



**BLACK FARMERS
AND
AGRICULTURALISTS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Black Farmers to Ask President Donald Trump to Affirm Recent U. S. Court of Appeals Ruling in Largest Civil Rights Settlement in U. S. History

Memphis, TN – The Black Farmers Agriculturalists Association, Inc. (BFAA), headquartered in Memphis and comprised of 15,000 Black farmers nationwide, received a landmark decision from the U. S. Court of Appeals ruling on October 31, 2017, in a class action lawsuit between Black farmers and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The ruling could result in over \$1 billion dollars in judgments, one of the largest Civil Rights settlements in U. S. History.

Members of the BFAA received a letter back in July of 17, 2013 from a government claims contracting agent, Epiq Systems, that violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It stated: “To participate in this Process, you must be either Hispanic/Latino or female. On your Claim Form, you indicated that you are an African American male. As a result, you are not eligible to participate in this Claims Resolution Process, and your letter has been denied.”

Thomas Burrell, president of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalists, says the group is going to reach out to President Donald Trump to encourage immediate implementation of the court’s ruling. They met with members of the Trump administration in February and will hopefully be invited to the White House before the end of the year. Burrell added that the President’s cooperation with the court’s ruling would be an excellent tribute to MLK50.

“President Trump can say this is wrong,” Burrell pointed out. “Mr. Trump is the defendant since he inherited the Obama administration’s delays in compensating the farmers with repeated appeals from the U. S. Department of Justice. “He can simply say let’s end it and stop the delay of farmers filing a new claim to participate in the Claims Resolution Process.”

“Finally, justice has prevailed in a fair hearing,” commented Bishop David A. Hall, Sr., a third generation Church Of God In Christ pastor who is an avid farmer and member of the BFAA. “Black farmers had a right to redress America’s original sin of racism. Farming is a spiritual matter. It is all about having faith that a seed planted in the ground will grow.”