

Native American Settlement Agreement

Introduction

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is committed to a new era of excellence in which USDA is recognized as one of the premier organizations in the government and a worldwide leader. On December 8, 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law H.R. 4783, the “Claims Resolution Act of 2010” which included funding for the agreements reached in the Cobell lawsuit and four separate water rights suits brought by Native Americans.

Background

Several cases have been brought against USDA concerning discrimination complaints from Native Americans, generally covering the period 1981-1999. This issue was settled October 2010.

According to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, “The settlement can never undo wrongs that Native Americans may have experienced in the past decades, but combined with the actions we at USDA are taking to address such wrongs, the settlement will provide some measure of relief to those alleging discrimination.”

News Release: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/10/0539.xml>

For more information about USDA’s commitment to civil rights visit:
www.ascr.usda.gov

Claims Information

USDA cannot provide legal advice, or advice on how to file a claim. For information please refer to www.indianfarmclass.com or call toll-free at 1-888-233-5506.

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