



1800 Mineral Spring Ave
Suite 271
North Providence, RI 02904
877-262-7662
NFIB.com

Testimony of

Christopher Carlozzi, State Director, National Federation of Independent Business
In Opposition to House Bill Nos. 7183, 7184, and 7484
Relating to Building Energy Usage
Before the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
March 11, 2026

Chairman Bennett and Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

My name is Christopher Carlozzi. I am the Rhode Island 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 oppose House Bill Nos. 7183, 7184, and 7484, that add new restrictions for building construction and impose energy usage report requirements.

House Bill No. 7183 mandates buildings over 50,000 square feet report their energy usage to the state. Buildings over 25,000 would have to start reporting as early as 2030. This mandate requires a great deal of paperwork and attention from building owners, especially for short-staffed small businesses that cannot find enough workers in this current environment. This is not only an intrusive policy, but one that will hurt the competitiveness of the state's small businesses.

House Bill Nos. 7184 and 7484 will have a negative impact on both commercial and residential construction, as well as small business operations. As the cost of building increases significantly, construction could very well grind to a halt and will diminish the desire for new projects. These types of stringent energy restrictions in order to build, would not only drive-up building costs, but will leave businesses at a competitive disadvantage with states that do not require the additional expense outlined in this bill.

On behalf of Rhode Island's small businesses, I urge you to oppose House Bill Nos. 7183, 7184, and 7484. Thank you.