

**Opening Statement of Chairman Greg Walden
Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection
“Built in America: Jobs and Growth in the Manufacturing Sector”**

September 26, 2018

As Prepared for Delivery

Good morning and thank you to our witnesses for appearing before us today to discuss the state of a quintessential American industry: manufacturing. From car parts, to industrial equipment, to semiconductors, America’s manufacturing sector keeps us on the cutting edge of technology and world leadership.

Thanks to historic achievements in tax and regulatory reform, our country is undergoing a manufacturing revival unlike any we’ve seen in a long time. The latest manufacturing index from the Institute for Supply Management has reached its highest level in 14 years. This number translates to surging growth and increased production of goods made in America.

With this resurgence comes the return of manufacturing jobs. The *Washington Post* recently reported, “Jobs in goods-producing industries — mining, construction and manufacturing — grew 3.3 percent in the year preceding July, the best rate since 1984. . .”¹

And with this increase in manufacturing jobs has come rising wages. According to the August Bureau of Labor Statistics quarterly release, compensation for workers has risen to a nearly 10-year high.

The latest U.S. GDP report shows that our economy has grown at a rate of 4.2 percent, and we anticipate this week’s GDP report will show similarly strong results.

And further, earlier this month, the National Federation of Independent Business reported that its “Small Business Optimism Index” had surged to 108.8 percent, the highest level ever recorded in the survey’s 45-year history.

¹ “Under Trump, the jobs boom has finally reached blue-collar workers. Will it last?” (September 9, 2018) https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2018/09/09/under-trump-jobs-boom-has-finally-reached-blue-collar-workers-will-it-last/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.9c7b28e2a87f

Of course, all these numbers can seem abstract, but what they represent is not. Our economy is strong and growing. This surge of American manufacturing has come from businesses both large and small. Jobs are being created. New products, technologies, and medicines are being invented. Consumers have more money in their pockets to spend, to put away for their children's education, or save towards retirement. Workers are once again able to find solid, dependable jobs with good pay.

And it is all the result of this Congress investing in America by reducing the burdens that taxes and unnecessary regulations impose on job creators.

America has always been a nation of doers and makers. It has always been a place where anyone with dedication and ambition can start their own enterprise and take the future into their own hands. By any measure we are witnessing a reinvigoration of that proud tradition.

I am proud that this committee's dedication to pro-growth, pro-innovation policies has contributed to this moment. I am even more proud of America's workers and business leaders.

That includes our witnesses for today's hearing. Thank you for all you do to help create jobs and keep America a place where we make things that improve lives and change the world. Please let us know what we in Congress should do to continue supporting American manufacturing and the remarkable economic growth we see today. It's our job to make it easier for you to succeed.

Thank you and I yield back the balance of my time.