



May 16, 2022

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I am writing to urge you to consider implementing educational programming for the Department of Agriculture around National Whistleblower Day, celebrated each year on July 30th.

On July 30th, 1778, Congress unanimously passed the first U.S. whistleblower law. All Americans should celebrate this important moment in history. In the 244 years since Congress first passed this legislation, whistleblowers have played a critical role in preserving American democracy and the rule of law – often at tremendous personal cost. We should honor the courageous contributions of these past whistleblowers and be conscious of the continued need to root out waste, fraud, and abuse.

The United States Senate has unanimously recognized July 30th as National Whistleblower Appreciation Day each year since 2013. Their resolution requires each executive agency to recognize National Whistleblower Day by informing employees, contractors, and members of the public about the legal right of a United States citizen to “blow the whistle” as well as acknowledging the contributions of whistleblowers to combating fraud, abuses of authority, threats to the environment and the public health and safety and other violations of law.

In recent years, the Department of Homeland Security, the Director of National Intelligence, the Office of the Special Counsel, and the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency have hosted or participated in programming commemorating National Whistleblower Appreciation Day.

It is critical to see this tradition continued and expanded. That is why the National Whistleblower Center is reaching out to each executive agency to offer our support. We stand ready to assist with your efforts to celebrate National Whistleblower Day in any way possible, including through the provision of educational resources and digital promotion of your events and materials.

We hope to see each agency participate this year. Widespread acknowledgement across the federal government of the importance of whistleblowers could change the culture of retaliation against whistleblowers that persists today. You can learn more about the history of National Whistleblower Day and its significance here: <http://bit.ly/EnactNWD>. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Siri Nelson
Executive Director
National Whistleblower Center

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