



## **Chairman Graves Announces “Small Biz Open Mic”**

WASHINGTON— House Small Business Committee Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO) today released a video to announce “Small Biz Open Mic,” a new interactive online forum that will allow American small businesses the opportunity to communicate directly with the House Small Business Committee Republicans about how the government is helping or harming their business.

The Small Biz Open Mic intrasite is an exciting new media forum that encourages blog-type comments and testimonials from small business owners across America regarding government policies, and allows participants to comment on Committee news, new legislation, hearing information, and new stories that relate to small business growth and development. Comments from participants about legislation and policies that impact small businesses will be used to help the Committee conduct its official business.

“Week after week, the theme from our Committee hearings is that small businesses are being suffocated with over-regulation, crippling taxation and economic uncertainty,” said Chairman Graves. “The testimony that we hear from our hearings is an important part of our legislative process, however, not every small business has the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC to appear before the Committee. That’s why we are launching ‘Small Biz Open Mic.’ This interactive online community will allow small business owners from all across America the ability to communicate directly with the House Small Business Committee at [smallbusiness.house.gov/openmic](http://smallbusiness.house.gov/openmic).”

Chairman Graves continued, “America’s nearly 30 million small businesses are the engines of job creation and the lifeblood of our nation’s economy. Small businesses create seven of every ten new jobs and they employ just over half of the country’s private sector workforce. Simply put – our nation’s economy will only go as far as our small businesses will take them.

“To do our jobs well, we need to hear directly from small companies about how government is helping or harming their business. With their help, we can make certain that Washington supports policies that allow small businesses to thrive and pave the way to economic growth, innovation and job creation.”

To learn more about the Small Biz Open Mic, visit: [www.smallbusiness.house.gov/openmic](http://www.smallbusiness.house.gov/openmic)