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July 19, 2018

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Secretary Perdue and Attorney General Sessions,

I wanted to bring to your attention a recent news report in Memphis regarding allegations that African-Americans farmers were sold “fake” soybean seeds last year.¹

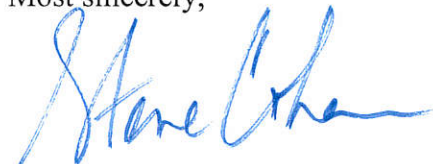
According to the report, African-American farmers accuse Stine Seed Company of selling them “more than \$100,000 worth of Stine seeds. But the ‘certified’ seeds the growers had paid for were switched with inferior seeds at a warehouse near Sledge, Mississippi.”² The farmers further allege that the company targeted them with such suspected fraud because of their race.³

If the allegations are true, they are obviously very disturbing, and I would ask that your respective departments consider taking whatever actions they may deem appropriate.

Thank you for your attention.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

¹ 7/10/2018 *Commercial Appeal* <https://www.commercialappeal.com/story/news/2018/07/10/black-farmers-settlement-lawsuit-fake-seeds/771505002/>

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*