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## **AAHOA Vice Chairwoman Delivers Congressional Testimony on American Travel Industry**

WASHINGTON, DC, May 8 – AAHOA Vice Chairwoman Jagruti Panwala testified before the House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access. In her remarks, Panwala focused on the impact of the travel and tourism industry on the American economy. She also highlighted the contributions of hotels and discussed the challenges the industry faces.

“It is a privilege to appear before the Congress and share the story of our industry and the important role that travel and tourism play in driving the American economy. This week, hundreds of AAHOA members are meeting with their elected officials and sharing their stories of small business success and helping our lawmakers understand how the policies they create are affecting their constituencies. The economic indicators in America’s travel and tourism industry point to strong economic performance and a promising future. Unemployment is low, and business and consumer confidences are high. Hoteliers are increasing wages and workers are in demand,” said Panwala.

Panwala and her family are small business owners from Pennsylvania who are independent owners and operators of five hotels in the northeastern United States. She is also the CEO of a financial planning company that helps small business owners reach their development goals.

This week marks AAHOA’s Spring National Advocacy Conference as well as the 35<sup>th</sup> annual National Travel and Tourism Week. Members of the travel and tourism industry are in Washington to educate lawmakers about the value travel brings to the American economy, businesses, and communities.

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*AAHOA is the largest hotel owners association in the world. The nearly 18,000 AAHOA members own almost one in every two hotels in the United States. With billions of dollars in property assets and hundreds of thousands of employees, AAHOA members are core economic contributors in virtually every community. AAHOA is a proud defender of free enterprise and the foremost current-day example of realizing the American dream.*