



February 22, 2025

State of Maine
Office of Governor Janet T. Mills
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dannel P. Malloy
Chancellor
University of Maine System

Office of the Attorney General
6 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
attorney.general@maine.gov

Re: Notice of Compliance Review

Dear Counsel:

Based upon indications that the State of Maine is openly disregarding President Trump's Executive Order (EO) 14201, "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports" that enforces the equal opportunity guaranteed by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR) is initiating a compliance review of the University of Maine. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is broader than just athletics and bars discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education programs or activities. As a land grant university, the University of Maine receives a significant amount of funding from USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Active awards to the University of Maine from ARS and NIFA in recent years total over \$100 million. Accordingly, OASCR is initiating an investigation of the University of Maine in accordance with 7 C.F.R. Part 15a. OASCR will consider reviewing compliance of other educational institutions in the state of Maine that receive funding from USDA. Should the University of Maine or other entities receiving funds from USDA be found to be out of compliance, additional funding may be in jeopardy.

If you have questions, you may contact me at Ralph.Linden@usda.gov.

/s/
Ralph Linden
Acting General Counsel
USDA Office of the General Counsel