

October 6, 2025

(b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy President

United Network, Inc. 505 E 161st Pl.

South Holland, IL: 60473

via email: (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy

Re: Rejection and Referral of EPA Complaint No. 08D-25-R5

Dear (b)(6) Privacy, (b)(7)(C) Enf. Privacy

As you are aware, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights and Adjudication (OCRA), External Civil Rights Division (ECRD) received the above-referenced complaint against United Network, Inc. This letter serves to notify you that ECRD is rejecting the complaint.

Pursuant to EPA's nondiscrimination regulation, ECRD conducts a jurisdictional review of external civil rights complaints. See 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(d)(1). To be accepted for investigation, a complaint must meet the jurisdictional requirements described in EPA's nondiscrimination regulation.

First, a complaint must be in writing. See 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(b)(1). Second, the entity that the complainant identifies as allegedly engaging in discrimination must be an applicant for, or recipient of, EPA financial assistance. See 40 C.F.R. § 7.15.

Third, the complainant must file the complaint within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(b)(2). Fourth, a complainant must describe an alleged discriminatory act that, if true, may violate EPA's nondiscrimination regulation. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(b)(1). An alleged discriminatory act is one based on race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. *Id.*

After careful consideration, ECRD cannot accept the instant complaint, because United Network, Inc. is not a recipient of EPA financial assistance. Accordingly, ECRD must reject the instant complaint for investigation.

Due to the subject matter of the allegations, the claim may fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Therefore, pursuant to EPA's non-discrimination regulations at 40 C.F.R. 7.120(d), EPA will refer the matter to HUD.

Finally, EPA's regulation prohibits applicants, recipients, and other persons from intimidating, threatening, or coercing, or engaging in other discriminatory conduct against any individual because they have acted or participated in an action to secure rights protected by the civil rights requirements that EPA enforces. *See* 40 C.F.R. 7.100. Any individual that opines a recipient has engaged in such misconduct can file a complaint with OCRA.

If you have any questions, please contact Case Manager Nell Cormack at (202) 565-2242 or by email at cormack.nell@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

JuanCarlos Hunt, Director

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Office of Civil Rights and Adjudication

U.S. EPA

cc: Cheryl Newton, Deputy Regional Administrator and Deputy Civil Rights Official U.S. EPA, Region 5

Robert Kaplan, Regional Counsel U.S. EPA, Region 5