



**Statement of Chairman Mick Mulvaney  
Committee on Small Business  
Subcommittee on Contracting and the Workforce  
Land of Opportunity: Pursuing the Entrepreneurial American Dream  
October 17, 2011**

Welcome to this field hearing of the House of Representatives, Small Business Committee. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce, one of our key responsibilities is to look at the current state of small business ownership in America and ensure that entrepreneurs have the opportunity for success. I'm pleased to be here in California and for the opportunity to learn about the challenges faced out here for small business entrepreneurs. While I represent the Fifth District of South Carolina, which is 2,400 miles away, there are common themes that unite us as a country.

One of the founding principles that allows our country to be successful is the spirit of entrepreneurship. Each year, thousands of people come to the United States seeking a better life for themselves and their families. The reason that they choose the United States is because of the economic opportunity provided here and the knowledge that no matter what your background, you can start a business. While the path to success is not always easy, it remains achievable to all who are willing to put in the hard work to build a business. We are all familiar with the many anecdotes of people pulling themselves up by their bootstraps, turning a simple idea into a profitable business venture. In fact, these stories have become a part of the fabric of our American identity.

Just a few weeks ago we were reminded of this possibility of success when we mourned the passing of Steve Jobs, an entrepreneur who took an idea that started in a garage and turned it into one of the most well-known and profitable companies in the world. This story reinforces the true greatness of America that no matter what your background or what hurdles you must overcome, if you have an idea and a drive for success, you have that opportunity.

While it takes a lot of hard work (and some luck) on the part of business owners for a business to be successful, as policymakers we need to be sure that the path to success is not more difficult than it needs to be. A vital part of this process is working to remove obstacles that stand in the way of business ownership. In my view, prospective business owners should be encouraged to start a business and should not be scared away by the vast sea of regulations that do nothing to but add more costs and burdens to business owners. Rather, we need a system that encourages entrepreneurs to take risks.

I'm pleased that we are joined here by witnesses who are working everyday to provide their communities with a leg-up when it comes to starting a business and turning a dream into reality. Many of the folks here are going beyond merely running their own business, because they want to make sure that their communities thrive.

With that, I want to thank our witnesses for being here today and I will now turn to Ranking Member Judy Chu for her opening statement.