



180 5th St. E. Ste. 260
St. Paul, MN 55101

651-293-1283
NFIB.com/MN
Twitter: @NFIB_MN

March 31, 2022

Re: Senate File 4269-A2 (Senjem)

Dear Chair Senjem and Members of the Senate Energy and Utilities Committee,

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) is the largest small business organization in Minnesota, with over 10,000 members in every corner of the state. Over 75% of our members have fewer than 10 employees and our mission is to advocate for Main Street.

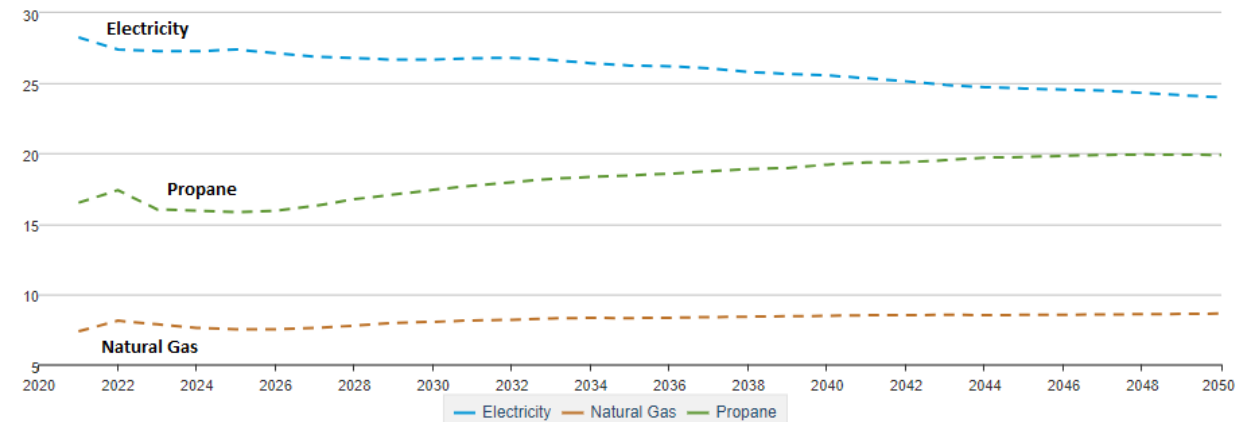
NFIB Minnesota strongly supports Section 20 of SF 4269A-2, which preserves affordable, reliable energy options for small businesses and others. This section ensures critical decisions about our state’s energy future remain in the hands of elected representatives instead of unelected bureaucrats and provides legal certainty about access to affordable energy resources.

According to U.S. Energy Information Administration data, propane is roughly half the price of electricity and natural gas is nearly four times less than electricity for commercial and residential customers on a fuel neutral cost basis.¹ A significant price differential will remain for decades.

Energy Prices: Commercial

Case: AEO2022 Reference case | Region: West North Central

2021 \$/MMBtu



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

¹ “Annual Energy Outlook 2022, Table: Table 3. Energy Prices by Sector and Source, Case: AEO2022 Reference, Region: West North Central” U.S. Energy Information Administration, accessed March 31, 2022.

Importantly, Section 20 also ensures innovation to reduce or eliminate emissions from pipeline-based fuels can continue in the future. In Minnesota and around the country, utilities and other energy providers are testing lower- or zero-emission blends and alternatives to existing pipeline-based fuels. If a unit of government attempted to ban pipeline-based fuel infrastructure, it could nip important innovation in the bud and leave Minnesotans in the cold.

Small employers need flexibility to make the most cost-effective and reliable decisions for themselves and employees. Thank you for including this important provision in your omnibus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John L. Reynolds', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

John L. Reynolds
Minnesota State Director
National Federal of Independent Business
john.reynolds@nfib.org
(651) 293-1283