

Last week President Obama stated, "If you've been successful, you didn't get there on your own... Somebody helped to create this unbelievable American system that we have that allowed you to thrive. Somebody invested in roads and bridges. If you've got a business -- you didn't build that. Somebody else made that happen."

While it is undoubtedly true that the government helps to create an environment in which businesses can succeed, achievement in our nation has always been predicated on the unalienable rights of the individual: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Without the hard work and innovation of the individual American engineer, scientist, farmer, and small business owner, government policies have no ability to create widely shared prosperity. Yet, the President's fundamentally flawed belief serves as the foundation for his push to increase the tax burden on small businesses at the end of the year.

Under our tax system, many small businesses report their income on their owners' individual tax returns. As a result, according to the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation, more than half of small business income will be subject to higher taxes under the President's proposal to increase tax rates on individuals with income over \$200,000. I believe that these tax hikes are the wrong direction for our nation and will only further slow the growth of our economy.

This week I spoke on the floor of the House to express concerns with the President's comments and his tax increase proposal. You can read my speech below and watch it [here](#).

"Madam Speaker, coming from a small business background, I originally ran for public office not because of what government was doing for me, but rather because of what it was doing to me. Many small business owners in my northern California district feel the same way, but apparently, the President isn't getting that message. The other day, he said, 'If you've got a business -- you didn't build that. Somebody else made that happen.' Madam Speaker, perhaps that's why he is so determined to raise taxes on small businesses on January first.

Now, Senate Democrats are saying that if they can't get their small-business tax hike, they'll let taxes go up for everyone. That's just wrong. Let's stop the tax hike for all Americans."