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# FORUM

## ON JOB CREATION

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*Increasing taxes and regulation creates uncertainty for private businesses and individuals, which is exactly what inhibits job creation in the first place and may even make it harder for employers to maintain current levels of employment. Taxes remove resources from productive enterprises and individuals. Regulations restrict freedom to compete on different business models and rules. Whether businesses or individuals can “afford” to pay these taxes or “live” with these rules is beside the point. Risk taking by individuals and businesses is the leading generator of job creation, and increasing regulation and taxation almost always reduces risk taking.*

- Edward Lampert, CEO Sears Holding Company

**WHAT:** A discussion with members of the local business community designed to demonstrate that House Republicans are listening to job creators, from outside-the-beltway, on barriers inhibiting job growth and the proactive steps that should be taken to create an environment for economic growth and private sector job creation.

**WHEN:** When Members are home for a Constituent Work Week.

**THEME:** Creating an environment of certainty, eliminating barriers to growth, and fostering an environment of job creation.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Panelists can include businessmen and women from the community. They can be from both small and large businesses. The Member can be part of the panel. The important thing with the panelists is that they can talk about specific examples of government policies that are acting as barriers to growth for their business. An example of a panel would be to use a community banker, the CEO of a group of hotels, and the CEO of an electrical company. You could also have an economist join the panel to give his or her perspective on the impact that these government policies are having on the economy as a whole.

**MODERATOR:** State and local elected officials or local business leaders would be good moderators. The main job for the moderator is to keep the conversation moving and to make sure the participants can tell their story and explain their barriers to growth.

**LOCAL PRESS:** Local press provides an opportunity for you to drive home the message that House Republicans are results-oriented and focused on jobs and the economy. To promote the forum, you can release several press statements and do local TV and radio interviews around the event. You can also target local business reporters and bloggers to highlight the specific challenges facing your small business owners. Following the forum, you can hold a brief press availability to emphasize your pro-growth jobs message and answer questions.

**NEW MEDIA:** The forum can stream live on the Congressman’s website. You can also tweet pictures and highlights from the event to encourage additional participation from the public.

*Thank you to the Office of Majority Leader Eric Cantor, who provided the content for this best practice. If you have any questions about the content please contact them at 202-225-8215.*

## **POSITIVE PRESS HEADLINES**

*(received by the office of Majority Leader Eric Cantor as a result of the Jobs Forum):*

### **Richmond Times-Dispatch: At VCU, business leaders discuss issues with Cantor**

Cantor told the audience that he's working to target regulations that are seen as burdensome. "It's all (with) good intentions that people approach the policymaking. The problem is there are so many unintended consequences that we have seen come into effect," he said. "We have got to just overall restrain the growth in terms of Washington prescribing how people should conduct business." [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#)

### **Bearing Drift: Concern over uncertainty and too much regulation dominates job creation forum in Richmond**

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor was in Richmond to host a job forum with Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling, moderator, and five entrepreneurs from across Virginia Wednesday. The purpose of the forum was to listen to the concerns of job creators in an effort to better inform potential legislation in Congress and improve the regulatory conditions for job creation. ... The words used consistently by all throughout the entire forum: over-burdensome regulations and uncertainty. [Bearing Drift](#)

### **Free Lance-Star: Cantor: Agencies should be reined in**

The business leaders and Cantor all said they don't oppose government regulation itself, but dislike broad-based regulations, which can harm small businesses when intended to apply to larger companies. Cantor said House Republicans plan to work on legislation to encourage job creation and minimize government interference in the private sector. [Free Lance-Star](#)

### **Virginia Business: Cantor seeks regulation reform to encourage job growth**

Neil Amin, the CEO of Chester-based Shamin Hotels, said access to capital and the new federal health-care law were primary concerns for his business. "We have so many projects we want to do..." says Amin. "But we have not been able to get financing." Amin says the hotel has been forced to keep extra cash on hand, which the company would normally invest elsewhere. [Virginia Business](#)

### **The Virginian-Pilot: Relaxing regs, revising tax code would aid economy, Cantor says**

Joining Cantor at the forum held on Virginia Commonwealth University's campus was Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling, who moderated the panel discussion, and five business officials from the banking, energy, biotechnology, hospitality, and energy industry. Panelists discussed how rising fuel prices have increased their operational costs, how unwieldy federal regulations and uncertainty about the economy have hampered commerce, and how the federal health care overhaul may affect their businesses. [The Virginian-Pilot](#)

### **Virginia Public Radio: Challenges to Small Businesses**

U.S. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor returned to his Richmond-area district to host a jobs forum comprised of small business-owners and economists to discuss the challenges they are facing. As Virginia Public Radio's Tommie McNeil reports, Cantor said he would like to take many of Virginia's business models back to Washington and incorporate those practices there. [Virginia Public Radio](#)

### **The Hill: House Republicans plan assault on federal regulations 'gone awry'**

The small-business owners Cantor met with on Wednesday largely echoed the message he has been delivering in Congress for several months. Representing a community bank, a local hotel, and biotech and electric companies, they said the regulatory environment created by the healthcare and finance laws increased uncertainty and stifled job creation. "It creates an overall level of uncertainty for us," said Neil Amin, the CEO of Shamin hotels in Chester, Va. He said his company was keeping more cash on hand than at any time in its history because of looming regulations, money that would otherwise be used to expand the business. [The Hill](#)

### **CBS 6: Congressman Cantor at Job Creation Forum**

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor sat down Wednesday to discuss job growth with local business leaders. "Right now, so much of the discussion in Washington is being spent on trying to get our own fiscal house in order which is essential, as a pre-requisite to a foundation for a growing economy but there's lots of other problems right now," Congressman Cantor said. [CBS6](#)