



COMMITTEE STATEMENT

Opening Statement of Rep. Ryan Mackenzie (R-PA)

Subcommittee on Workforce Protections Hearing

“Less Red Tape, More Opportunity: Unleashing American Workers and Job Creators”

September 2, 2026

(As prepared for delivery)

American workers and businesses deserve a reasonable regulatory environment that supports growth and prosperity, not red tape and delays. That’s why today’s hearing will examine policies that make it easier for individuals and businesses to work, hire, invest, and build.

In the last year and a half, Republicans in Congress have worked quickly to remove barriers that hinder economic growth and stifle private sector employment. By cutting taxes for every American, and by removing unnecessary mandates that raise costs and limit opportunity, we are empowering workers and small businesses to thrive.

As a result of these commonsense policies, employers are becoming more optimistic about the American economy. In its July 2026 monthly Small Business Economic Trends Report, the National Federation of Independent Business reported that its Small Business Optimism Index is at 99.8—higher than its average rating during the previous administration. When asked to evaluate the overall health of their businesses, 69 percent of employers responded that it was either excellent or good.

Now, it's time to build on this work by continuing to eliminate unnecessary obstacles for the men and women who take risks and invest in our communities. Small businesses should be spending their time growing, hiring, and innovating—not navigating unnecessary federal red tape. Regulatory uncertainty and higher compliance costs ultimately make it harder for employers to create opportunities for themselves and their workers.

The American people are counting on us to ensure federal regulations are grounded in common sense—safeguarding important environmental and safety standards while minimizing the slowdowns caused by the federal bureaucracy. By doing this, we make it easier for small businesses, workers, and communities to achieve and thrive.

Today's hearing will examine ways in which we can foster that climate and find the appropriate regulatory balance for every American.