

May 5, 2025

Via Email

Secretary Brooke Rollins
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

RE: Racially Discriminatory Programs at USDA; Dairy Farmer Adam Faust

Dear Secretary Rollins,

We are writing to ask you to investigate the case of Adam Faust, a dairy farmer from Chilton, Wisconsin, and a constituent of Rep. Tony Wied (R-Wis.). Mr. Faust has been subjected to protected class-based discrimination by USDA. Specifically, he is ineligible for certain USDA programs based on his race and sex. According to the Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, Mr. Faust is ineligible for loan guarantees and grants on equal terms with non-white farmers.¹ Mr. Faust is also charged a fee for the Dairy Margin Coverage Program, while non-white farmers are not. He is one of the 2 million white male American farmers—representing more than 60% of all American farmers—who are still subject to lasting discriminatory policies instituted by the Biden administration.

President Trump has taken bold and decisive action to eliminate racially discriminatory policies within the executive branch. Agencies, including USDA, have been ordered to terminate all race-based programs and regulations.² USDA should comply with President Trump's order immediately. Each day without reform further disadvantages farmers, like Mr. Faust, based on their immutable characteristics.

Mr. Faust's case is particularly worthy of your attention because this is not the first time he has been subjected to USDA's race-based policies. He was the first farmer in America to challenge President Biden and his administration's discriminatory and unconstitutional \$4 billion farmer loan forgiveness program. Mr. Faust won a nationwide temporary restraining order (TRO)—the first in the country—halting President Biden's racially selective loan forgiveness initiative.³ Mr. Faust's story is all the more remarkable, considering he is disabled, has two prosthetic legs, yet manages to operate a successful dairy operation.⁴

¹ Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, Letter to Sec. Rollins *et al.* (April 8, 2025), <https://will-law.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Faust-Letter-FINAL-2.pdf>.

² Exec. Order No. 14,151 (Jan. 20, 2025), 90 Fed. Reg. 8339 (Jan. 29, 2025), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-01-29/pdf/2025-01953.pdf>; Exec. Order No. 14,173 (Jan. 21, 2025), 90 Fed. Reg. 8633 (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-01-31/pdf/2025-02097.pdf>; White House, Pres. Memo., *Directing the Repeal of Unlawful Regulations* (April 9, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/directing-the-repeal-of-unlawful-regulations/>.

³ *Faust v. Vilsack*, 519 F. Supp. 3d 470 (E.D. Wis. 2021).

We are asking you to investigate this important issue and to remove all race- and sex-based preferences impacting Mr. Faust. Furthermore, we call for a thorough review and prompt reform of all other potentially discriminatory programs administered by USDA under the designation of supporting “socially disadvantaged farmers” (SDIs).⁵ Courts around the country have held that the term SDI constitutes unconstitutional race discrimination.⁶ It should have no role in your agency and clearly conflicts with President Trump’s agenda.

We respectfully request that USDA handle this matter with Mr. Faust expeditiously rather than extended litigation in federal court.

Sincerely,



Tony Wied
Member of Congress



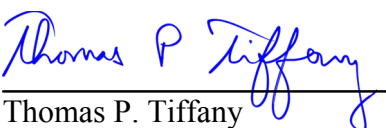
Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



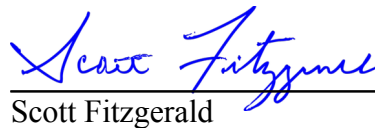
Derrick Van Orden
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress

⁴ Yaron Steinbuch, *Disabled white farmer sues Biden Admin over “racist” COVID relief plan* (NY Post, May 6, 2021), <https://nypost.com/2021/05/06/disabled-farmer-sues-biden-admin-over-racist-covid-relief-plan/>.

⁵ See Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, Inc., *Roadmap to Equality*, available here: <https://will-law.org/roadmaptoequality/>.

⁶ See, e.g., *Mid-Am. Milling Co. v. U.S. Dep’t of Transp.*, No. 3:23-cv-00072-GFVT, 2024 WL 4267183 (E.D. Ky. Sept. 23, 2024) (“MAMCO”) (holding that the federal DBE programs preferences for companies owned by “socially and economically disadvantaged individuals” is unconstitutional); *Nuziard v. Minority Bus. Dev. Agency*, 721 F. Supp. 3d 431 (N.D. Tex. Mar. 5, 2024) (same); *Strickland v. USDA*, No. 2:24-cv-00060-Z (N.D. Tx., June 7, 2024), available [here](#) (same); *Vitolo v. Guzman*, 999 F.3d 353 (6th Cir. 2021) (same).