



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](mailto: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 Assistance 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](mailto:Ralph.Linden@usda.gov).

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