provide these services rise, those costs will be passed along to consumers utilizing those services. Can residents of Rhode Island, already dealing with inflationary conditions, absorb higher costs? Can these municipalities with strained budgets afford to pay more because crews must purchase new equipment? Can taxpayers in these cities and towns afford the tax hikes required to pay for the municipalities' new equipment to satisfy these municipal bans? When answering these questions, it becomes abundantly clear why House Bill No. 7150 must advance and the state must help prevent cost increases for operating a landscaping business.

NFIB urges you to support House Bill No. 7150, preventing local governments from making it harder to run a landscaping business in Rhode Island, thank you.