

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: RE: Message from Secretary Vilsack
Date: Tuesday, July 20, 2010 12:57 PM
From: Bower, Cindy <Cindy.Bower@ars.usda.gov>
To: _____

Very funny.

I don't know which news story is being referred to, but I just got back from a Federally Employed Women's conference and the problem of discrimination against women is pervasive in the government. Sadly, there are even more egregious cases out there than just discriminating and retaliating against 100% of the women research scientists in ARS Alaska. Unless a disgruntled supervisor actually murders two or more female employees, discrimination and harassment are apparently accepted as just routine events (ho hum). Oh well, as the ARS administrators and support personnel keep implying, I can always quit. Interesting advice. Nice of them not to put "hint, hint!" after their messages. I hope you're having a good week.

CKB

From: _____
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2010 12:45 PM
To: Bower, Cindy
Subject: FW: Message from Secretary Vilsack

What did you do?

From: ARS-Notice
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2010 9:36 AM
To: ARS-ALL
Subject: Message from Secretary Vilsack

From: Officeof.theSecretary@ocio.usda.gov [mailto:Officeof.theSecretary@ocio.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2010 1:15 PM
To: ALL-USDA-2K@ocio.usda.gov
Subject: Message from Secretary Vilsack

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

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Dear employee:

Some of you may have seen the news stories about USDA today. I want to reiterate my commitment and that of the leadership at USDA to civil rights. We all must work to ensure that we are treating our customers and employees equally and fairly and we all should have zero tolerance for discrimination.

I also want to remind all of you that you have a unique and important individual responsibility to represent this sentiment in your official actions, statements, and public presentations. We are lucky to have the opportunity to work for the American people and we owe it to them to instill confidence in our leadership. Our words and actions matter.

We have been working hard through the past 18 months to reverse the checkered civil rights history at the department and I thank you for your service and efforts to achieve this goal,

Secretary Vilsack