



Homeland
Security

Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655

July 22, 2020

SENT VIA E-MAIL TO: foia@americanoversight.org

Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

Re: **2020-HQFO-01371**

Dear Mr.Evers:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), dated July 6, 2020, and received by this office on July 6, 2020. You are seeking any memoranda, analyses, modeling, findings, predictions, charts, or briefing materials about potential or actual food shortages related to the coronavirus pandemic by the Food Supply Chain Task Force. According to public reporting, a Food Supply Chain Task Force (“Task Force”) has been created to aid administration officials responding to the pandemic. While public reporting has not made clear which agency houses the Food Supply Chain Task Force, one document bearing “the seals of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services,” entitled “Senior Leadership Brief COVID-19” and dated on April 2, 2020, included information from the Task Force. American Oversight seeks other records regarding food shortages, actual or potential, produced by that Food Supply Chain Task Force.

We conducted a comprehensive search of files within the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Office of the Executive Secretary (ESEC), Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Office of Response and Recovery (ORR) and Cybersecurity and Information Security Agency (CISA) for records that would be responsive to your request. Unfortunately, we were unable to locate or identify any responsive records.

While an adequate search was conducted, you have the right to appeal this determination that no records exist within the Office of Executive Secretary (ESEC), the Office of Response and Recovery (ORR) and Cybersecurity and Information Security Agency (CISA) that would be responsive to your request. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 90 days of the date of this letter, to: Privacy Office, Attn: FOIA Appeals, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE, Mail Stop 0655, Washington, D.C. 20528-0655, following the procedures outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations

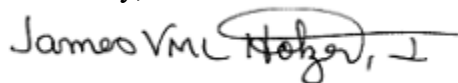
at 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.5(e)(2). Your envelope and letter should be marked "FOIA Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and DHS FOIA regulations are available at www.dhs.gov/foia.

To Further assist you with your request, DHS recommends you submit your FOIA request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Please find their website below.
<https://www.usda.gov/oascr/freedom-information-act-foia>.

If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact the analyst below who processed your request and refer to **2020-HQFO-01371**. You may send an e-mail to foia@hq.dhs.gov, call 202-343-1743 or toll free 1-866-431-0486, or you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison in the same manner. Additionally, you have a right to right to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) which mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Provisions of FOIA allow DHS to charge for processing fees, up to \$25, unless you seek a waiver of fees. In this instance, because the cost is below the \$25 minimum, there is no charge.

Sincerely,



James Holzer
Deputy Chief FOIA Officer