

Amendment No. _____

Offered by Ms. Adams of North Carolina

Amendment Description: This amendment establishes a grant program at the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

AMENDMENT

OFFERED BY MS. ADAMS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Strike subtitle A.

At the end of section 10108, add the following:

1 (d) CIVIL RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN.—

2 (1) OMBUDSMAN.—The Secretary shall estab-
3 lish in the Department of Agriculture a position of
4 Civil Rights Ombudsman—

5 (A) to assist individuals in navigating Of-
6 fice programs; and

7 (B) to provide recommendations to the
8 Secretary for grants provided under paragraph

9 (6).

10 (2) DEADLINE FOR DECISIONS.—Not later than
11 180 days after the date on which the Office receives
12 a civil rights complaint, the Assistant Secretary shall
13 make a final decision of the Assistant Secretary re-
14 garding the merit of the complaint and the appro-
15 priate disposition of the matter.

16 (3) MORATORIUM ON FORECLOSURES.—The
17 Secretary shall not take any action on a foreclosure
18 proceeding against any farmer or rancher during

1 any period that a civil rights complaint filed by the
2 farmer or rancher with the Office is outstanding.

3 (4) REPORTS.—The Assistant Secretary shall—

4 (A) publish on the website of the Office a
5 report of each civil rights complaint filed with
6 the Office and the results of each such com-
7 plaint;

8 (B) include in each report described in
9 subparagraph (A) a description of the race, eth-
10 nicity, gender, and geographic region of the
11 complainant; and

12 (C) submit to Congress, on an annual
13 basis, a detailed summary of the reports de-
14 scribed in subparagraph (A).

15 (5) PROHIBITION ON INTERFERENCE BY THE
16 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL.—The Office of
17 General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture
18 shall not have any involvement with the investiga-
19 tion, adjudication, or resolution of any civil rights
20 complaint brought against the Secretary.

21 (6) GRANTS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, based
23 on recommendations from the Civil Rights Om-
24 budsman, shall provide grants to community-
25 based organizations and advocates with a his-

1 tory of working with socially disadvantaged
2 farmers and ranchers to provide technical as-
3 sistance to farmers and ranchers seeking to file
4 a civil rights complaint with the Office.

5 (B) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Com-
6 modity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall
7 use to carry out this subsection \$50,000,000
8 for fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year there-
9 after.

10 (7) DIRECT REPORTING TO THE SECRETARY OF
11 AGRICULTURE.—Section 218(c) of the Department
12 of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
13 6918(c)) is amended—

14 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
15 “DUTIES OF”;

16 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
17 through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C),
18 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

19 (C) in the matter preceding subparagraph
20 (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “The Sec-
21 retary” and inserting the following:

22 “(1) DUTIES.—The Secretary”; and

23 (D) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(2) DIRECT REPORTING TO THE SEC-
25 RETARY.—If the Secretary establishes the position

1 of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights under sub-
2 section (a)(3), the Assistant Secretary for Civil
3 Rights shall report directly to the Secretary.”.

4 (8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

5 (A) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term
6 “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Sec-
7 retary of Agriculture for Civil Rights.

8 (B) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means
9 the Office of the Assistant Secretary.

10 (C) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
11 means the Secretary of Agriculture.

