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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND WATER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 26, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Garcia class action at USDA

Dear Mr. President:

I have been contacted by Alfonso Abeyta from Conejos County, Colorado, for assistance securing a meeting with you regarding the case *Garcia v. Vilsack*. Mr. Abeyta is a party to the Garcia class action alleging a pattern of discriminatory practices against Hispanic farmers under USDA's credit and non-credit farm benefit programs. He is also a neighbor of mine; our families have farmed neighboring lands in Conejos County for generations. Enclosed in this correspondence is a letter from Mr. Abeyta that details his request on behalf of Colorado petitioners in the case.

While I recognize this matter is under litigation in federal court, I ask that you give Mr. Abeyta's request full and fair consideration. As you may recall, on May 14, 2009, I signed a letter from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus addressed to you, urging settlement of this matter consistent with the provisions of Section 14011 of the 2008 Farm Bill, which urges the USDA to settle pending discrimination lawsuits in a "just and expeditious manner". For your convenience, I have also attached that correspondence.

Please direct your response to my Alamosa office. Thank you very much for your attention and consideration regarding this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John".

John T. Salazar
Member of Congress

JTS/em
Enclosures
cc. Office of Secretary Tom Vilsack

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