



**Opening Statement of
Chairman Steve Chabot
Committee on Small Business
Hearing: *National Entrepreneurs' Day*
November 17, 2015**

Good morning. Thank you all for being with us today. I call this hearing to order.

Earlier this month, I -- along with Ranking Member Velazquez, and several members of Congress including many on this Committee -- introduced a resolution to establish the third Tuesday in November as National Entrepreneurs' Day. As today, November 17th, is the third Tuesday, it seems only fitting that we hold a hearing to highlight the vital role that entrepreneurs play in the American economy and how being an entrepreneur is for many a large part of the American dream.

We are a country that was founded by inventors and entrepreneurs such as Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson. Our Nation's rich heritage in entrepreneurship should compel us to continue to create opportunities for individuals to dream big and strike out on their own. In America, entrepreneurship is a viable career path -- one that a majority of Americans consider a measure of success. We lead the world in ingenuity and innovation, and we should be proud of that. As the Committee on Small Business, we recognize that entrepreneurs are in every community -- whether it's running a hundred year old family restaurant or creating the next big product at a local accelerator. Each and every day, entrepreneurs are seeking to provide for their families, build their communities, and live the American dream.

However, we sadly do know that the rate of new business creation is less than it was a few decades ago. And while everyday people still dream of starting their own small business, it's become harder given the increase in regulations, challenges accessing capital, and general uncertainty in our economic climate. Today, though, we are fortunate to be joined by a great group of witnesses who have been successful striking out as entrepreneurs and who continue to promote entrepreneurship in their communities. I want to thank our panel for taking time away from their jobs and making the trip to Washington for this important hearing. We look forward to your testimony.

I now yield to Ranking Member Velázquez for her opening remarks.