

## Statement on the Settlement in the *Keepseagle* Class-Action Lawsuit on Discrimination by the Department of Agriculture October 19, 2010

Today the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Justice announced a settlement agreement with the plaintiffs in the *Keepseagle* class-action lawsuit. This suit was originally filed in 1999 by Native American farmers alleging discrimination in access to and participation in USDA's farm loan programs. With today's agreement, we take an important step forward in remedying USDA's unfortunate civil rights history.

I applaud Secretary Vilsack and Attorney General Holder for their hard work to reach this settlement, a settlement that helps

strengthen the nation-to-nation relationship and underscores the Federal Government's commitment to treat all citizens fairly. In light of that commitment, Congress must also act to implement the historic settlements of the *Pigford II* lawsuit brought by African American farmers and the *Cobell* lawsuit brought by Native Americans over the management of Indian trust accounts and resources. My administration also continues to work towards a resolution of the claims made by women and Hispanic farmers against the USDA.

## Remarks at a Rally for Governor John Kitzhaber in Portland, Oregon October 20, 2010

*The President.* Hello, Portland! Thank you! Thank you very much, everybody. It is good to be back in the State of Oregon. And it is an honor to be standing here with your next Governor, John Kitzhaber.

*Audience member.* We love you!

*The President.* I love you back. Great to be here.

Now, I have to first of all say, look, I've got a special place in my heart for Oregon. My best friend from high school lives in Eugene and is a big Ducks fan. So he's got season tickets. I'm always getting some e-mail from him about how good they're doing. Congratulations.

Now, on the other hand, my brother-in-law happens to be the coach of the Beavers. But I'm not confused. [*Laughter*] I root for them both. I've got the whole State covered.

We've got some wonderful guests here. You may have heard from a couple of them, but I want to make sure that you hear—that I have a chance to introduce them. First of all, your outstanding senior Senator, Ron Wyden, is in the house. Give him a big round of applause. Your outstanding junior Senator, Jeff Merkley, is here. My great friend and one of my earliest supporters who always has that little bike thing

on his lapel—[*laughter*]—Earl Blumenauer is here. One of his outstanding partners in the House of Representatives, is doing a great job, David Wu is here.

*Audience members.* Wu! Wu! Wu!

*The President.* Wu! Wu, Wu, Wu. Just want everybody—I want all the press to be clear, they were saying, "Wu." [*Laughter*] Secretary of State Kate Brown is here. State Treasurer Ted Wheeler is here. And Attorney General Kroger is here.

Now, Portland, let's talk about this Governor's race for a second. This should not be a difficult choice. [*Laughter*] This should not be a difficult choice. I know you have a race where both candidates are talking about change. But there's only one candidate who's actually delivered change. And that's John Kitzhaber.

When John—you know John's track record. When John was Governor, this economy grew, created more than 120,000 new jobs. When John was Governor, he increased access to health care for thousands of children. When John was Governor, he invested in education and improved Oregon's public schools. When John was Governor, he protected the environment of one of the most beautiful States in the