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Testimony of

Christopher Carlozzi, State Director, National Federation of Independent Business  
In Opposition to Senate Bill Nos. 2218 and 2529  
Relating to Building Energy Usage  
Before the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture  
April 15, 2026

Chair Sosnowski and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture:

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 Senate Bill Nos. 2218 and 2529, that add new restrictions for building construction and impose energy usage report requirements.

Senate Bill No. 2218 mandates buildings over 25,000 square feet report their energy usage to the state. 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.

Senate Bill No. 2529 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 Senate Bill Nos. 2218 and 2529.  
Thank you.