



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460**

OFFICE OF  
SMALL BUSINESS  
PROGRAMS

October 30, 2008

Nicholas N. Owens  
National Ombudsman and Assistant Administrator  
for Regulatory Enforcement Fairness  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
409 3rd Street, S.W. (MC 2120)  
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Mr. Owens:

I am writing as a follow-up to my September 30, 2008, letter regarding a case filed with your office by Mr. Brian L. Warner, representing the National Compliance Advisory Panel (NCAP) in support of State Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAP), and on your offer to facilitate a meeting with the appropriate parties involved at both the state and federal level.

On October 9, 2008, I met with staff from the appropriate Agency program offices to discuss the concerns of the state programs and how we can best address the issues raised by Mr. Warner. We provided the program offices with background information on the NCAP and SBEAPs, and on the associated issues and concerns. After the meeting, we received a revised background document from the SBEAP National Steering Committee (NSC) and distributed it to each of the program offices.

We understand that you are interested in facilitating a meeting as soon as possible. We agree that the best way to proceed is to set up a meeting between Agency senior leadership with NCAP and SBEAP representatives to start a discussion about the issues raised by Mr. Warner. We are tentatively planning the meeting for the week of November 17, 2008, and are in the process of determining the availability of Agency staff. We will organize the meeting and be responsible for the logistics. If you can facilitate the meeting, please let me know your availability during the week of November 17, 2008.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact me at 202-566-2075 or at [brown.jeanettel@epa.gov](mailto:brown.jeanettel@epa.gov), or Angela Suber, Small Business Ombudsman Team at 202-566-2827 or [suber.angela@epa.gov](mailto:suber.angela@epa.gov).

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Jeanette L. Brown, Director  
Office of Small Business Programs

cc: Ray E. Spears, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Deborah Roy, NCAP Chair  
Glenn Heilman, NCAP Vice Chair  
Annette Fulgenzi, SBEAP NSC Chair  
Renee Bashel, SBEAP NSC Vice Chair  
Joan B. Rogers, Small Business Ombudsman  
Angela Suber, Small Business Ombudsman Team