



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY**  
WASHINGTON, D C. 20460

Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights  
Office of External Civil Rights Compliance

June 9, 2023

**In Reply Refer to:**

EPA Complaint No. 06R-23-R5

Cleveland Office  
Office for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Education  
1350 Euclid Avenue, Suite 325  
Cleveland, OH 44115-1812  
OCR.Cleveland@ed.gov

**Re: Referral of Administrative Complaint of Discrimination**

Dear Regional Director:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights Compliance, Office of External Civil Rights Compliance (OECRC),<sup>1</sup> received a complaint on May 17, 2023, from (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy. The complaint alleges that the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) discriminates on the basis of race and that MDE personnel intimidated complainant, interfering with complainant's attempt to request services for Black and minority students.

OECRC has completed the jurisdictional review of the complaint. OECRC is rejecting the complaint for lack of jurisdiction because MDE is not a recipient of EPA financial assistance. OECRC's research reveals that MDE is a recipient of financial assistance; therefore, OECRC is referring the complaint to the United States Department of Education (ED) for appropriate action.

OECRC has simultaneously notified Complainant and MDE that these complaints have been forwarded to your office and provided them your contact information. The complaint, as well as EPA's rejection and referral letter, are attached.

If you have any questions, please contact me by telephone at (202) 809-3297 or by email at [hoang.anhthu@epa.gov](mailto:hoang.anhthu@epa.gov).

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<sup>1</sup> On September 24, 2022, EPA announced the establishment of the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR). The new Office includes the External Civil Rights Compliance Office, which was renamed the Office of External Civil Rights Compliance (OECRC). OECRC continues to enforce and ensure compliance with federal civil rights laws, which prohibit discrimination by applicants for and recipients of EPA financial assistance. OECRC accomplishes in accordance with the procedure described in the Case Resolution Manual.

Regional Director

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Sincerely,

**ANHTHU  
HOANG**

Digitally signed by  
ANHTHU HOANG  
Date: 2023.06.09  
21:44:17 -04'00'

Anhthu Hoang  
Acting Director  
Office of Environmental Justice & External  
Civil Rights Compliance  
Office External Civil Rights Compliance

Enclosure: Complaint, Rejection and Referral Letter

cc: Ariadne Goerke  
Deputy Associate General Counsel  
Civil Rights & Finance Law Office

Cheryl Newton  
Deputy Regional Administrator  
Deputy Civil Rights Official  
US EPA Region 5

Robert Kaplan  
Regional Counsel