

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business
2561 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6515

May 16, 2023

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm:

The House Committee on Small Business (the Committee) writes to inquire about the Department of Energy's (DoE) recent rule change to energy conservation standards for distribution transformers. This rule would amend the energy conservation standards for three categories of distribution transformers that are manufactured in, or imported into, the United States.¹ During this time of historically high energy prices, it seems this rule would have a substantial impact on small businesses nationwide. It appears that DoE may not have properly considered small entities during this rulemaking process.

It is important for agencies to properly consider small businesses interests, which make up 99.9 percent of all businesses in the United States, when passing any new rule. America's small businesses deserve to have their voices heard and considered. We therefore request the following information as soon as possible but no later than May 30, 2023:

1. What are your statutory requirements to examine this rule's impact on small businesses?
2. How many small businesses will be impacted by this rule?
3. What additional compliance costs on small businesses are associated with this new rule?
4. Where can small businesses go to examine your analysis on the impacts this rule will have on their operations?
5. What alternatives have been considered to lessen the impacts on small businesses?

To schedule the delivery of your response or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Small Business Majority Staff at (202) 225-5821. The Committee on

¹ Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Distribution Transformers, 10 C.F.R. 431 (2023).

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Small Business has broad authority to investigate “problems of all types of small business” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'W'.

Roger Williams
Chairman
Committee on Small Business

cc: The Honorable Nydia M. Velasquez, Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business