



**Opening Statement for “Creating Jobs Through Small Business Innovation Act of 2011”  
Chairman Sam Graves  
Committee on Small Business  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  
May 11, 2011**

Good afternoon. I call this Small Business Committee meeting to order.

Today we will markup H.R. 1425, the “Creating Jobs Through Small Business Innovation Act of 2011.” This legislation, introduced by my good friend and member of this Committee, Mrs. Ellmers from North Carolina, reauthorizes and modernizes the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs.

These two initiatives play pivotal roles in the development of new technology while giving federal agencies innovative ways to solve operational problems. Additionally, these programs have helped thousands of small businesses produce innovation, commercialize their products, and create jobs.

Independent studies and congressional testimony have indicated the great success of these two programs, but there are several areas in which they can be improved. The legislation we have before us today goes a long way toward modernizing and improving these small business initiatives.

Our legislative goal is to strengthen these programs to ensure efficient use of taxpayer dollars that help create more jobs by supporting the science with the greatest chances of commercialization. Moreover, the bill does not cost anything, but rather sets aside 2.5% of existing federal research dollars for small businesses to compete for.

Among other things, H.R. 1425 would reauthorize the SBIR and STTR programs for three years; increase Phase I and Phase II award sizes for both programs; allow for greater participation of small companies in the programs regardless of their financial structure; and enhance data collection for the programs.

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, which has broad bipartisan support from Members on this Committee as well as Members of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee. I commend Mrs. Ellmers, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Altmire, and Mr. West for all of their hard work on this bill. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill, and now recognize the Ranking Member for her opening remarks.