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Founded in 1986, the Immigration Reform Law Institute (IRLI) is a public-interest legal education and advocacy law firm dedicated to achieving responsible immigration policies that serve national interests.

IRLI is a supporting organization of the Federation for American Immigration Reform.

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May 17, 2022

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
National Records Center
FOIA/PA Office
Post Office Box 648010
Lee's Summit, Missouri 64064

RE: COW2022002412 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) – Clarification

Dear Cythia Munita,

This Letter of Appeal is submitted to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) on behalf of the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), Washington, D.C.

On May 11, 2022, the Immigration Reform Law Institute (IRLI), Washington, D.C. submitted a FOIA request for existing records, as outlined below, on behalf of FAIR to USCIS regarding USCIS communication with Tania Mattos.

FAIR's FOIA requested USCIS to produce the following records:

1. All records of communication, including email correspondence, between USCIS employees and Tania Mattos, currently a director of advocacy and policy at the Envision Freedom Fund, from and including January 20, 2021 up to and including May 11, 2022.

On May 11, 2022, USCIS acknowledged receipt of this FOIA request and, in a subsequent email, claimed that clarification was needed in order to process this request.

The FOIA request asks for all email communication between USCIS employees and one individual: Tania Mattos. The FOIA also establishes specific time limitations: from and including January 20, 2021 up to and including May 11, 2022.

Because the request only asks for USCIS communication with one individual, we don't believe it is necessary to further confine the request to specific USCIS employees. This request for


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communication between USCIS employees and one, single person should not produce an unmanageable number of records.

If the source of confusion over this request is to the identity of Tania Mattos, let it be known we are referring to the longtime immigration activist who – according to online sources – currently works for the Envision Freedom Fund and previously at Freedom for Immigrants, along with other immigration-oriented employment. If there have been multiple individuals named “Tania Mattos” in communication with USCIS during our requested time frame, please include all individuals in this search, for the purposes of simplicity.

If you have questions regarding this request, please contact me via email at foia@irli.org or phone at 202-792-1081.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jason Hopkins
Investigations Manager