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# **Network of Black Farm Groups and Advocates**

**Senate Action Demand to Assist Black Farmers**

**September 27, 2010**

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Network of Black Farm Groups and Advocates

For Immediate Release: September 27, 2010

Contact: Heather Gray 404 765 0991

Note: The following letter was distributed to all US Senators today, September 27, 2010. It calls for immediate action by the Senate on the funding of the lawsuit filed by Black farmers against the USDA. The demand is endorsed by national, regional and local organizations from around the country (see list below).

NETWORK OF BLACK FARM GROUPS AND ADVOCATES

September 27, 2010

Dear Senator:

As a national "Network of Black Farm Groups and Advocates" seeking justice for farmers, we have been joined by many other organizations in the country that are in support of a final passage of legislation to fund the Black farmer settlement. Below is the statement endorsed by the organizations (please see pages 2 and 3 for the organizational listing).

"We, the organizations listed below, join the Network of Black Farm Groups in demanding immediate action by the Senate in passage of legislation to fund the Black farmer settlement (known as Pigford v Vilsack).

The budget of \$1.25 billion called for in the legislation is needed immediately so that the settlement of the lawsuit can finally move forward. Black farmers in the case have waited for more than a decade for a resolution of their cases. This is far too long.

We understand there is wide support for the Pigford settlement in the Senate so we question the procedural roadblocks for passage of the funding legislation. We ask that you swiftly resolve these barriers.

The House of Representatives has passed the measure. The country now awaits Senate action.

Time is running out. We ask for an immediate and supportive vote by the Senate."

Network of Black Farm Groups and Advocates

Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (AR)

Contact: Calvin King - 870 734 1140
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Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association (NC)

Contact: Gary Grant - 252 826 3017
TILLERY@aol.com

Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund (GA)

Contact: Ralph Paige - 404 765 0991
ralphpaige@federation.coop

Land Loss Prevention Project (NC)

Contact: Savi Horne - 800 672 5839
savihorne@gmail.com

Mississippi Family Farmers Association (MS)

Contact: Eddie Carthan - 662 458 0983

Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project (OK)

Contact: Willard Tillman - 405 201 6624
wtillman2@cox.net

Rural Advancement Fund (SC)

Contact: Georgia Good - 803 378 9450
georgiagood_6@hotmail.com

Texas Landowners Association (TX)

Contact: Edward Cline - 713 306 7184
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United Farmers, USA (SC)

Contact: Hezaheiah Gibson
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Listing of Organizational Support for Pigford Lawsuit Funding

(State or headquarters for information in parenthesis)

Advocates for Environmental Human Rights (LA)
African American Family Farmers, Inc. (GA)
Agriculture Missions, Inc. (NY)
Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice (AL)
Alabama State Association of Cooperatives (AL)
Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network (AL)
American Sustainable Business Council (DC)
Atlanta International Action Center (GA)
Bay Area Veterans of the Civil Rights Movement (CA)
Beat 4 Cooperative (MS)
Black Agriculture Network (CA)
Black Communities Process (PCN)
Black Men's Health Initiative (NC)
BioRegional Strategies (NM)
California Farmers Union (CA)
Carolina Concerned Citizens (NC)
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (NC)
Center for Rural Affairs (NE)
Community Food Security Coalition (DC)
Community Vision Council (NY)
Concerned Citizens of Tillery (NC)
Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice (CT)
Connections Unlimited, LLC (OR)
Disciples Justice Action Network (DC)
Ecological Farming Association (CA)
Equitable Negotiations And Associates, LLC (GA)
Family Farmers Cooperatives (MS)
Family Farm Defenders (WI)
Farm Aid, Inc. (MA)
Farmworker Association of Florida (FL)
Fernandez Ranch (WA)
Flats Mentor Farm (MA)
Flint River Farmers Cooperative (GA)
Food and Water Watch (DC)
Georgia Green Party (GA)
Georgia Rural Urban Summit (GA)
Grandmothers Going Global
Greene/Sumter Farmers Cooperative (AL)
Housing Assistance Council (DC)

Human Rights Research Fund (GA)
Illinois Stewardship Alliance (IL)
Indian Springs Farmers Cooperative (MS)
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) (MN)
Just Food (NY)
Kentucky Minority Farmers Association (KY)
Land Stewardship Project (MN)
League of Rural Voters (MN)
Malcolm X Center for Self Determination (SC)
Michael Fields Agriculture Institute (WI)
Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice (MI)
Ministry of Agriculture of the Nation of Islam (NOI) (GA)
Mississippi State Association of Cooperatives (MS)
Missouri Rural Crisis Center (MO)
Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shut-offs
NAACP (DC)
National Center for Appropriate Technology
National Association of Farmer Elected Committees (NAFEC)
National Family Farm Coalition (DC)
National Farmers Union (DC)
National Hmong American Farmers, Inc
National Immigrant Farming Initiative
National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (DC)
Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society
Northeast Organic Farming Association- Interstate Council (CT)
North Carolina Environmental Justice Network (NC)
North Carolina Fair Share (NC)
Other Worlds (California, USA) Pan-African News Wire
P&G Farms, LLC.
Pennsylvania Farmers Union (PA)
PLBA Housing Development Corporation (AL)
Policy Link (CA)
RAFI-USA (NC)
Rural Coalition/Coalicion Rural (DC)
Rural Development Leadership Network (NY)
Rural Library Project Inc. (GA)
Sankofa Vision, Inc. (LA)
Slow Food, USA
Solidarity Committee, Capital District (DC)
South Carolina Sea Island Farmers Cooperative (SC)
South Carolina State Association of Cooperatives (SC)

Southeast Regional Economic Justice Network (NC)
Southeastern African-American Farmers Organic Network (GA)
The Area Wide Health Committee (NC)
TransAfrica Forum (DC)
Truly Living Well Natural Urban Farms (GA)
Virginia Association for Biological Farming (VA)
Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
Women, Food and Agriculture Network
WhyHunger (NY)

For additional information please contact:

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