

**Statement of  
Chairman Scott Tipton  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade  
On Wednesday, June 1, 2011**

**Before the House Small Business Committee hearing on Access to Capital: Can Small  
Businesses Access the Credit Necessary to Grow and 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 continue to identify ways for small business to gain access to capital so they can grow and create jobs.

Small businesses are the backbone of the U.S. economy, accounting for about half of the country's private sector workforce, and responsible for creating close to 7 out of every 10 new jobs. Access to capital has been a hot topic amongst small business owners and constituents in my district. Many continue to struggle in our current economy and a constant source of their hardship is the inability to access capital to grow their businesses and create jobs.

Last month I was proud to join Congressman Perlmutter and Congressman Coffman in introducing a bipartisan bill called The Capital Access for Main Street (CAMS) Act. This legislation seeks to free up much needed capital, by allowing small banks with under \$10 billion in assets to amortize a portion of their commercial real estate loans over a seven-year period. As a result, these small banks will be able to provide more capital to growing small businesses. . Small businesses can then use this badly-needed capital to expand and create jobs.

Many of the small business owners I know are some of the most hardworking and proud citizens in America. They labor long hours, are loyal to their employees, and have an urgency to pay back their loans and grow their businesses. However, if they can't get these responsible loans in the first place, then small businesses, as well as the rest of our economy, will continue to suffer.

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