

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) requires agencies to take steps to collect input from small entities on regulations and to determine whether a rule is expected to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The Small Business Administration's Office of the National Ombudsman (SBA National Ombudsman) was created to assist small businesses when they experience excessive or unfair federal regulatory enforcement actions, such as repetitive audits or investigations, excessive fines, penalties, threats, retaliation or other unfair enforcement action by a federal agency.

Small businesses in need of assistance with regulatory matters may contact the SBA National Ombudsman via email at ombudsman@sba.gov or 888-734-3247 (888-REG-FAIR). Note that contacting the SBA National Ombudsman is not a substitute for any other action a firm may take regarding specific federal enforcement activity, so a firm should continue to pursue all legal and administrative remedies it believes are in its best interest. In addition, acquisition matters, such as evaluation of proposals and reviews of performance, are business decisions and not regulatory matters. A firm that has concerns about such processes should follow the appropriate review processes set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulation or other applicable acquisition policy documents.