

Opening Statement of Chairman Dave Brat
Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access
Hearing: "Travel and Tourism: A Small Business Angle"
May 8, 2018

AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

Good morning. I call this hearing to order.

With the weather warming up, and schools about to let out, many American families will take to the road in the coming weeks to go on vacation and explore the beautiful sites our nation has to offer.

Although this has many Americans taking time off from work, millions of Americans see the end of the school year and the rising temperatures as a sign that their work is about to significantly pick up.

In 2017, domestic and international travelers spent over \$1 trillion in the United States.

According to the United States Travel Association, an impressive 83 percent of businesses in the travel and tourism industries are considered small businesses. And while small businesses are frequently the ones that take you from destination to destination, or provide American families for a place to stay on the road, the economic impact of the travel and tourism industries positively impacts small businesses in other industries as well.

For example, an estimated 1 of every 4 dollars spent at restaurants in this country are due to travel and tourism. Small businesses in a variety of industries depend on travel and tourism to keep the lights on and pay their employees.

The recently enacted Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which reduced tax rates and complexity for businesses of all sizes, has already positively impacted the travel and tourism industries.

According to the Department of Labor, the travel industry created over 17,000 jobs just in the first two months of 2018, which is 50 percent higher than the amount of jobs created by the travel industry in the first two months of 2017.

Equally important, tax reform has provided small business owners with the resources to hire new employees and reward existing employees in the form of bonuses or raises, as well as the opportunity to invest resources back into their businesses.

This week is National Travel and Tourism Week.

We have put together a distinguished panel to discuss the economic impact of the travel and tourism industries, and how the private sector and the public sector can work together to ensure the travel and tourism industries in the United States continue to thrive. I thank you all for being here this morning and I yield to the Ranking Member for his opening remarks.

