

DECLARATION OF PETE GRIJALVA, SR.

1. I am over eighteen years of age, Hispanic American, and a U.S. citizen. My date of birth is July 31, 1928. My mailing address is P.O. Box 17951, El Paso, TX, 79917.
2. I have been farming for over 51 years. In the past I have farmed over 100 acres that I owned and an additional 300 acres that I leased. I grew alfalfa, pecans, fruit trees, vegetables, chilies, squash, corn, and melons. Currently I farm only about 100 acres and only grow alfalfa.
3. From approximately 1981 through 1988 I had applied for and received Farm Operating loans from the USDA's Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA). Each year I received loan money from the FmHA my loans were for less than I requested. I would ask the FmHA why my loans were for less than what I applied for and they would only tell me that they were not going to approve me for the amounts that I requested.
4. In addition to never getting the amounts I applied for, the monies that I did get were always very late. Sometimes I wouldn't receive my loan money until well in to the planting season. This would cause me to plant my crops late, which affected my ability to obtain the best yield from my crops.
5. In approximately 1988 I applied for a Farm Operating loan and was denied because I "had to pay off the FSA debt I has already before I could borrow any more money." I was told this by Mr. William McAnally in the El Paso FmHA office.
6. In the late 1990s I asked Mr. McAnally twice about receiving debt servicing for my loans. I asked about settling my loans for a certain percentage of what I owed, as I had seen a number of Anglo farmers do. Mr. McAnally told me that he would not service my loans and that I should just sell my farm and pay my debt to the Farmer Service Agency. After these two attempts, I did not try for debt servicing again.
7. During my experience with the FmHA and the FSA, I observed that Anglo farmers received their loans on time and in the amounts they requested. Their loan amounts were not reduced.
8. The County Committoe was all Anglo and it seems like that is why Hispanic loans were always decreased from then amounts requested and always late.

9. I verbally complained to the folks at the FSA office about how the Anglo farmers were getting their full loans --on time, and we Hispanics always got reduced, late loans. No one ever addressed my complaints.
10. Currently I farm with no assistance from the FSA. I have been discouraged from even asking for assistance form the FSA.
11. I believe my farm operation would be larger and much more successful if I had not been discriminated against by the FSA and provided the assistance the agency was created to provide—help to the small family farmer.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my personal knowledge.

Pete Grijalva Sr.
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Executed on: 7-11-02