



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Sevierville Hotel Owners Welcome Rep. Phil Roe**

SEVIERVILLE, Tenn. – Rep. Phil Roe, M.D., took part in a “back of the house” tour and roundtable discussion with small business owners at a Sevierville hotel today. The event was organized by the Asian American Hotel Owners Association, a nationwide trade group that has more than 800 members in Tennessee.

Roe (R, Johnson City) was shown around the Holiday Inn Express by owner and operator Nick Patel, a member of AAHOA.

“We were honored to host Congressman Roe in Sevierville today,” commented Nick Patel. “We not only had the chance to show him firsthand what it takes to run a hotel on a daily basis but we also had a discussion about important issues facing our industry and how Congress can help.”

“I want to thank the folks from the Holiday Inn Express in Sevierville for their hospitality and for providing me this behind-the-scenes tour of their facility. This tour has given me the opportunity to see first-hand how the hospitality industry creates and provides meaningful jobs and economic growth across our country,” said Roe. “With these jobs and the opportunity for workplace growth, the AAHOA has made it a priority to expand East Tennessee's economy, and I look forward to working with their organization to continue creating jobs, offer congressional support when needed and assist in creating equal opportunities for all East Tennesseans.”

After the tour, Roe sat down with a half-dozen area hotel owners to discuss challenges facing small businesses and to hear from Roe what’s happening next in Congress. Aemish Patel, who owns the Park Grove Inn in Pigeon Forge, was among those on hand for the discussion.

“Through AAHOA, we take part in meetings in Washington often, but it’s a lot different when the congressman comes to you to hear and see firsthand about our issues and just what it takes to run a small business,” said Aemish Patel.

Chip Rogers, the president and CEO of AAHOA, thanked Roe for spending time with the hotel owners.

“We thank Chairman Roe for touring Nick’s hotel today,” said Rogers. “He has been a consistent champion for small business owners in Congress and it was an honor to highlight our industry to him today.”

Roe is the chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs in addition to serving on the House Education and Workforce Committee. Roe is also a medical doctor and ran a successful practice in Johnson City for 31 years.

*Founded in 1989, AAHOA ([www.aahoa.com](http://www.aahoa.com)) is the largest hotel owners association in the world, with more than 16,000 small business owner-members. AAHOA members own almost one in every two hotels in the United States.*

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