



To report excessive or unfair regulatory enforcement:

Complete the *Federal Agency Comment Form* found online at www.sba.gov/ombudsman.

Submit the form online, by mail or fax:

U.S. Small Business Administration
Office of the National Ombudsman
409 3rd Street SW, MC 2120
Washington, DC 20416-0001

Toll-Free: 888-REG-FAIR,
(734-3247)

Fax: 202-481-5719

What to include in your comment form:

- Describe the enforcement or compliance action, inspection or review activity and its results;
- Provide documentation of any enforcement action taken by the federal agency (i.e. correspondence, citations, or notice, etc.); and
- Briefly explain how the federal agency could have served your business better.

We will review your comment and may request additional documentation to substantiate your comment as needed.

SBA programs and services are provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

If excessive fines, penalties or unfair regulatory enforcement by federal agencies are problems for your small business, you have a voice in Washington, D.C., through the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of the National Ombudsman.

The National Ombudsman assists small businesses with unfair and excessive regulatory enforcement by federal agencies including repetitive audits or investigations, excessive fines, penalties, retaliation or other unfair regulatory enforcement actions.

Acting as a "troubleshooter" between small businesses and federal agencies, the National Ombudsman receives comments and complaints from small businesses. The comments and complaints are then directed to the appropriate federal agency for a high-level review.

The National Ombudsman can help if:

- You are or represent a small business, small government entity (population 50,000 or less) or a small nonprofit organization;
- Your comments or complaints are directly related to a federal agency that has regulatory authority over small businesses; and
- A compliance or enforcement action has been taken by a federal agency or such an action is imminent.

Looking Out for Small Business

Each year the National Ombudsman files a report with the U.S. Congress on how federal agencies have treated small business. Agencies are given a grade on their timeliness and quality of responsiveness to small business concerns. The National Ombudsman also coordinates 10 regional regulatory fairness boards which report cases concerning federal regulatory enforcement affecting small business.

Regulatory burdens are much greater for small firms than they are for those with 500 employees or more:

- The cost of federal regulations totals \$1.1 trillion.
- Small firms with fewer than 20 employees spend \$7,647 per year per employee, 45 percent more than larger firms, to comply with federal regulations.
- Small firms spend four and a half times as much per employee to comply with environmental regulations.
- Small firms spend 67 percent more per employee on tax compliance.

For more information go to www.sba.gov.

Government forms are available at www.forms.gov. Compliance assistance is located at www.business.gov. To contact SBA's toll-free answer desk, call 1-880-U ASK SBA.