



# *NEWS RELEASE*

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## **Minnesota Business Owner Appointed Regulatory Fairness Board Regional Chairman**

**CHICAGO** – Stephen L. Becher, a small business owner from Burnsville, Minn., has been named Chairman of the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Region V Regulatory Fairness Board by acting SBA Administrator Sandy K. Baruah.

The Regulatory Fairness Board regional chairman reports to National Ombudsman and Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Nicholas N. Owens. SBA’s Office of the National Ombudsman hosts regulatory fairness hearings nationwide where small business owners may express their concerns about burdensome federal regulations. The Regulatory Fairness Board regional chairpersons participate in planning these events.

“Stephen Becher will provide strong leadership, creative thinking and new strategies as the Office of the National Ombudsman continues its outreach to small businesses in the region to inform them of their rights to regulatory fairness,” said National Ombudsman Nicholas N. Owens. “The regional boards provide an important service to entrepreneurs by working to support small businesses as they strive to operate in an environment where regulations are effective and not excessive.”

Each of the 10 regional Regulatory Fairness Boards is comprised of five members and serves as a resource and point of contact for small business owners who feel they have experienced excessive federal regulatory enforcement and compliance actions. The SBA Region V includes Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Stephen Becher is the CEO and owner of Home Owner’s Resource Guide. The company produces several publications, along with a Web site that provides information and links to resources for residents in the Twin Cities Metro area and in Iowa interested in buying, selling or improving a home. Becher can be reached by e-mail at [sbecher@homeownersrg.com](mailto:sbecher@homeownersrg.com), or by phone at (952) 808-5550.

In addition to coordinating the activities of the 10 regional boards, the National Ombudsman also rates federal agency enforcement fairness, prepares an annual report on those ratings to Congress, and provides a voice for small businesses as they manage the federal regulatory enforcement process.

Regulatory Fairness Boards were created in 1996 as part of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. For more information about the Office of the National Ombudsman, visit the Web site at [www.sba.gov/ombudsman](http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman).

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