



Written Testimony for Carlos Ruiz Before the U.S. Small Business Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access

April 29, 2021

Chairwoman Sharice Davids, Ranking Member Dan Meuser, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee, my name is Carlos Ruiz. I'm the owner of HT Metals—a premier provider of ready to manufacture raw materials in Tucson, Arizona.

The past year has been a challenging period for my small business, along with the millions of others across the country. The least our elected leaders in Washington can do is not build additional roadblocks on the path to recovery. With what I've seen so far, I'm not optimistic.

My small business is particularly being negatively affected by the labor shortage spurred by the renewal of expanded unemployment benefits from the federal government. Providing out-of-work Americans with a little extra cash during the initial stages of the pandemic was warranted. But now that the economy is well on the way to reopening, Uncle Sam should be incentivizing people to get back to work, rather than remaining on the couch.

It's been so challenging to find qualified workers to fill open positions at HT Metals that I've been exploring using a temporary work agency. But this can't go on forever. Not only is the labor significantly more expensive, but the job candidates rarely have the right skills and experience to effectively get the job done.

Pile-on the threat posed by higher taxes and more regulations that will spike the cost of everyday operations and small businesses face a scary future. Components included in the two "infrastructure" packages that the Biden administration has unveiled are of particular concern.

Small businesses are the backbone of the U.S. economy. Without giving us a long enough runway—unimpeded by government-erected barriers—to recover from the pandemic, the country will stagnate.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony.

Sincerely,

Carlos Ruiz
Owner
HT Metals
Tucson, AZ