

Advocacy Welcomes Joseph DiStasio to the New England Region



Advocacy welcomes Joseph DiStasio, a Massachusetts businessman, who has been appointed small business advocate for federal Region 1. The first member of Advocacy’s team of regional advocates, DiStasio, began his position in April.

As a regional advocate, DiStasio is the direct link between the region’s small business owners, state and local government agencies, state legislators, small business associations, and the Office of Advocacy.

“Joseph DiStasio is a great addition to our team,” said Major Clark III, acting chief counsel for advocacy. “Small business owners in New England have an outstanding advocate in Mr. DiStasio. His experience as a small business owner will allow him to immediately contribute to the Office of Advocacy’s role as the government office that stands between small business owners and unnecessary or overly burdensome government regulations.”

DiStasio has been a small business owner and director in the

landscape management industry for more than two decades. His background also includes experience as an aerospace project engineer working on F-22 Raptor jet engine components. The father of four also serves in the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol in Plymouth, Mass., with one of his children.

In addition, DiStasio is an experienced real estate investor who has purchased, managed and divested of several residential, commercial, and industrial properties. He has gone through the zoning, permitting, and construction processes and is familiar with the cyclical nature of the real estate market and the financing thereof.

“I’ve been through the up markets and the down markets, and I like the upward markets much better,” DiStasio said.

DiStasio received a bachelor of liberal arts in extension studies, cum laude, from Harvard University (economics field of study, minor in business management). He received an associate in applied science, mechanical engineering, cum laude, from Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston.

The Office of Advocacy’s regional advocates help identify new issues and concerns of small business owners in the nation’s 10 federal regions. They also monitor the impact of federal and state policies on small business at the local level.

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Starting with the next issue, this newsletter will be delivered to your inbox as an e-bulletin.



It's Back to Business with the Members of the 115th Congress

Compiled by Emily Theroux, Public Affairs Assistant



Administrator Linda McMahon with Rep. Steve Chabot and Rep. Nydia Velazquez

Membership of the House Small Business Committee

Republicans:

Rep. Steve Chabot, Chairman, (Ohio)
Rep. Steve King, (Iowa)
Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, (Mo.)
Rep. Dave Brat, (Va.)
Rep. Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen, (American Samoa, at large)
Rep. Steve Knight, (Calif.)
Rep. Trent Kelly, (Miss.)
Rep. Rod Blum, (Iowa)
Rep. James Comer, (Ky.)
Rep. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon, (Puerto Rico)
Rep. Don Bacon, (Neb.)
Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, (Pa.)
Rep. Roger Marshall, (Kan.)

Democrats:

Rep. Nydia Velazquez, Ranking, (N.Y.)
Rep. Dwight Evans, (Pa.)
Rep. Stephanie Murphy, (Fla.)
Rep. Al Lawson (Fla.)
Rep. Yvette Clarke, (N.Y.)

Rep. Judy Chu, (Calif.)
Rep. Alma Adams, (N.C.)
Rep. Adriano Espaillat, (N.Y.)
Rep. Brad Schneider, (Ill.)

Learn more at house.gov and search for about/members.

Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Republicans:

Sen. James Risch, Chairman, (Idaho) *(pictured below)*



Sen. Marco Rubio, (Fla.)
Sen. Rand Paul, (Ky.)
Sen. Tim Scott, (S.C.)
Sen. Joni Ernst, (Iowa)
Sen. James Inhofe, (Okla.)
Sen. Todd Young, (Ind.)
Sen. Michael Enzi, (Wyo.)
Sen. Mike Rounds, (S.D.)
Sen. John Kennedy, (La.)

Democrats:

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Ranking, (N.H.) *(pictured below)*



Sen. Maria Cantwell, (Wash.)
Sen. Ben Cardin, (Md.)
Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, (N.D.)
Sen. Edward Markey, (Mass.)
Sen. Cory Booker, (N.J.)
Sen. Chris Coons, (Del.)
Sen. Mazie Hirono, (Hawaii)
Sen. Tammy Duckworth, (Ill.)

Learn more at <https://www.sbc.senate.gov/public/>.

Is there a topic in which you want to read more about in "The Small Business Advocate's" Heard on the Hill section? Let us know at advocacy@sba.gov

Tax Season and Small Business

By Dillon Taylor, Assistant Chief Counsel for Advocacy

Even though the deadline to file taxes fell on April 18th, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) still provides taxpayers who have yet to file federal income tax returns with help. Certain taxpayers can choose to either use IRS Free File program or go to a community tax-help site for free tax preparation and assistance.

Additionally, the IRS Small Business and Self-Employed Tax Center at <http://www.irs.gov/smallbiz> offers extensive resources and online tools designed to help small businesses and self-employed persons.

The IRS Small Business and Self-Employed Tax Center on the IRS website offers the following resources:

- Small business forms and publications
- Employer Identification Number online application
- Employment tax information – federal income tax, Social Security and Medicare taxes, FUTA and self-employment tax
- Tax-related news that could affect your business
- Small business educational events

• IRS videos for small businesses
Small business owners and representatives frequently report to Advocacy that complying with tax law and rules represent one of the biggest costs and burdens that small businesses face. Using IRS resources such as the IRS Small Business and Self-Employed Tax Center on the IRS website provides some assistance in helping with these burdens. As the small business watchdog, Advocacy encourages small business stakeholders to stay in touch with Advocacy to provide feedback on areas where the IRS filing process during the tax season could be improved and, more generally, where the tax rules could be revised to be less costly for small business.

For more information, check out Advocacy’s Office of Economic Research report “Measuring the Benefit of Federal Tax Expenditures Used by Small Business” at <https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/rs415tot.pdf>.

Taylor covers taxes, pensions, and securities for the Office of Advocacy.

DiStasio *from page 1*

They work closely with local government officials, state officials and legislators, and the chief counsel for advocacy to develop programs and policies that help, rather than hinder, small business growth.

DiStasio is working out of the SBA’s regional office in Boston and has plans to travel often to meet entrepreneurs in the New England states of his region: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. He has hit the ground running and has already visited with small businesses in Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The advocate plans to draw upon his own experiences in business for the position.

“I just feel that I can relate to the small business owners in dealing with the regulations put upon them,” DiStasio said. “It can be extremely difficult for small businesses to be aware of and comply with all the regulations. And I am going to work with my colleagues in Washington to lessen the burden on small businesses.”

Check out future editions of “The Small Business Advocate” newsletters for profiles on two additional regional advocates Nancy Zurbuchen from Region 7 and Phil Lovas from Region 9. Jason Doré also joined Advocacy as the Assistant Chief Counsel for External Affairs/Director of Information during April.



Call to Action

Read Advocacy’s recently released regulatory comment letters and regulatory alerts on our website and sign up to receive these electronically at <https://www.sba.gov/updates>.

News and Notes

Advocacy Blog Spotlight:

EPA Agrees to Advocacy Request to Reconsider 2015 Steam Electric Utility Rule

In a major early victory for small business, in response to Advocacy's April 5th petition for reconsideration, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has agreed to reconsider a costly rule that adversely affected small electric utilities without commensurate environmental benefits. This is one of the first rules considered for modification by the new EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt.

Read more in Assistant Chief Counsel Kevin Bromberg's blog at advocacysba.sites.usa.gov.

Advocacy Holds Economic Research Forums

On April 12th, Advocacy's Office of Economic Research hosted a Small Business Economic Research Forum to bring together researchers from government, business, academia, non-profits, and international organizations to exchange ideas on economics, small business, and policy.

Dr. Chris Rider, Associate Professor of Strategy at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, presented his new paper on new venture job creation and workforce segregation.

Tentative dates for future research forums are May 10th and June 14th from 2-3 p.m. each day. The

research forums are held at SBA headquarters in the Eisenhower conference room unless otherwise noted with teleconference options available. If you are interested in attending, please let us know by emailing advocacy@sba.gov.

New Report Sheds Light on Veteran-Owned Businesses and their Owners

Advocacy released a new report, "Veteran-Owned Businesses and Their Owners: Data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners." It is one of the only large-scale compilations of data on veteran-owned businesses in the United States, and it provides valuable data for analytical and policymaking.

The report gives a detailed profile of this robust business population based on the latest available data, the U.S. Census Bureau's 2012 Survey of Small Business Owners. U.S. firms.

The full report is available on the Office of Advocacy's website at <https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/advocacy/435-veteran-owned-businesses-report.pdf> and the research summary can be read at https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/advocacy/435-veteran-owned-businesses-summary.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

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The Small Business Advocate

The Small Business Advocate newsletter is published by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy. It is distributed electronically to 35,000 subscribers.

The Office of Advocacy is the independent voice for small business in the federal government. The office is the watchdog of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) and the source of small business statistics. Advocacy advances the views and concerns of small business before Congress, the White House, the federal agencies, the federal courts, and state policymakers.

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