



**Opening Statement for Organizational Meeting
113th Congress
Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Small Business
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC
January 23, 2013**

Good afternoon. I call the Small Business Committee organizational meeting to order.

I want to welcome all the returning and new Members of the Committee. I know that they are excited to dive in and get to work.

Before introducing the new Republican Members, I would like to take a moment to thank the Ranking Democratic Member, Congresswoman Velázquez, for her dedication and hard work on behalf of small businesses. Ranking Member Velázquez, I want to continue the cordial working environment that we established in the 112th Congress.

There are five new Republican Members of the Committee and one former member of the Committee who seen the light and returned. Mr. Huelskamp is a rancher from Kansas with a Ph.D. from American University. Mr. Schweikert has a long history of public service in Arizona in addition to being a small business owner. Our returning member is a fellow Missiourian, Mr. Luetkemeyer, who is a farmer and has been in the banking and insurance industry. Three of the new members are freshmen: Mr. Bentivolio, a rancher from Michigan; Mr. Collins, was a small business owner and Erie County Executive; and Mr. Rice started his own tax law firm in Myrtle Beach and served on the Horry County Council. I expect that this experience as small business owners will be of significant value as the Committee works to develop policies which will enable small businesses to expand and create jobs.

Also, I would like to welcome back the members who served on the Committee during the 112th Congress: Mr. Chabot from Ohio; Mr. King from Iowa; Mr. Coffman from Colorado; Mr. Mulvaney from South Carolina; Mr. Tipton from Colorado; Ms. Herrera Beutler from Washington; and Mr. Hanna from New York.

I now yield to the Ranking Member, Ms. Velázquez, to introduce her members.