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June 27, 2022

The Honorable Brad Hawkins
State of Washington
Senate
PO Box 40412
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Sen. Hawkins:

On behalf of more than 7,000 member small-business owners in Washington state, it is my pleasure to announce that you have earned NFIB's **Guardian of Small Business** award for the 67th Washington State Legislature.

Our state Leadership Council strongly believes the Guardian award should be reserved for those lawmakers who most reliably support small business, particularly when challenged by competing interests. A score of 90% was again required to qualify. We are proud to count you among those honored few. The 2021-22 Voting Record detailing the bills we scored is available online at www.nfib.com/washington/voting-record/.

At a time when too many small businesses were shuttered – many permanently – due to government-mandated pandemic restriction, several legislative actions like ratifying the Governor's ongoing state of emergency and executive orders, imposing costly new penalties and workplace restrictions, and adding enormous new energy and transportation costs through a cap-and-tax regime and low carbon fuel standard, further threaten small-business recovery. The Legislature did, however, enact some bills providing limited relief for small businesses, including tempering unemployment insurance tax increases, exempting federal PPP and other COVID-assistance grants from the B&O, and increasing the Small Business Tax Credit for the first time in nearly 30 years.

We are tremendously grateful that you stood with our state's small business owners **100 percent** of the time on these important issues. Thank you!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick L. Connor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "C".

Patrick Connor
Washington State Director