



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Texas Hotelier Takes the Reins as Chairman of World's Largest Hotel Owners Association

WASHINGTON, DC, Mar. 30 – Hotelier Hitesh (HP) Patel, of Austin, Texas, is the new chairman of AAHOA, the world's largest hotel owners association. Patel took the reins at the association's 2018 convention and trade show in National Harbor, Md.

"I am proud to have the opportunity to lead AAHOA at this exciting and pivotal time in the association's history," said Patel. "With a rapidly growing membership of nearly 18,000 hoteliers who own about one in two hotels across the United States, AAHOA is being recognized as the voice of America's hotel owners. I am grateful that our members place their trust in me to represent their interests on the national stage. I am truly humbled by this fact and the opportunity to help lead us into another year of excellence. As we continue to build on the success of our advocacy efforts and present greater educational opportunities to our members, I am confident that we will make AAHOA even stronger and influential."

Patel stated his commitment to bring together every hotel owner in the United States, noting that, "The doors of AAHOA are wide open to anyone who is, or wants to be a hotel owner."

"Last year we made education a top priority for our association. Our goal is not to be just a resource for hotel owners, but to be the resource for hotel owners." Patel's passion for education stems from his work in supporting AAHOA's educational initiatives, for which he earned the AAHOA Award of Excellence.

In his address to the 2018 AAHOA Convention, Patel pledged to expand the association's advocacy activities and called on AAHOA's members to become more engaged with their elected officials. "Our engagement to advocate for our industry both in Washington D.C. and state capitals around the nation continues to grow stronger. AAHOA now partners with eleven state lodging associations. We are on the front lines fighting to make sure there is a level playing field for all hotel owners. We are pushing back against proposed increases in occupancy taxes. Through our partnerships with Polaris, BEST, and the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign, we have become a leading voice in the effort to stop human trafficking."

Patel joined AAHOA in 2004 and began his service on the AAHOA Board of Directors in 2010, when he was elected Director at Large. He is the Chief Executive Officer and President of Capital City Hospitality Group, LLC. He is an AAHOA Certified Hotel Owner (CHO) and a Certified Hotel Administrator (CHA®). Patel also holds several leadership positions within the hotel industry, including a place on both the Austin Hotel & Lodging Association Board of Directors, an appointment to the Austin Economic Growth and Redevelopment Task Force, and an IHG Owners Association Ambassadorship. Patel is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and holds a degree in business administration.

###

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.