September 28, 2026

Senator Kristina D. Roegner
Chair, Ohio Senate General Government Committee
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Chair Roegner,

On behalf of the nearly 21,000 members of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) in Ohio, we appreciate the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 475, legislation to temporarily suspend Ohio's gas tax for 3 months.

For reference, NFIB is a small business trade association founded over 80 years ago that is dedicated to representing the interests of small and independent businesses across our state and nation. NFIB's mission is to promote the right of our members to own, operate and grow their businesses. NFIB members come from all industry sectors and each of the 88 counties across Ohio. Our average member has 20 or fewer employees and has less than $2 million in annual gross receipts.

For small businesses, every extra dollar spent at the pump is one less dollar available for operating costs, payroll, and equipment. From machine shops and manufacturers to restaurants and retailers, rising gas prices increase expenses for businesses of every size and industry across Ohio. As transportation and fuel costs climb, small business owners are often forced to divert resources simply to meet the ever-increasing cost of doing business.

That is why NFIB has consistently supported efforts to provide relief from high gas prices. We supported previous state proposals to reduce the gas tax and have also backed federal legislation aimed at providing similar temporary relief.

We understand that suspending the gas tax is not a permanent solution. However, it can provide meaningful relief to small businesses struggling to navigate the challenges of today's economy. While this measure alone will not solve the underlying factors driving gas prices, it can help small business owners keep more of their hard-earned dollars invested in their businesses, employees, and local communities until costs return to normal.

We appreciate Senators Reynolds and Timken for leading this effort and urge the committee to favorably report Senate Bill 475. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and please feel free to contact me at Jacob.Flowers@nfib.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jacob Flowers
Assistant State Director