

# *News Release*

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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## ***SBA Announces Appointment of Charles Summers as Regional Administrator for New England***

**WASHINGTON** – Charles Summers Jr., a former state senator from Maine, has been appointed regional administrator in Region I to oversee the U.S. Small Business Administration's programs and services in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

"I am thrilled to have Charlie Summers heading up our Region I office," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. "His close interaction with federal and state agencies, military installations, veterans' service organizations and key business leaders have made him an effective and compassionate advocate. He will serve the SBA and New England small businesses extremely well."

Senator Olympia Snowe, Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, applauded the President's selection of Charlie Summers as Region I Administrator. "As a small business owner, Charlie understands the needs of a business and the importance of a vibrant and effective SBA to help businesses succeed. I look forward to working with Charlie on behalf of small businesses in Maine and the entire New England Region," Sen. Snowe said.

Summers grew up in his family's hotel business and later managed motels in Bangor and South Portland, Maine, before owning and running his own small business. In 1990 Summers entered public service as a senator in the Maine legislature. There he served on the Joint Standing Committees on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Legal Affairs and Taxation. U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe recruited Summers to run her state operations in 1995, tapping his skills as a strong advocate for Mainers who needed help navigating federal agencies and as a trusted adviser to the Senator.

Summers also serves the U.S. as a public affairs officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve. When terrorists attacked on September 11, 2001, Summers was recalled to active duty as an aide to the secretary of the Navy in the Pentagon in support of the global war on terrorism. Currently, Summers serves as training officer for Naval Reserve, Navy Information Unit 101, Fifth Fleet.

"As a former small business owner, I know well the challenges faced by American entrepreneurs," said Summers. "I look forward to advocating on their behalf, to preserving and forwarding the interests of free enterprise, and helping to strengthen the New England economy."

Raised in Kewanee, Ill., Summers earned an associate's degree from Blackhawk College-East and a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign. He and his wife, Ruth, live in Scarborough with their two children, Tricia and Chas.

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### **EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

There will be a public swearing-in ceremony on March 7, 2005, at 11:00 am in the Maine District Office, 68 Sewall Street, Augusta, ME. After that Summers will tour the New England Region meeting with SBA staff, resource partners and elected officials. Press is welcomed to attend the swearing-in ceremony.