

**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)**

**From:** CK Bower <ckbower319@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** **The ARS fights back (the turkeys!)**  
**Date:** October 12, 2010 2:52:46 PM GMT-08:00  
**To:** Lori  Nancy

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Hey,

Remember (after the settlement) when I wrote my "Great News" email to SARU (rather than spewing out an angry "tell all" email about having just quit my job to escape ARS's illegal discrimination)? Note to self: next time, stick with the angry truth.

I just received the rebuttal documents. The ARS is contesting my entitlement to receive unemployment benefits based on that letter. They also included the entire settlement agreement. (Gee, wasn't that supposed to be confidential?!) Their case is that I voluntarily resigned and I was happy about it (and I received a whole lot of money and therefore should be ineligible for unemployment benefits). Now that the settlement amount is out in the open, I'll lose any sympathy votes that might have existed. Plus, there's some wording in the original hearing notice that suggests that I left due to misconduct or substandard quality of my work. (My annual appraisals were "superior", and last year it would have been "outstanding" if anyone but Alberto had been reviewing it!)

Anyway, the new information was forwarded from Janis to the Deputy Director of Human Resources (Carol Gramlich) back in Beltsville, so Alberto is apparently still in the loop to ensure that the truth is filtered out and replaced with lies.

In my notes taken during the settlement talks, I have a quote from   saying that if I don't accept the settlement offer, I'll always regard it as one of the top three worst decisions of my life. He was wrong. Accepting the offer was hands-down the worst decision I've ever made.

I had another chance to get the truth on the record when Brooks met me at Joe's office (the afternoon after the settlement). He wanted me to sign the SF 52 paperwork for my resignation. We debated the reason (which was obviously harassment, discrimination, and retaliation) and in the end, I agreed to leave it blank (which was his suggestion). I thought I was turning over a new, happier more conciliatory leaf, but I should have just kept my angry persona and written the truth.

Anyway, I lost my job, I never achieved the peace I sought, and I get to be attacked again tomorrow. What a life!

I hope your desk planner has something more enjoyable penciled in for you.