



Friend,

Our small and local businesses are what keep our communities strong, and it's incredibly important that lawmakers in Washington are focused on securing an environment for these businesses to thrive. However, many unprecedented circumstances are causing small businesses to struggle to keep their shelves stocked, hire qualified employees, and keep pace with inflation.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses' (NFIB) [Small Business Optimism Index](#) declined 2.1 points in December to 89.8 – the 12th consecutive month below the 49-year average of 98. Even more troubling, owners expecting better business conditions over the next six months declined by eight points from November to a net negative 51%, and 32% of business owners reported inflation as their number one problem in operating their business. Clearly, our nation's small businesses are suffering the consequences of reckless economic policies from Washington.

Small business owners deserve policies from Washington that are pro-growth, pro-business, and most of all, pro-American. I remain laser-focused on working with my Republican colleagues in Washington to eliminate these barriers to success for small businesses, fight for an economy that promotes growth and opportunity, and ensure they have the resources they need to continue serving their communities.

Sincerely,
Rob