

Small businesses want affordable, abundant, and reliable energy. NFIB strongly supports H.J. Res. 35 and will consider support for H.J. Res. 35 a Key Vote for the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,

ADAM TEMPLE,
Senior Vice President for Advocacy,
NFIB.

AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE,
Washington, DC, February 26, 2025.

Hon. BRETT GUTHRIE,
Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GUTHRIE AND RANKING MEMBER PALLONE: The American Petroleum Institute (API) writes in support of H.J. Res. 35, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) relating to "Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions" (the WEC rule).

The WEC rule is a duplicative layer of red tape that creates a punitive tax on American energy, stifling innovation and hampering the industry's ability to produce the energy that American consumers and allies abroad rely on, and we appreciate your committee's leadership in repealing this harmful policy.

Methane emissions from the oil and gas sector are already regulated by EPA under the new and existing source rule, which prescribes extensive requirements for industry. At the same time, industry is voluntarily doing more to continue reducing our emissions, and those efforts are working. Thanks to innovation and industry actions, methane emissions fell by 42 percent between 2015 and 2023 according to the EPA, even as production increased by 51 percent to meet demand.

Operators have taken significant voluntary steps to identify and implement cleaner engineering technology solutions within their operations and facility designs. For example, since 2018, members of The Environmental Partnership, a voluntary industry initiative administered by API and whose members represent nearly 70 percent of U.S. onshore oil and gas production, have removed or replaced more than 180,000 gas-driven pneumatics, resulting in the permanent reduction of an estimated 355,421 metric tonnes of CH₄ per year released into the atmosphere based on 2023 EPA reporting. Operators are also implementing vapor recovery units to capture methane emissions from higher-emitting equipment like tanks and compressors. In addition to traditional ground-based monitoring approaches using optical gas imaging (OGI) technologies, companies are also implementing the use of laser absorption spectroscopy and sensors technologies on the surface, in the sky and in space to improve leak detection efforts and further reduce emissions.

In addition to the duplicative nature of the fee, API also contends that the Biden Administration failed to implement it consistent with congressional intent for several key reasons:

The Inflation Reduction Act allowed for an exemption from the fee if (1) the final EPA rule addressing methane emissions is in effect; and (2) as determined by the Administrator, the given state rule will result in greater emission reductions than would have been achieved by the proposed rule entitled "Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review" (86

Fed. Reg. 63110 (November 15, 2021)) had that rule been finalized and implemented. Those conditions have been met, but the compliance exemption is still not as broadly available as Congress intended. The availability of the exemption should not have been delayed until all 50 states have fully implemented the requirements.

The WEC rule also disqualifies sites from using the compliance exemption if they have a deviation. Sites should not be disqualified from using the compliance exemption unless and until a violation (not a deviation) is proven through adjudication or admitted by the owner/operator of the site, and disqualification should be limited specifically to the emissions resulting from the adjudicated violation.

The final rule allows netting at the parent company level, but owners/operators who have made substantial investments to mitigate emissions in advance of any regulatory requirement are not currently able to include those facilities that now fall below the Subpart W reporting threshold in netting calculations.

The WEC rule requires combustion emissions to be reported under Subpart W and subject to fees, instead of under Subpart C, consistent with other industries and congressional intent around the netting provisions.

Repealing this misguided rule is an important first step towards providing industry with relief from one of the previous Administration's anti-energy policies, and we appreciate your work to advance a pro-consumer regulatory environment that embraces U.S. energy.

We urge Congress to pass H.J. Res. 35 to repeal the WEC rule, and API and its members stand ready to work together with your committee to follow this with full repeal of the underlying statutory mandate in Section 136(c)-(g) of the Clean Air Act.

Sincerely,

AMANDA E. EVERSOLE.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

It is interesting. I heard some speakers—and everybody is just trying to talk about these issues from their viewpoint. I get it. However, I heard some speakers on the other side of the aisle say today that we are just catering to Big Oil and others.

Then I hear there were discussions with larger folks, and those are the people who are okay with it. I hear from Representatives from places like Alaska, North Dakota, and Texas whose constituents oftentimes are small mom-and-pop operations. It is hard to think of oil and natural gas that way, but that is the way it is in those regions. They say this will, in fact, hurt them and this is disastrous.

I suspect, Mr. Speaker, the reason that we have this dichotomy, this difference, is that a lot of times bigger institutions, bigger organizations, can afford to take on a new regulation. It will cost them a little bit of money. It will make the cost of production go up a little bit, but because they are large, they can spread that out over a lot of different items or a lot of different—I guess, in this case, it would be oil and gas measured in cubic feet, or whatever the measurement is these days. As a result, they can say this is a cost spread out over a large piece of the pie so it is not that big of a deal to us.

As I said in my opening, there are 9,000 small and midsize independent pe-

troleum drillers in the United States. These, mostly small, operations are responsible for developing 91 percent of oil and gas wells, producing 83 percent of America's oil, and 90 percent of our country's natural gas.

Those are the folks who are most upset about these regulations and why we need to repeal them. We are going to break the back of those 9,000 small and midsize independent petroleum drillers who are providing us with affordable gas, affordable heat for our homes through natural gas, and affordable products made out of natural gas and petroleum.

Mr. Speaker, it is the right thing to do, and I encourage all Members, both Democrat, Republican, and any who may think of themselves as independent, to vote "yes" on H.J. Res. 35.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 161, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a joint resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S.J. Res. 11. Joint Resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management relating to "Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources".

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, appoints the following Senator as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 119th Congress: The Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following Senator as

Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 119th Congress: The Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE).

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d-276g, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 119th Congress: The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR).

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MALOY) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

PROCUREMENT AND PLACEMENT OF STATUE OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 250) to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 250

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PROCUREMENT AND PLACEMENT OF STATUE OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL.

(a) OBTAINING OF STATUE.—Not later than December 31, 2025, the Joint Committee on the Library shall enter into an agreement to obtain a statue of Benjamin Franklin, under such terms and conditions as the Joint Committee considers appropriate consistent with applicable law.

(b) PLACEMENT.—Not later than December 31, 2026, the Joint Committee shall place the statue obtained under subsection (a) in a suitable permanent location in the United States Capitol where the statue is accessible

to the public during a guided tour of the Capitol provided by the Capitol Visitor Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today I bring forward two bills. Our Nation faces major challenges and concerns, and this body continues to work on those. While we do that, these bills are simple and non-controversial and do require legislative action to take effect.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 250 to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol.

The nonpartisan legislation will allow Congress to place a statue of Benjamin Franklin in the Capitol. The legislation will require that not later than 2 years after enactment, the Joint Committee on the Library shall enter into an agreement to obtain a statue of Benjamin Franklin. It will also be required that the statue be placed in a publicly accessible permanent location no later than December 31, 2026.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representatives HOULAHAN and FITZPATRICK and their 72 additional cosponsors for bringing this legislation forward. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 250, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to begin by thanking my dear friend and colleague, the chair of the Committee on House Administration, for bringing these bills to the floor and also for his partnership and all the great cooperation that we enjoy.

I rise today in support of H.R. 250. The bipartisan legislation would direct the Joint Committee on the Library, as Mr. STEIL said, to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol to be observed by all those blessed to come and tour the United States Capitol.

As my colleague and friend, the sponsor of this bill, along with Representatives BRIAN FITZPATRICK and CRISSY HOULAHAN have observed—and I am quite certain will observe once again in just a few moments—while there are references to Benjamin Franklin across the Capitol and a statue tucked away in a back hallway, it is black when

there are no lights on. There is no statue of one of the most important Founding Fathers accessible to the millions of visitors who have the privilege of touring the Capitol each year.

This legislation would change that, honoring one of the greatest minds and patriots in American history.

Benjamin Franklin was a statesman, diplomat, scientist, inventor, political philosopher, and businessman. His groundbreaking experiments pushed forward scientific understanding, his role as the first Postmaster General created the foundation of our modern mail system, and he was resolutely committed to freeing the Colonies from British rule.

He helped draft both the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, and he negotiated the treaty that ended the Revolutionary War. His genius has shaped our Nation in innumerable ways, and he deserves to be prominently displayed and honored in the United States Capitol.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a new statue of Benjamin Franklin. I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) to speak on the bill.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman, my friend from Wisconsin, Representative STEIL, for yielding.

To my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN), this is really the product of her hard work. I was proud to partner with her and accept an invitation. If Benjamin Franklin were here today, he would give Representative HOULAHAN a big hug of gratitude for finally recognizing him.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in resolute support of H.R. 250, the Benjamin Franklin statue placement act. Alongside my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania, Congresswoman HOULAHAN, I am proud to advance this effort to enshrine one of America's most extraordinary minds and consequential patriots in the heart of our Nation's Capitol.

Madam Speaker, few figures in our history so fully embody the spirit of American ingenuity, perseverance, and democratic virtue as Benjamin Franklin. He was a statesman whose diplomacy secured our independence, a philosopher whose wisdom guided our early Republic, and an inventor whose genius advanced mankind.

More than a son of Pennsylvania, Benjamin Franklin was and remains a towering architect of the American experiment, a testament to what is possible when vision and virtue work in concert with one another.

As we approach the 250th anniversary of our great Nation, it is both fitting and necessary that Benjamin Franklin take his rightful place amongst the great figures enshrined in this amazing