



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

SEP - 4 2015

Mr. Terry Schaedig
C/O Laura Dumas
Staff Counsel
Public Employees
for Environmental Responsibility
2000 P Street, NW., Suite 240
Washington, D.C. 20036

ORDER DENYING RELIEF
File Number: Ch-899-0017

Dear Mr. Schaedig:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (Department) received your complaint against the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) on January 5, 2015. The Department takes these matters seriously and appreciates your willingness to bring these allegations to our attention. Pursuant to Section 828 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (NDAA), Public Law 112-239 (2013), this constitutes the final determination of the Department regarding your allegation that NWTF subjected you to prohibited reprisal when it terminated your employment as a result of disclosing what you believed to be significant contract violations involving a stewardship agreement with the Department's Forest Service.

Based upon our careful consideration of the August 6, 2015, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General (OIG) Report of Investigation (ROI), the Department denies your claim for relief and concludes that there is not a sufficient basis to find that you were subjected to prohibited reprisal by NWTF. This is the final action by the Department on your complaint. A redacted version of the OIG ROI has previously been provided to you by OIG.

Other Remedies

You may file a complaint against NWTF to seek compensatory damages and other relief available under the NDAA in the appropriate district court of the United States that has jurisdiction over your complaint, regardless of the amount of compensation you are seeking. You or NWTF may request a jury trial in that action. The complaint must be filed no more than 2 years after the date of this Order.

Mr. Terry Schaedig
Page 2

Right of Review

The NDAA also provides a right of appeal for "any person adversely affected or aggrieved by an order issued under [§ 4712(c)(1)] " NDAA § 4712(c)(5). You may file an appeal of this decision with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the circuit where the reprisal is alleged to have occurred. If you elect to seek review, you must file any petition seeking review of this decision no more than 60 days after the date this order was issued.

If you have any questions about this order or your rights, please feel free to contact the OIG Whistleblower Ombudsperson at OIGombudsman@oig.usda.gov.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary