



## Attorneys for Women Farmers in Discrimination Suit Commend USDA and Counsel on Settlement in Native American Discrimination Case

**WASHINGTON, DC – OCTOBER 26, 2010** – Lawyers for women farmers in the pending lawsuit *Love v. Vilsack* have commended the government and counsel for Native American farmers on the settlement of the lawsuit brought by Native American farmers against US Department of Agriculture alleging discrimination by the USDA in administration of farm credit and non-credit farm benefit programs.

The settlement in *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* provides redress for individual Native American farmers for decades of discrimination against them by USDA, and provides programmatic reforms. Arent Fox attorney Kristine Dunne, counsel for women farmers in the *Love v. Vilsack* case, said, “On behalf of women farmers, we too have been engaged in settlement discussions with the government in an effort to resolve our clients’ claims of discrimination. We are hopeful that the *Keepseagle* settlement provides a template for the settlement of the claims of women farmers, who have struggled for decades against systemic discrimination at the hands of USDA. We look forward to fruitful negotiations that bring about a speedy resolution of their claims.”

Ms. Dunne added, “More than 300,000 current farm operators are women, and they anxiously await a demonstration by this Administration that the government is committed to providing commensurate redress for women farmers, who have suffered greater injury due to USDA’s discrimination than any other group of minority farmers.” The government has represented to the judge presiding over the *Love* case that a settlement program for women and Hispanic farmers who have also been subjected to discrimination in farm credit and non-credit benefit programs is expected to be announced in November 2010.

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