



START-UP DAY ACROSS AMERICA

TALKING POINTS

- Start-ups are no longer just about a small group of people huddling together to pool their ideas and resources. They're about crowdsourcing ideas and investment opportunities. They're about developing source code collaboratively and taking advantage of open source technology, and about protecting the resources that all businesses and economies depend on to grow – whether they're natural resources like air and water or technological resource like the Internet and wireless spectrum.
- That means public policy has to catch up to the needs of 21st-century innovators. We should be promoting collaboration and looking to eliminate barriers to entry – so that folks with good ideas can market them to potential investors who can help implement them, and start-ups can compete with name-brand corporations that far too often still monopolize the marketplace.
- **Internet.** Promoting start-up growth in the 21st century means we have to preserve the free and open internet and ensure equal access to high-speed broadband.
- **Immigration.** One of our biggest challenges in growing new businesses is that our broken immigration system does not allow for training and retaining the talented workers and entrepreneurs that want to be a part of our country's economy.
- **Investment in Growth.** If you want new business to grow and thrive, they need an “ecosystem” with the essential elements. Like a growing tree needs sun, water, and good soil, growing businesses need Congress to make investments in infrastructure, R&D, and our future STEM leaders.
- **Diversity in Entrepreneurship:** The start-up economy must be open for all to ensure that its benefits are shared across our communities. This



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means making sure that women and underrepresented populations have the tools they need to bring their unique voices, leadership, and experiences into the entrepreneurship space.

- **Access to capital.** Access to capital is one of the largest challenges a startup can face. In the modern economy, where startups can rise and fall in the blink of an eye we must continue to look for creative ways to make sustainable and usable capital accessible entrepreneurs, while also balance protections for investors.
- **Labor.** Finally, part of growing the economy is having strong organizations that can fight on behalf of the working people. We must expand collective bargaining in order to decrease wage disparity and improve opportunities for all. The middle class' share of income closely mirrors the decline of union membership. Thousands of studies show there is a high correlation between union membership and middle class income. We must think outside-of-the-box to reverse this trend for all working Americans.
- Congress's job is to do everything possible to foster an environment where Americans can innovate and create. That means writing labor policies that allow all Americans to climb the career ladder and provide for their families. And it means marshaling all the resources available to us – our environment, our workforce, our free and open Internet – to compete in the global economy.