

**Statement of  
Chairman Scott Tipton  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade  
On Wednesday, April 6, 2011  
Before the House Small Business Committee hearing on:  
*How Passing Free Trade Agreements Will Help Small Businesses Create Jobs***

Thank you Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Velázquez for convening today's hearing. I would like to join my colleagues in welcoming our panelists as we examine how passing free trade agreements will help small businesses create jobs. I would especially like to welcome Mr. Patterson, who is a constituent of mine from Montrose, Colorado.

The U.S. is running a \$668 billion trade deficit. With our country's abundant resources, ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit, there is no reason why we should not be at parity or ahead of the game when it comes to trade. Small businesses are the heart of U.S. trade, accounting for 97% of our exports. By embracing free-trade policies that encourage foreign markets to import our goods and services, we would go a long way to provide a shot in the arm for domestic job creation. An example of this can be found in Colorado's third district, where small potato growers in Hooper, and cattle ranchers in Cortez, are standing ready to expand and offer their goods to new markets—where there exists a real demand. We have an opportunity to make the U.S. more competitive and have a direct impact on the creation of new jobs. It is critical that Congress pass the pending free trade agreements with Panama, Colombia and Korea. By lowering our tariff barriers we will be creating promising opportunities for small businesses to grow, shrink the trade deficit, and get people back to work.

Again, Chairman Graves, thank you for holding today's hearing. I do have a few subsequent questions at this time.