



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Peter Clerkin**  
202-945-4950  
peter@aahoa.com

## **Hundreds of hoteliers visit Capitol Hill as AAHOA members meet with their congressional leaders**

WASHINGTON, DC, May 8 – The Asian American Hotel Owners Association kicked off its Spring National Advocacy Conference as over 250 hoteliers from across the country visit Washington, DC to meet with their legislators on Capitol Hill. The two-day conference allows hoteliers to raise awareness about issues affecting the industry, to help inform the legislative process, and to highlight how the hospitality industry is a key economic driver in the United States.

“America’s hoteliers create jobs, welcome guests into our communities, and provide a valuable service to travelers across the nation. AAHOA members are eager to share their knowledge of the hospitality industry with our congressional leaders. Whether its highlighting how they are reinvesting the tax savings generated by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act as they create new jobs, increase wages, and expand their properties, or discussing the important steps our industry is taking to combat human trafficking, AAHOA members are letting our lawmakers know about the issues that matter most to them,” said AAHOA Chairman Hitesh (HP) Patel.

Spring National Advocacy Conference attendees will hear from Members of Congress and participate in AAHOA’s Human Trafficking Awareness Training, developed in partnership with Polaris, and led by Elaine McCartin of Polaris. AAHOA Vice Chairwoman Jagruti Panwala testified before the House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access. Her testimony focused on the economic impact of the travel and tourism industry, small business contributions to the economy, and important issues facing the industry.

AAHOA President and CEO Chip Rogers said, “Constituent input is vitally important to the legislative process. This week, America’s hoteliers will be talking to lawmakers about how to make the tax law work even better for small business owners, promoting international travel, stopping predatory lawsuits, and clarifying laws affecting the franchise industry. Addressing these issues will continue to strengthen our economy, create more certainty for small business owners, and help hotels support the more than eight million jobs in affiliated industries.”

This year, the AAHOA Spring National Advocacy Conference coincides with National Travel and Tourism Week. AAHOA represents nearly 18,000 members who own about one in two hotels in the United States and employ over 600,000 workers, accounting for nearly \$10 billion in payroll annually. The industry creates competitive jobs with good benefits. The industry offers not just jobs, but careers, for many employees work their way from entry-level positions to management positions. More than fifty percent of hotel general managers in the lodging industry got their start in entry-level jobs.

###

*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.*