U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# SMALL BUSINESS OMBUDSMAN

## OFFICE OF SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS UTILIZATION

***We Are Opening Doors for America's Small Businesses!***

The EPA Small Business Ombudsman (SBO) helps the EPA responsibly protect the environment and human health through economic and compliance assistance service to small businesses.

The SBO serves many roles, including:

- The EPA Small Business Ombudsman (SBO);
- The EPA Asbestos Ombudsman;
- The EPA Point of Contact under the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002; and
- Providing support for State Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs), established by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

The SBO assists small businesses in protecting the environment and human health in the following ways:

### ADVOCACY

- Serve as port of entry to EPA for small business environmental issues
- Consider and present the impacts of regulatory issues on small businesses
- Coordinate small business advocacy within the EPA and across agencies

### COMMUNICATION

- Organize and host Deputy Administrator's meetings with National Trade Associations
- Prepare *SBO Update Newsletter* for over 20,000 internal and external customers
- Provide small business environmental publications, regulations, guidance, and tools
- Inform small businesses about compliance-related matters through the toll-free hotline and small business website (see below)

### COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE

- Develop environmental performance-enhancing tools for small businesses and assistance providers
- Promote development of tools (e.g., Compliance Guides) within EPA to encourage compliance by small businesses
- Collaborate with agency offices to develop plain language fact sheets, guidance, and checklists for small businesses

### COMMUNITY

- Support a national network of State SBEAPs
- Sponsor Annual SBO/SBEAP National Conference
- Conduct Annual EPA Small Business Regional Liaison Conference

**SMALL BUSINESS OMBUDSMAN**
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