



# FEW

700 N. Fairfax St., Ste 510  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2090

*Working for  
the advancement  
of women  
in government*

June 9, 2010

FEDERALLY  
EMPLOYED  
WOMEN

PHONE: 202-898-0994  
FAX: 202-898-1535  
EMAIL: [few@few.org](mailto:few@few.org)

Ms. Lisa Jackson  
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Jackson:

Federally Employed Women (FEW) is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1968 after the issuance of Executive Order 11375 that added "sex" to the prohibited discriminations within the federal government. FEW works to end sex discrimination and towards the advancement of women in federal service by:

- encouraging diversity and equity in the workplace
- enhancing career opportunities
- establishing and maintaining relationships with organizations to advocate the fair application of laws, policies, procedures and practices
- improving the quality of life for women by influencing legislative actions
- committing to maintain a unified and diverse membership and
- providing opportunities for professional growth.

Among other objectives, FEW monitors and represents minorities and women on such issues as equal employment opportunity policies and practices, and civil rights in general such as monitoring the Government's service to and treatment of minority Americans and immigrants. FEW has tried consistently over the past 42 years to address concerns where discrimination occurs and encourage actions to move forward to improve the workplace with an environment of harmony and respect for all persons, regardless of color, race, ethnicity, etc.

Given these objectives and the membership we represent, FEW joins with the Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and calls for the removal of the murals in the Ariel Rios Building owned by the General Services Administration in Washington, D.C. FEW is also a member of the National Coalition for Equity in Public Service (NCEPS) (along with SAIGE, Blacks in Government, the Federal Asian Pacific American Council, National IMAGE, Inc.). NCEPS has also recently expressed concern on this issue. The murals are an affront to all minorities and women as they graphically illustrate the negative stereotypes that our organization strives to combat, particularly within the federal sector. The murals have repeatedly been referenced by Native American employees working in the building as creating a hostile work environment. However, they remain in place after several years; a testament to the inaction of the federal government in responding to this critical civil rights issue.

Additionally, the defamatory depictions of American Indians in the murals offend visitors and customers and are inappropriate for a federal workplace. The violent nature of the murals, particularly toward women, perpetuates the myth of the savage and brutal American Indian male. This is not an issue of political correctness; it is a civil rights issue. Continued display of the murals reinforces an institutional racism that should not be allowed in any federal facility much less our Nation's capital. FEW therefore strongly requests that necessary steps be taken to remove all murals that not only cause a hostile working environment but are discriminatory towards American Indians. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,

SUE WEBSTER  
National President