

This material is part of a collection that documents the harassment, discrimination, and retaliation perpetrated against Alaska's women research scientists by their supervisor, with full knowledge (and arguably, "tacit approval") of their federal employer, the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

Subject: FW: Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Message Text Below

Date: Thursday, October 22, 2009 6:03 AM

From: Cindy Bower <Cindy.Bower@ars.usda.gov>

To: Nancy _____

Well this is good. It seems we have a mandate (directly from Tom Vilsack) to carry through with our EEOC Hearings (and beyond).

“As I said when I first arrived, everyone has a personal responsibility to use his or her skills and expertise to modernize USDA systems and programs, improve policies, reach out to underserved constituencies, assure a discrimination-free workplace, and use Government resources wisely and efficiently.”

We're attempting to modernize USDA (administrative) systems, improve (their) policies, assure a discrimination-free workplace, and use Government resources wisely and efficiently (by highlighting the actions of the “admin-types” who don't).

CKB

----- Forwarded Message

From: "Timmons, Linda" <Linda.Timmons@ARS.USDA.GOV>

Date: Thu, 22 Oct 2009 03:22:36 -0600

To: ARS-ALL <ARS-ALL@ARS.USDA.GOV>

Subject: Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Message Text Below

From: Officeof.theSecretary@ocio.usda.gov <Officeof.theSecretary@ocio.usda.gov>

To: ALL-USDA-2K@usda.gov <ALL-USDA-2K@usda.gov>

Sent: Wed Oct 21 17:47:42 2009

Subject: Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Message Text Below

******* Please do not respond to this mailbox. *******

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250**

TO: All USDA Employees

FROM: Thomas J. Vilsack

Secretary

Subject: Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations

When I first arrived at the Department of Agriculture, I outlined my priorities for the Department and the challenges and opportunities we face in revitalizing rural America and the economy at this crucial time. I have worked with many of you to develop and focus these priorities, which include creating wealth in rural communities, conserving our natural resources and making them more resilient to climate change, increasing food security internationally, and ensuring America's children have access to safe, nutritious and balanced meals. Through your efforts we have moved quickly to respond to these difficult economic times and have made progress on these key priorities. At every stop on the Rural Tour, I have seen evidence of the good work you are doing in delivering the programs USDA administers and the fine service you provide to our customers. Your efforts to implement the 2008 Farm Bill have been impressive.

Today, the President signed the Agriculture Appropriations Act for fiscal year (FY) 2010. This act provides funding for most of the Department's programs, except the Forest Service. It appears that Congress will complete action on the appropriations bill that includes the Forest Service soon. We appreciate Congress' efforts to pass our bills in a timely fashion and to provide funding that advances our top policy and funding priorities.

Highlights of the FY 2010 appropriations bill include:

- Increased investment in rural communities to create wealth: Currently, too many rural residents are leaving their home towns to find better employment opportunities elsewhere; too many rural communities lack the essential facilities for proper health care, clean water and safe waste disposal, and broadband access; and too many rural dwellings are substandard, particularly in areas of persistent poverty. With the funding provided for 2010, USDA will continue to provide historic support for Rural America's

diverse needs for community infrastructure, business and industry and decent housing. We will also utilize these resources in a strong and collaborative regional planning process that will help focus USDA initiatives on renewable energy, broadband infrastructure, and local and regional food systems, all of which will help rural communities thrive in the future.

- Strengthened Conservation Programs: There are over 1.1 billion acres of private working lands and 193 million acres of National Forests that directly benefit from the myriad of USDA stewardship and conservation programs. While agricultural and forest landowners have made good progress in reducing erosion and other sources of water pollution, challenges remain. The 2010 appropriations act continues to provide historic levels of funding for conservation. This continued support will help producers achieve their conservation and farm operation objectives. As we move forward, a balanced conservation portfolio and a landscape-scale perspective will be powerful tools for achieving our goals. Your continued efforts will help us achieve stronger, more sustainable agricultural and forestry sectors, which are a cornerstone of the President's vision for rural America.

- Enhanced ability to support food security policies internationally: Today, global food insecurity affects vast numbers of people worldwide, with as many as one billion people facing hunger or malnutrition. USDA, working with our interagency, domestic and international partners, is in a unique position to promote sustainable agriculture and combat global hunger. During FY 2010, USDA will enhance the global food security initiative and improve the health and nutritional status of millions of people in developing countries. This will be achieved through international food assistance programs, research and technical assistance, training activities that promote sustainable agricultural systems and participation in reconstruction and stabilization efforts in food insecure countries. In addition, we will continue on-going activities related to biotechnology and fostering the adoption of science and rules -based international trading and regulatory systems. This will increase confidence in our food supply and will support the creation of long-term markets and trading opportunities for U.S. agriculture.

- Increased access to safe and nutritious food: President Obama and I are committed to taking steps to reduce obesity among Americans and end

childhood hunger in this country by 2015. Most American households have sufficient access to safe, nutritious food to enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle. However, over 300,000 households with nearly 700,000 children do not have the resources to assure this access. At the same time, nearly one in three children in this country are obese or overweight. And, thousands of Americans die each year from foodborne illnesses. For 2010, Congress provided the funds necessary to meet the demand for our nutrition assistance programs, and to upgrade our programs to promote healthier diets. The Department also received additional funds to support our science-based work to ensure consumers have an abundant selection of safe meat, poultry and egg products, produced by a safe and secure agricultural production system. We also continue our efforts to protect America's animal and plant resources from invasive pests and diseases, which ensures the continued preeminence of agriculture as the foundation of America's prosperity.

A strong research capacity supports the Department's efforts. With the creation of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the Department will transform the way it conducts and promotes science at the Department. The Department's scientists will focus on improving human health and nutrition, protecting our environment, and securing America's energy future. Congress has taken the first steps by increasing the funding for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, the Department's premier competitive grants program, which will accelerate the pace of scientific discovery in the agricultural sciences and speed the application of new knowledge to address challenges facing US and global food and agriculture.

As I said when I first arrived, everyone has a personal responsibility to use his or her skills and expertise to modernize USDA systems and programs, improve policies, reach out to underserved constituencies, assure a discrimination-free workplace, and use Government resources wisely and efficiently. In 2010, we will continue to invest in you and provide you with the tools necessary to build a modern workplace. In particular, we are appreciative that Congress has provided the funding needed to continue to modernize the information technology used to deliver farm programs. Congress also provided the Department additional resources to address civil rights challenges we face. Utilizing funding provided for 2010, we will

take steps to increase the accessibility of the Department's programs to underserved constituents by establishing the Office of Advocacy and Outreach and expanding the activities of the Office of Native American Programs.

Now that Congress has done its part, it is our turn. We have the opportunity and responsibility to make sure that our programs serve all of the people who need them. We need to make every dollar count by managing our resources in the most efficient and effective manner possible. We are grateful for the passage of the Agriculture Appropriations Bill early in the fiscal year, because it provides us a greater opportunity to plan and utilize funds more efficiently. We must now demonstrate to Congress and the public that we can act quickly and effectively to implement our programs in a transparent, equitable manner. Each of you has a vital role to play in achieving these objectives and it is only through your knowledge, skills, and efforts that we will achieve our goals.

I recognize that it is through your commitment and dedication that USDA customers are provided the highest level of service. Every day that you come to work is an opportunity for you to make a difference in addressing the critical needs of America. I am honored to lead the team and to support you in meeting our goals.

----- End of Forwarded Message