

**OPENING STATEMENT
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**Opening Statement of
Chairman Tim Huelskamp
Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access
Committee on Small Business
Hearing: *Keep It Simple: Small Business Tax Simplification and Reform,
Main Street Speaks*
April 13, 2016**

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

On Monday, April 18, Americans will once again observe Tax Day. Small business owners across the country will be filing their tax returns. For small business owners, tax costs can drive business decisions. The tax compliance costs currently imposed on small businesses are unacceptable.

Employers with more than 50 employees face a tax compliance burden of somewhere between \$182 and \$191, while the smallest employers with 1-5 employees spend between \$4,308 and \$4,736 per employee. Some of this difference results from economies of scale, but the difference is still astronomical.

We should be encouraging our small businesses and helping them to succeed, not erecting barriers to block the way. Every dollar that a small employer spends on tax compliance is a dollar that could have been used to invest back in the business or to hire another employee. Every hour that a small employer spends on tax compliance is an hour wasted that could have been spent on their actual business.

Today's hearing will focus on some of the most common and egregious areas of tax complexity that hinder small businesses. I expect we will also hear some recommended solutions, and I hope we will seriously consider them.

I'd like to thank our witnesses for coming today. I look forward to your testimony. I now yield to Ranking Member Chu for her opening remarks.