109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5575

To provide a mechanism for the determination on the merits of the claims of claimants who met the class criteria in a civil action relating to racial discrimination by the Department of Agriculture but who were denied that determination.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2006

Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. BACHUS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WATT, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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A BILL

To provide a mechanism for the determination on the merits of the claims of claimants who met the class criteria in a civil action relating to racial discrimination by the Department of Agriculture but who were denied that determination.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Pigford Claims Rem-

5 edy Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. DETERMINATION ON MERITS OF PIGFORD CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any Pigford claimant who has not previously obtained a determination on the merits of a Pigford claim may, in a civil action, obtain that determination.

(b) INTENT OF CONGRESS AS TO REMEDIAL NATURE OF SECTION.—It is the intent of Congress that this section be liberally construed so as to effectuate its remedial purpose of giving a full determination on the merits for each Pigford claim denied that determination.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act—

(1) the term "Pigford claimant" means an individual who previously submitted a late-filing request under section 5(g) of the consent decree in the case of Pigford v. Glickman, approved by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on April 14, 1999; and

(2) the term "Pigford claim" means a discrimination complaint, as defined by section 1(h) of that consent decree and documented under section 5(b) of that consent decree.

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