

Scott Stump
Chief Executive Officer
National FFA Organization
6060 FFA Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1370

February 19, 2026

Dear Mr. Stump,

We write to you as former FFA officers and members committed to the National FFA Organization's mission, values, and future. For nearly a century, FFA has remained true to its mission of making a positive difference in students' lives by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. We have all witnessed the tremendous impact FFA has on members' lives. With that in mind, we write to express our concern about the future of our beloved organization.

We have grown increasingly concerned that FFA has strayed from its core mission, rooted in traditional values and merit, and is adopting a top-down approach to instilling themes of diversity, equity, and inclusion among its membership as well as the suppression of officers' religious freedom. Specifically, this largely began during the tenure of former FFA Chief Executive Officer Mark Poeschl and continues under your leadership.

Based on the information available to us, we make the following observations:

- Making DEI a Strategic Priority in the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.
- Selecting a firm to develop the 2027-2031 Strategic Plan without board approval, furthermore, the firm specializes in DEI efforts.
- Removing a National FFA Officer for social media posts he made as a young teen.
- Hiring for DEI-specific positions and using those staff members to leverage the Board of National Officers and the Board of Directors to implement DEI policies.
- Executing agreements with groups that obligate the FFA to conduct DEI activities.
- Renaming DEI programs and retitling DEI staff positions to circumvent public scrutiny.
- Directing advisors through its partnership with The National Council of Agricultural Education to combat today's "anti-DEI focus" by applying activity framing techniques that help evade federal executive orders as well as state and local regulations.
- Implementing character development grants as DEI programming under the new Belonging & Engagement positioning, including increased efforts to counter systemic "Bias Culture" in the FFA.
- National FFA staff member comments to the Alumni Advisory Council at National FFA Convention stating that DEI had become belonging and engagement to avoid scrutiny due to state DEI regulations.
- Reprimanding National FFA Officers for expressions of faith during their term of service.

(If you dispute any of these occurrences or dispute the validity of any of these observations, we would appreciate any information you might provide to clarify any of these matters.)

We respectfully urge you to reconsider this direction, which is grossly out of scope, and refocus FFA on its foundational mission: agriculture, leadership, and merit, without ideological frameworks.

Preserving these principles is essential to maintaining the organization's trust, unity, and long-term strength. The enduring strength and longevity of our organization are rooted in an unwavering purpose centered on agriculture, leadership, and career success.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you would like to discuss further, we would be happy to meet in person to discuss these issues and a potential pathway forward. These issues are best discussed in person so the hearts and minds behind perspectives are sincerely felt and clearly understood. We desire to approach this in grace and in truth. We look forward to connecting soon.

Respectfully,

Laila (Hajji) Down
National FFA Vice President, 2008-2009
Oklahoma FFA State Secretary, 2006-2007

Marcus Hill
Texas FFA State President, 1966-1967

Bob Clifton
Texas FFA State Officer, 1968-1969

Gary Bishop
Texas FFA First Vice President 1969-1970

Jimmy Smith
Texas FFA State Officer, 1969-1970

Craig Smith
Oklahoma FFA State Officer, 1974-1975

Gary W. Black
Georgia State FFA President 1975-1976
State of Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture, 2011-2023

Robert Van Winkle
Texas FFA State Officer, 1977-1978

Wil Galloway
Texas FFA Vice President, 1981-1982

Kevin Maxwell
Texas FFA Vice President, 1981-1982

August Linnartz
Texas FFA Vice President, 1982-1983

Dr. Terry Holder
Alabama State FFA Sentinel, 1983-1984

Brad Bass
National FFA Vice President, 1984-1985

Jack Blattner
Idaho State FFA President, 1986-1987

Bruce Cobb
Texas FFA State President, 1986-1987

Lee Harris
Texas FFA State Officer, 1986-1987
Justice, 10th District Court of Appeals of Texas

JD Caraway
Texas FFA State Officer, 1986-1987

Mike Acker
Texas FFA State Officer, 1986-1987

Wendy (Millford) Dougherty
Texas FFA State Officer, 1986-1987

Jackie (Crain) Dayberry
Texas FFA State Officer, 1986-1987

Terri (Hardee) Romere
Texas FFA State Officer, 1986-1987

Kevin Ochsner
National FFA Secretary, 1987-1988

Jennifer (Barber) Cook
Arkansas State FFA President, 1987-1988

Tom Whatley
Alabama State Sentinel, 1987-1988
AL State Senator 2010-2022
COL US Army 1988-2022

Toby Miller
Texas FFA President, 1987-1988

Darla Washington Chitsey
Texas FFA State Officer, 1987-1988

Paul W. Wooton
Texas FFA State Officer, 1987-1988

Mitchell Thomas
Texas FFA Vice President, 1987-1988

JR "Joey" Dollins
Texas FFA State Officer, 1987-1988

Neil A. Schneider
Arizona FFA State Secretary, 1988-1989
Arizona State FFA Executive Secretary, 1995-1999

Carla Sellman Barber
Idaho State FFA Reporter, 1988-1989

Chris Britton
Texas FFA Vice President, 1988-1989

Lori (Brackett) Blattner
Idaho State FFA Secretary 1989-1990

Julie (Classen) Ochsner
National FFA Central Region Vice President, 1990-1991

Michael A. Reeser
Alabama FFA State Treasurer, 1990-1991

Holly Blakey
Oklahoma FFA State Reporter, 1990-1991

Cody Anderson
Oklahoma FFA State Officer, 1990-1991

Marci McKinzie Schnitker
Texas FFA State Officer, 1990-1991

Eric Ribble
Texas FFA State Officer, 1990-1991

Melinda Gordon
Texas State Vice President, 1990-1991

Brent Graves
Texas FFA State Officer, 1990-1991

Beth Windham
Texas FFA State Officer, 1990-1991

PT Mahoney
Texas FFA State Officer, 1990-1991

Heather Dollins Metzgar
Texas FFA Vice President, 1991-1992

Matt Rush
New Mexico State Officer, 1991-1992

Steven Meeks
Georgia FFA State President, 1992-1993
Georgia State Legislator

Todd Harrell
Texas FFA Vice President, 1992-1993

Jimmy McFadin
Texas State FFA Officer, 1992-1993

Scot Pollok
Texas FFA State President, 1993-1994

Kevin Lutz
Texas FFA State President, 1993-1994

Jennifer (Stapleton) Miller
Texas FFA State Vice President, 1993-1994

Ed Bredemeyer
Texas FFA State Vice President, 1993-1994

Jodie (Word) Richter
Texas FFA State Officer, 1993-1994

Holly Nichols
Texas FFA State Officer, 1993-1994

Jason Johnson
Texas FFA State President, 1994-1995

Bryan Cole
Texas FFA State Officer, 1996-1997

Cody Nash
National FFA Vice President, 1997-1998
TX FFA 1st Vice President, 1996-97

Quentin Smith
Colorado State FFA Officer, 1997-1998

Representative Josh Brecheen
Oklahoma FFA State President, 1998-1999
Member of U.S. Congress

Abby Spruill Tippens
Georgia FFA State Secretary, 2000-2001

Dr. Crystal (Mathews) Steen
Missouri FFA Vice President, 2001-2002

Kurtis W. Thomas
Texas FFA State President, 2001-2002

Tate Rosenbusch
Texas FFA State Officer, 2001-2002

Kymberly Tubbe
Texas FFA State Officer, 2001-2002

Katie (Rose) Garrett
Oklahoma FFA State Officer, 2002-2003

Tyler Wilson
Tennessee State FFA Officer, 2003-2004

Caleb Dodd
New Mexico State FFA Officer, 2004-2006

Dayla (Peel) Glover
Oklahoma FFA State Officer, 2005-2006

Stephanie (Mathews) Lee
Missouri FFA Vice President, 2005-2006

Travis Schnaithman
Oklahoma FFA State President, 2006-2007

Paige (Booth) Scott
Oklahoma FFA State Officer, 2006-2007

James Paul Bailey
Alabama FFA State President, 2007 - 2008

John Kyle Truitt
Oklahoma FFA State Reporter, 2007-2008

Caroline B. Lewallen
Georgia State FFA Vice President, 2007-2008

W. Grant Bitner
Texas FFA Vice President, 2007-2008

Matthew Barnes
Texas FFA State President, 2008-2009

Lora Gonzalez Eckerle
Texas FFA State Officer, 2008-2009

Sarah (Reasnor) Edsall
Oklahoma State FFA Officer, 2008-2009

Mollie (Dykes) Pratt
Arkansas FFA Vice President, 2009-2010

Amy (Peel) Truitt
Oklahoma FFA State President, 2009-2010

McKenzie (Clifton) Squires
Oklahoma FFA Secretary 2009-2010

Tyler Bradfield
Texas FFA State Officer, 2009-2010

Miles Vann
Texas FFA State Officer, 2009-2010

Calan Ahrens
Texas FFA State Officer, 2010-2011

Emily (Beanland) Worrell
Oklahoma FFA State President 2010-2011

Wiley Bailey
National FFA Vice President, 2012-2013

Brandon Baumgarten
Oklahoma FFA State President, 2012-2013

Alex Cash
Oklahoma FFA State Secretary, 2012-2013

Colby Hales
Wyoming FFA 2nd Vice President, 2012-2013

Joshua Haven
Oklahoma FFA State Reporter, 2013-2014

Bray Haven
Oklahoma FFA State Officer, 2013-2014

Tyler Schnaithman
Oklahoma FFA State Secretary, 2013-2014

Lindsay Utter
Wyoming FFA State Secretary, 2013-2014

Ryon Cox
Texas FFA State President, 2013-2014

Gracie (Hedrick) Kendziora
Texas FFA State President, 2014-2015

Michael Tupper
Iowa FFA State President, 2015-2016

David Schuler
Nebraska FFA State President, 2015-2016

Erica (Baier) Richardson
National FFA Secretary, 2017-2018

Carli Grau
Iowa FFA State Officer, 2017-2018

Kylee (Kohls) Sellnow
Minnesota State Secretary, 2017-2018

John Tracy Branch
Texas FFA State Officer, 2019-2020

Wyatt J Harlan
Texas FFA State Officer, 2019 - 2020

Kabe Boysen
Iowa FFA State Officer, 2020-2021

Kirby Russell
Texas FFA State Officer, 2020-2021

Sam Martin
Iowa FFA State President, 2022-2023

Nathan Atkinson
Texas FFA State Officer, 2022-2023

Weston Parr
Texas FFA State Officer, 2023-2024