



NEWS RELEASE

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Public Forum Set in Glen Allen: Small Business Owners to Comment on Federal Regulatory Enforcement

Richmond, VA -- Small business owners, community leaders and representatives of trade associations in Virginia who are concerned about excessive enforcement of federal rules can voice their complaints at a **U.S. Small Business Administration Regulatory Fairness Board Forum in Glen Allen, VA on Tuesday, May 18, 2010, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

The forum will be held in the Virginia Housing Development Authority, Virginia Housing Center, 4224 Cox Road, Glen Allen, Virginia 23060-3318. (Free parking on-site.)

SBA National Ombudsman [Esther Vassar](#), members of the SBA's Region III Regulatory Fairness Board, and representatives of federal regulatory agencies will hear comments and complaints about regulatory enforcement and compliance and will discuss the impact of federal regulations on small business.

“Recognizing that small business owners want to play by the rules and comply with Federal regulations but are often challenged because of lack of resources and fear of challenging regulatory decisions, the Office of the National Ombudsman works to improve existing programs, expand and strengthen relationships with federal agencies, and develop new programs and partnerships that help small businesses maneuver through the Federal regulatory enforcement environment without fear of retaliation,” Vassar said. “We encourage Federal regulators to focus more on effective compliance assistance rather than excessive regulatory enforcement.”

This forum offers small business owners a chance to express their concerns about federal compliance practices and to learn how to more effectively deal with federal regulatory requirements.

Comments and complaints presented during this forum will be directed to the appropriate federal regulatory agency. This information will also be shared with federal officials in the National Ombudsman's Annual Report to Congress, and with leadership of federal regulatory agencies to assist them with their enforcement actions.

The forum is open to the public. Those wishing to testify should contact James Williams, Lead Business Development Specialist, at 804-771-2400 ext. 123 or by email at james.williams@sba.gov before the forum. Should small business owners or representatives be unable to attend, written testimony may be sent in advance of the forum to be included in the public record.

Comments and concerns about federal enforcement actions can be addressed directly to SBA's Office of the National Ombudsman at 1-888-734-3247 (REGFAIR). For more information about the National Ombudsman and the Glen Allen, VA forum, please visit the web site www.sba.gov/ombudsman.

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To learn more about the SBA, call 804-771-2400 or visit www.sba.gov/va