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For more information, contact: Brandon VerVelde, 202-507-6187, brandon@aahoa.com

Rep. Ed Royce Spends a Day in the Life of a Hotel Owner

SAN DIEGO, CA – Rep. Ed Royce (R, California) learned what it takes to run a hotel with a “back-of-the-house” tour of the Holiday Inn & Suites in Fullerton, California, today. Owner Dhar Patel, a member of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association, guided Royce through the inner workings of the hotel’s operations, including running the front desk, turning over a room, and washing and preparing the laundry.

Chip Rogers, president and CEO of AAHOA, thanked Royce for taking the time to learn more about the hotel industry.

“Running a hotel is more complex than most people realize. The employees work hard to ensure that every guest has a relaxing stay, which entails a lot of work that the average person doesn’t see,” commented Rogers. “Rep. Royce saw firsthand what it takes to run a successful hotel. He also had the chance to meet the people that make it happen.”

After the tour, Royce spoke to Patel and other area hoteliers during a roundtable discussion regarding the challenges hotels are facing from the new regulations coming out of Washington, including the new overtime rule and the importance of the franchise model.

“The hospitality industry is critical to Southern California’s economy and our community’s hotels provide opportunity for workers on every rung of the job ladder,” said Rep. Royce, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. “I enjoyed gaining a greater understanding of all that goes on behind the scenes to ensure a hotel runs smoothly and look forward to working with the AAHOA to ensure that hoteliers and their employees receive the support they need from Congress.”

Patel said he was thrilled to host Royce at his hotel for the day.

“It’s an honor to have Rep. Royce tour my small business today. I’m very proud to build my business and create jobs for my community, and I’m thankful that Rep. Royce took the time to learn more about the hotel business,” said Patel.

Founded in 1989, AAHOA (www.aahoa.com) is the largest hotel owners association in the world, with more than 15,000 small business owner-members. AAHOA members own almost one in every two hotels in the United States.

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