



U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

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Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

The Special Counsel

April 23, 2007

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: OSC File No. DI-05-2703

Dear Mr. President:

I received disclosures from Daniel Uresk, Ph.D., a whistleblower at the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS), Rapid City, South Dakota. Dr. Uresk alleged that his colleague Jack Butler, Ph.D., improperly shifted RMRS funds to a small mammal research project on which his wife worked.

I required the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, to conduct an investigation into these disclosures pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(c) and (d). The Secretary, Department of Agriculture, tasked the Office of the Inspector General with conducting the investigation.

As discussed in the attached Analysis of Disclosures, the agency investigation did not substantiate the allegation that Dr. Butler shifted money to his wife's research project. The investigation concluded that Dr. Butler took adequate measures to distance himself from the project. In addition, Dr. Butler neither requested nor approved the RMRS funds that were used on the project.

Dr. Uresk provided comments on the report. As required by law, 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), I am now transmitting to you the report and the whistleblower's comments.

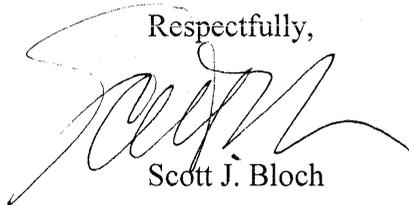
I have reviewed the original disclosures, the report and Dr. Uresk's comments. Based on that review, I have determined that the agency's report contains all of the information required by statute and that its findings appear to be reasonable.

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As required by law, 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), I have sent a copy of the report and Dr. Uresk's comments to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and to the Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture. I have also filed copies of the agency report and Dr. Uresk's comments in our public file and closed the matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bloch', is written over the word 'Respectfully,'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Scott J. Bloch

Enclosures