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Tony Pendola Receives 2021 Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Excellence Award

The National Steering Committee (NSC) of Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs) & Small Business Ombudsmen (SBO) selected Tony Pendola, the SBO/SBEAP for the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to receive the 2021 Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Award for Excellence. This award category recognizes exemplary performance of one SBEAP/SBO or individual in the areas of compliance assistance, sustainability, advocacy, and collaboration at the national level. The SBEAP Excellence Award emphasizes state program or individual leadership where they have created resources and work products, promoted policy advancements, developed program innovations, and established new partnerships to build a strong network of small business assistance.

Tony Pendola was chosen by the SBEAP/SBO NSC for his leadership and outstanding efforts, from serving on the NSC as the regional alternate or representative and Vice Chair/Chair to being a liaison for the NSC to the national organizations NACAA/AAPCA as well as EPA's Office of Air and Radiation and Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. The nomination specifically mentioned his leadership role as a topic expert on autobody, dry cleaning, and ready mixed concrete industry sectors. Tony supports his SBEAP/SBO colleagues by maintaining lists of compliant coatings for the autobody sector through his partnerships with the paint manufacturers and provides a wide range of information and resources through the national SBEAP/SBO listserves.

"Not only does Tony serve as a vital resource for businesses in his state, but he is a leader in the national SBEAP network, benefiting small businesses nationwide. Of particular note is his work last year developing a regulation navigation tool posted on U.S. EPA's website that provides shops technical, compliance assistance with 6H (the autobody refinishing rule). This tool was especially timely due to the COVID-related downturn in the industry that allowed owners and operators more time to focus on environmental compliance." said Jennifer Collins, Chair of the SBEAP/SBO NSC.

The SBEAP/SBO NSC Awards are the States' premier awards program for recognizing outstanding environmental leadership among small businesses and small business assistance providers. These awards recognize small businesses, SBEAP/SBO programs and individuals, trade associations and other business assistance providers who have made significant contributions to protecting the environment. The awards program is sponsored by the SBEAP/SBO NSC in partnership with U.S. EPA Asbestos and Small Business Office.

More information about the state SBEAP/SBO is available at <https://nationalsbeap.org/>.

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About the Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs and Small Business Ombudsmen

The Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAP) and Small Business Ombudsmen (SBO) were created under Section 507 of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. For more than 25 years, the SBEAP/SBO have provided extensive, hands-on technical assistance to small businesses across the country to help them understand and comply with complex environmental regulations. The SBEAP/SBO website, <https://nationalsbeap.org/>, is a resource for program participants and small businesses. Find your state specific contact at: <https://nationalsbeap.org/states>. #SBEAP #SmallBusiness