

Washington D.C.- Congressman Steve King (R-IA), a Member of the House Agriculture and House Judiciary Committees, has written Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to request a meeting next week to discuss allegations of serious fraud in the disbursement of

Pigford v. Vilsack
settlement money.

Pigford v. Vilsack

is the class action lawsuit initiated by black farmers who claimed to have been discriminated against by the United States Department of Agriculture. King's request was mailed to Secretary Vilsack this afternoon.

“There is a growing firestorm over the allegations of massive fraud in the *Pigford* settlements,” said King.

“According to sworn testimony by John Boyd, President of the National Black Farmers Association, there are 18,000 black farmers. They could not all have been victims of discrimination. To date, there have been over 94,000 claims made. These numbers speak to massive fraud, meaning that American taxpayers are on the hook for what *Pigford*

judge Paul Friedman called ‘forty acres and a mule.’”

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“It is common practice for Secretaries of Agriculture to sit down with members of the Agriculture Committee. It is uncommon for the topic of conversation to be as urgent and expensive as *Pigford*, with a price tag of \$2.3 billion. Secretary Vilsack has an obligation to the American taxpayers to cooperate with an investigation of *Pigford* fraud.”

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“The Senate may be poised to pass

the Obama administration’s request for additional *Pigford* funding. *Pigford* payouts must be stopped until Congress and the USDA can conduct a thorough investigation.”

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