



August 4, 2015

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
344 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Johnson and Senator Carper:

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs requested the assistance of the Inspector General (IG) of the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) in conducting an oversight review of how Executive Branch departments and agencies respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. In your letter to me of June 23, 2015, you asked the FCA OIG to analyze the involvement of non-career officials in the FOIA response process at FCA, if any, for the period of January 1, 2007, to the present.

As part of the analysis, you requested me to seek a written certification from the agency's chief FOIA officer that 1) no non-career officials were involved in the agency's response to any FOIA request or 2) if such involvement occurred, the involvement of non-career officials has never resulted in the undue delay of a response to a FOIA request or the provision of less information than would have been provided but for the involvement of the non-career officials.

I sought and have attached a certification from the Chief FOIA Officer indicating no political influence or untimeliness in responding to FOIA requesters.

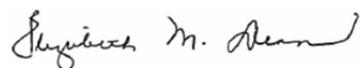
The FCA, an independent Executive branch agency, is the regulator of the Farm Credit System, a federally chartered network of cooperative lending institutions owned by the agricultural and rural customers it serves, including farmers, ranchers, producers and harvesters of aquatic products, agricultural cooperatives, and farm-related businesses. The FCA ensures the safety

and soundness and supervision of the 4 banks, 76 associations, related entities, and the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation. The FCA is governed by a board consisting of three members with staggered six-year terms who are presidentially appointed with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The FCA handles FOIA requests on a centralized basis. The FOIA requests are responded to by senior attorneys in the FCA Office of General Counsel. During the time period in issue, there have been less than 50 requests per year, and responses to requesters were consistently within the required statutory timeframe. More information on the FCA FOIA program can be found at http://www.fca.gov/home/freedom_info.html.

I trust this is responsive to your request for assistance. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth M. Dean".

Elizabeth M. Dean
Inspector General

Enclosure

cc: FCA Chief FOIA Officer

Memorandum

1501 Farm Credit Drive
McLean, Virginia 221025090
(703) 883-4000



July 16, 2015

To: Elizabeth Dean
Inspector General

From: Jane Virga *Jane*
Chief FOIA Officer

Subject: Farm Credit Administration Freedom of Information Act Practices

Pursuant to our discussion today concerning the June 23, 2015, letter from Ron Johnson, Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I am certifying that no non-career officials were involved in the Farm Credit Administration's (FCA) response to any Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. If there was a high profile request, FOIA staff notified the Board of the request but did not seek input on responding. Additionally, I would also like to report that FCA has consistently responded to all FOIA requests within 20 business days as required by statute.

If you have any other questions, please call me at X4071.