



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

## **AAHOA Statement on the State of the Union Address**

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 5 – AAHOA President & CEO Cecil Staton issued the following statement in response to President Trump’s State of the Union address:

“America’s hoteliers applaud President Trump and Members of Congress for working together to create an exceptional environment in which to grow small businesses, create good American jobs, and invest in local communities. The President’s address highlighted many of the factors responsible for the sustained economic growth we are experiencing including critical regulatory reforms and the easing of tax burdens on entrepreneurs. Business and consumer confidences remain incredibly high enabling record hotel occupancy and tremendous development and expansion within the industry.

“AAHOA also applauds the administration for its focus on human trafficking prevention and is proud to have attended the White House Summit celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act last week. We look forward to continuing to work with administration and congressional leaders to make a difference on this critical issue. America’s hotel owners are on the frontlines of the fight to end human trafficking and to help keep our communities, guests, and employees safe.

“In the year ahead, we urge the White House and Congress to work together on important issues that benefit communities, businesses, workers, and our economy. From investing in infrastructure development and addressing the labor shortage responsible for one million open hospitality jobs to ending predatory litigation against small business owners and expanding travel and tourism to the United States, there are significant opportunities to advance collective priorities.

“The state of our union and of our industry is strong and we are optimistic for what the future holds.”

### **About AAHOA:**

*AAHOA is the largest hotel owners association in the world. The over 18,500 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.*

###