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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4903

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URBAN AFFAIRS

June 26, 2009

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

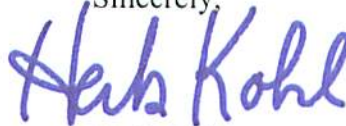
On June 19 several of my Senate colleagues wrote to you encouraging action toward settlement of discrimination claims by Hispanic farmers against the United States Department of Agriculture. I would like to associate myself with the spirit of their concerns.

Section 14011 of the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 urges “expeditious and just” resolution of pending claims and class actions against USDA based on racial, ethnic or gender discrimination in farm program participation. Your administration’s most recent budget proposing \$1.25 billion in mandatory funding to settle outstanding lawsuits in *Pigford v. Glickman* is an important step toward reaching that goal. However, there is much work yet to be done.

I know both you and Secretary Vilsack share a vision of USDA where justice is applied evenly and all programs are administered fairly. Resolution of pending discrimination claims is an important step in moving the Department toward that goal. Your continued commitment and attention to this work is crucial.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Herb Kohl  
United States Senator

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