

John W. Boyd, Jr.
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February 27, 2019

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Attention: Deputy Assistant Secretary Naomi Earp
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

RE: Formal Complaint of Discrimination Based on African American Race

Dear Ms. Earp:

I am writing an official letter of complaint in response to the failure of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to comply with the terms of debt forgiveness as stated in my USDA Settlement Agreement dated May 20, 1997 which was approved and signed by Ira Hobbs, Director, Office of Operations, United States Department of Agriculture; John W. Boyd, Jr., Complainant and Clarence Jenkins, Attorney for the Complainant.

On February 25, 2019, I received an email from Mrs. Ruby L. Martin at Hawthorne & Hawthorne Law Firm detailing numerous current USDA liens filed against me and my farm property. She stated that all USDA liens would need to be paid and removed prior to my March 22, 2019 closing date to purchase a \$3,000,000 farm in Mecklenburg County, VA. On February 27, 2019, I visited the Mecklenburg County USDA Service Center in Boydton, VA. My wife Kara D. Boyd and I met with Evan Harver in the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Loan Office as evidenced by my receipt of service. Mr. Harver researched my farm loan files and in those files he found six (6) Certificates of Satisfaction pertaining to USDA liens that had been prepared but never signed, dated, notarized and/or filed by USDA with the Clerk of Court, Mecklenburg County, Virginia. I believe those certificates were prepared in 1997 in accordance to the aforementioned USDA Settlement Agreement based upon the fact all the certificates have the identical language as follows: "AUTHORIZED FSA OFFICIAL (Note Holder) ANNE J. RICKMAN, Agriculture Credit Manager", "Subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me by Anne J. Rickman this ___ day of _____, 1997." and "My commission expires: 5/31/1998." In addition, the USDA failed to provide a farm in inventory as stipulated in my USDA Statue of Limitations Agreement.

I believe that this is a clear case of retaliation, breach of agreement and racial discrimination against an African American farmer for the following reasons:

1. My racial discrimination complaint and case against the USDA was one of the 1st in US History. At that time many of the African American and other minority farmers' racial discrimination cases were barred by the two (2) year statue of limitations. Also during that time there was not functioning USDA Office of Civil Rights. I advocated in Congress for the position - Assistant Secretary Office of Civil Rights. I worked to put those things in place.


2. I led the fight for African American Farmers as well as helped with Native American, Women and Hispanic farmers' complaints and cases of racial discrimination filed against USDA.

3. On Dec 8, 2010, President Obama signed into law a bill that I authored paving the way for the largest civil rights settlement in history for African Americans \$1.25 Billion.

Now 22 years later (1997 - 2019), I have been notified of the liens the USDA failed to remove as stipulated in Section II paragraph 2 of the aforementioned USDA Settlement Agreement.

I am requesting an immediate investigation and speedy resolution in this matter. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John W. Boyd, Jr.", written in black ink.

John W. Boyd, Jr.