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Report: New business formations down in 2015 **Misguided policies are holding back job creators, says hotel association executive**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Reports that new business formations were down in 2015 compared to 2014 point to a growing concern in the small business community that the economy is still struggling, says Chip Rogers, president and CEO of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association, the largest association of hotel owners in the world with more than 15,000 small business owner-members.

“We always read about layoffs or expansions by big companies, but the reality is that small businesses account for half of all jobs in America,” said Rogers. “The policies coming out of Washington haven’t helped. The heavy-handed, one-size-fits-all regulations like the new overtime rule, the expanded joint employer standard, and the persuader rule will only make it harder for owners to focus on their growing their businesses and hiring new workers.”

The [report released by Babson College](#) showed that new business formation was down two percentage points over 2014 and also reversed a four-year streak of formations increasing.

Rogers also pointed to rising hotel taxes throughout the country that are stifling job growth in the lodging industry.

“Over the past two years, we’ve seen 33 hikes in local lodging taxes in states from Maine to California. Every dollar taken from customers through lodging taxes is a dollar they no longer have to spend for an additional night or at restaurants, entertainment, and shops,” Rogers said.

“This study should be a wake-up call to lawmakers at all levels of government. Job creators are struggling and we need to consider some common-sense reforms,” Rogers concluded.

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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