

**Candidate Pat Toomey**  
**Message to Small Business**

*Reprinted from SMC Government News*  
*July 2010*

I started and operated several restaurants in the Lehigh Valley and Lancaster areas with my brothers. As a former small business owner, I know from firsthand experience about the challenges and struggles that small business owners face every day.

Unfortunately, too many politicians in Washington don't know the first thing about how a small business is run and how to create jobs. These politicians impose one-size-fits-all Washington mandates without appreciating the devastating costs that come along.

For example, the recent government-run health care bill passed by the Democrat-controlled Congress imposes billions in new taxes on Pennsylvania businesses and families. These taxes will make it harder and more expensive for business owners to hire new workers. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the bill also raises the cost of health insurance for self-employed individuals by 10 – 13 percent. My opponent voted for this bill, but I opposed it because I know that it will be a disaster for Pennsylvania's small businesses.

Unfortunately, the Democratic Congress wants to impose more taxes on Pennsylvania's small businesses. My opponent voted for a cap-and-trade energy tax that will make it more expensive to use all forms of energy. Expert studies have estimated that this bill will cost the Commonwealth between 41,00 and 97,000 jobs and will cause electricity, gas, and natural gas prices to skyrocket.

The Democratic Congress also threatens small businesses with a wave of tax increase as the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts approach their expiration date at the end of this year. If Congress does nothing, businesses all across Pennsylvania will face increased tax rates on everything from corporate income, personal income, capital gains, dividends, and estates.

In these tough, uncertain times, Congress should be making it easier for businesses to hire more employees and expand their businesses, not punishing them when they do.

That's why I have argued that Congress should rescind the unspent portions of the stimulus and the Wall Street bailout program and use that money to cut the payroll tax for employees and employers. This will mean an automatic increase in take-home pay for each worker and will immediately lower the cost for businesses to hire new workers.

I also support scrapping our ridiculously complicated, unfair, and inefficient tax code and replacing it with a fairer and simpler tax code that will lead to a huge surge in economic growth. Finally, Congress should cut the tax on capital gains, repeal the Death Tax, and allow companies to expense capital purchases equipment to encourage businesses to grow and expand.

There are many sectors and industries in Pennsylvania that are poised for growth if we let them. But government must make sure it doesn't stand in the way, which is what it is doing today. The most important thing it can do is remove barriers to economic growth and allows the American people to do what we do best.