UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FORT WORTH DIVISION

Sid Miller, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Case No. 4:21-cv-00595-O

Tom Vilsack, in his official capacity as Secretary of Agriculture,

Defendant.

MOTION FOR CLASS CERTIFICATION

The plaintiffs respectfully move to certify two classes under Rule 23(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

The first proposed class will be represented by plaintiffs Greg Macha, James Meek, Jeff Peters, and Lorinda O'Shaughnessy, and it consists of "all farmers and ranchers in the United States who are encountering, or who will encounter, racial discrimination from the United States Department of Agriculture on account of section 1005 of the American Rescue Plan Act."

The second proposed class will be represented by all of the named plaintiffs in this action, and it consists of "all farmers and ranchers in the United States who are currently excluded from the definition of 'socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher,' as defined in 7 U.S.C. § 2279(a)(5)–(6) and as interpreted by the Department of Agriculture."

The accompanying brief provides our arguments and authorities.

Respectfully submitted.

GENE P. HAMILTON Virginia Bar No. 80434 Vice-President and General Counsel America First Legal Foundation 300 Independence Avenue SE Washington, DC 20003 (202) 964-3721 gene.hamilton@aflegal.org

H. DUSTIN FILLMORE III Texas Bar No. 06996010 CHARLES W. FILLMORE Texas Bar No. 00785861 The Fillmore Law Firm, LLP 201 Main Street, Suite 801 Fort Worth, Texas 76102 (817) 332-2351 (phone) (817) 870-1859 (fax) dusty@fillmorefirm.com chad@fillmorefirm.com

Dated: June 2, 2021

/s/ Jonathan F. Mitchell JONATHAN F. MITCHELL Texas Bar No. 24075463 Mitchell Law PLLC 111 Congress Avenue, Suite 400 Austin, Texas 78701 (512) 686-3940 (phone) (512) 686-3941 (fax) jonathan@mitchell.law

Counsel for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Classes Case 4:21-cv-00595-O Document 12 Filed 06/02/21 Page 3 of 3 PageID 600

CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE

I certify that on June 2, 2021, I conferred with Emily Sue Newton, counsel for the defendants, and she informed me that the defendants oppose this motion.

/s/ Jonathan F. Mitchell JONATHAN F. MITCHELL Counsel for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Classes

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on June 2, 2021, I served this document through CM/ECF upon:

EMILY SUE NEWTON Senior Trial Counsel United States Department of Justice Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch 1100 L Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 305-8356 (phone) (202) 616-8460 (fax) emily.s.newton@usdoj.gov

Counsel for Defendants

<u>/s/ Jonathan F. Mitchell</u> JONATHAN F. MITCHELL Counsel for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Classes