

June 12, 2025

Via email

American Angus Association
Board of Directors

Dear American Angus Association Board of Directors,

After first learning of the Bezos Earth Fund grant partnership in April, I set out to educate myself on the issue, the partnership, the grant work, and the AAA's perspective with genuine interest and curiosity. Not a single time have I approached this issue with a preconceived notion or a results driven analysis. I have read all of the information which AAA has put out about the issue and listened to the Angus Conversation podcast on the matter. In that podcast, Jonathan Perry promised full transparency, emphasizing that all of the information about the grant would be available on the Association's website. Danny Poss assured listeners that the more they research the AAA's involvement in this project, the better they'll feel about it.

I sincerely regret to say that the more I have researched this with objectivity, the less I can sleep at night, quite literally. Mark McCully was very gracious and responsive every time I have reached out to him, not just on this issue, but particularly on this issue. On April 22nd, I emailed the AGI Users email account requesting a copy of the grant proposal and additional information. While Mark was quick to provide additional information about the grant, the actual proposal was not provided. Again on June 9th, I emailed Mark and Kelli Retalick, who was also cc'd on prior correspondence, requesting a copy of the grant proposal or MOU. Mark responded that the request would be discussed as well as additional information forthcoming. If AAA intends to honor Jonathan Perry's statement that all grant information will be provided and available to members, then AAA must share the grant proposal which the aforementioned podcast indicated was accepted "on our terms" without revisions. The membership would like to know precisely what those terms are.

The grant sponsors and other grant partners have released articles indicating this research is precisely what AAA has pronounced that it is not – research to fix the "problem" of cattle causing climate change. The grant sponsors and all partners, including AAA, need to provide consistent messaging. Most concerningly to me at the moment is an AGI white paper by Dr. Rowan from the University of Tennessee declaring that methane and efficiency research will require "unprecedented data sharing" which starts with "individual animal

traceability.” Whether the Board agrees with concerned producers or not, most assuredly they can understand why breeders are concerned.

As I shared with Mark when I met with him in May, U.S. cattle producers are doing a bang-up job and we want the world to recognize this and the narrative to reflect this. Perhaps AGI would be of better service to AAA by conducting research on the antithesis. I wish not to be problematic, but quite the contrary – to help fellow producers make sense of the information which is out there and AAA’s messaging. Unfortunately, as it stands now, I’ve found no truth to the promises of full transparency and that a breeder’s own research will absolve any concerns. Please direct me to what information I’m missing to find these representations to be true. I genuinely desire to be able to return my full faith and trust to the Board of Directors.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and welcome your responses and insight.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jen S. Friedel".

Jennifer Shaver Friedel

(c) 423.534.2103