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To: Honorable Members of the House Local Government Committee

From: Charles Owens, State Director

Date: December 11, 2018

RE: Senate Bills 1188 through 1194 – Preempt Local Tree Removal Ordinances

We are writing to ask your support for Senate Bills 1188 through 1194 that would end yet another example of local government overreach and interference in private property and commerce.

While local governance certainly has its place, too many times local governments are using “local control” as an excuse to grow their own bureaucracy with burdensome regulations that duplicate already existing federal and state laws. Small business can no longer afford to keep up with overlapping local ordinances and rules. In a recent survey of our small business members, they supported action by the state legislature to preempt local governments from setting up their own regulatory program that duplicates or exceeds the requirements of an already existing state or federal regulation.

It is important to remember that rules and regulations have a disproportionate impact on smaller companies. Research has shown that this difference can be as much as 36 percent between the costs incurred by small firms when compared with their larger counterparts.

Senate Bills 1188 – 1194 are common sense legislation that will address recent actions by a local government that used local rules and ordinances to harass a land owner that was already in compliance with existing state and federal laws.

Again, we ask your support for Senate Bills 1188 – 1194 and we thank you for your support of small business!