

From: Michael Farris
Sent: Thursday, May 3, 2018 11:25 AM
To: 'charity-support@amazon.com' <charity-support@amazon.com>
Subject: CASE 5015082461; CASE 5015235361

AmazonSmile
Re: CASE 5015082461; CASE 5015235361

Dear Moses:

We were surprised and disappointed to learn that you have terminated the participation of Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) and ADF Foundation in the AmazonSmile program. Even more concerning is your reliance upon the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) to make that determination.

ADF is a faith-based organization and the world's largest legal organization advocating for the freedom to peacefully speak, live, and work according to one's convictions without fear of government punishment. Our organization is well respected in the legal profession as one of the nation's most successful Supreme Court advocates. We have won seven cases in the last seven years at the High Court. Those victories include defending a state program that provides funding for children to attend private schools and defending a church-run preschool against government discrimination.

ADF also works to ensure that our public colleges and universities are true marketplaces of ideas, where all students are free to engage in conversation and debate on important issues. As part of that work, we represent people from diverse backgrounds and walks of life. And despite the ever-increasing hostility to free speech on college and university campuses, ADF has achieved nearly 400 victories securing campus free expression and academic freedom.

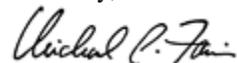
ADF recently drew the ire of SPLC because of its religious beliefs and advocacy. Although the SPLC did good work many years ago, it has devolved into a far-left propaganda machine that slanders organizations with which it disagrees and destroys the possibility of civil discourse in the process. The group has been discredited by investigative journalists and charity watchdogs as a "direct mail scam" that has seen its leaders amass enormous fortunes. It is no surprise that the United States Department of Defense and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have severed ties with the SPLC.

Once the SPLC identifies an ideological opponent, its goal is to ruin them. As SPLC Senior Fellow Mark Potok said: "Sometimes the press will describe us as monitoring hate crimes and so on.... I want to say plainly that our aim in life is to destroy these groups, to completely destroy them." That is the group's mindset toward those whose views it doesn't like. Unfortunately, it is aided and abetted by businesses like Amazon that uncritically accept SPLC's slander and use it as a basis for its own business decisions.

If you are going to rely on a discredited partisan organization like the SPLC to determine who is eligible to participate in AmazonSmile, you should disclose that in your policy and to your customers. Millions of Americans share our beliefs and thousands of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim religious organizations subscribe to them as well. Your customers have a right to know that you've placed such an organization as the gatekeeper to participation in a charitable program.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with Amazon officials to discuss our organization and explain why we should not be excluded from the AmazonSmile program. Also, we would gladly help Amazon establish a policy for participation in AmazonSmile that does not ban legitimate, well-respected, faith-based organizations like ADF.

Sincerely,



Michael Farris