

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, 10<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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