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United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

November 16, 2006

National Black Farmer's Association
115 College Drive
Lawrenceville, VA 23868

Dear fellow farmers:

As you receive this letter, I expect the United States Senate to be working on legislation that I hope will include help for many of our country's black farmers. Through the efforts of the National Black Farmer's Association, we are making progress on legislation that is long overdue.

I was pleased to be an original co-sponsor to S. 3976 which will help create a new cause of action for those who never had a chance to have their discrimination claim heard and it should help address discrimination by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Overall, the number of farms operated in the United States decreased by 4.1 percent between 1997 and 2002. Farms operated by African Americans increased from 18,451 to 29,090, a 36.6 percent increase over the five-year period. This should not go unnoticed and with this legislation maybe we can see the number of farms operated by African Americans increase even more.

My staff and I have had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Boyd on many occasions over the last several years. He has been a tireless advocate and has helped show me the difficult circumstances which many of your families have had to go through.

As a family farmer myself, and a member of the Senate Agriculture and Judiciary Committees, I hope to continue to fight for you and see that this legislation gets signed into law.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

CEG:kjs

CHAIRMAN,
FINANCE

Committee Assignments:

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INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
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