

Opening Statement of Chairman Cresent Hardy (R-NV)
Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations
Hearing: *Oversight of the Office of Advocacy and the Office of the National Ombudsman at the SBA*
February 10, 2016

Good morning, I call this hearing to
order. **[Strike gavel once]**

Too often small businesses tell us that
the federal government ignores their
concerns about new regulations and treats
them unfairly. At a hearing in my district
this past November, I heard how red tape is
making it more difficult for small firms,
especially in rural areas, to operate.

Small businesses are even more worried about a flood of new mandates gushing out of Washington, DC in the final year of the Obama Administration.

Last year, the Administration finalized rules totaling \$99 billion in costs, and many of those rules – like EPA’s waters of the United States rule – inflict significant burdens on small businesses.

This year could be even worse as federal agencies plan to finalize rules like the DOL's overtime rule that impose major costs on small businesses and will hurt their employees.

Two offices – the Office of Advocacy and the Office of the National Ombudsman at the Small Business Administration – were created by Congress to help small businesses with the very regulatory concerns I have mentioned.

The Office of Advocacy independently represents the views and interests of small business as new regulations are developed.

It also monitors agency compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The Office of the National Ombudsman provides a way for small businesses to anonymously comment on excessive or unfair regulatory enforcement actions.

Today, the Subcommittee will hear from the leaders of both offices on how they are carrying out their statutory duties.

Given that regulations continue to be a significant challenge for small businesses, it is critical that these offices work effectively to reduce excessive regulatory burdens and ensure that the small businesses are treated fairly.

I'd like to thank our witnesses for coming today, and I look forward to your testimony. I now yield to Ranking Member Adams for her opening remarks.