



STATE OF ARKANSAS
SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS
GOVERNOR

July 1, 2024

Secretary Tom Vilsack
U. S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

As you are aware, several strong storm systems passed through Arkansas in April and May, bringing damaging rains, flash floods, high winds, hail, lightning, and deadly tornadoes. All of these severely impacted our farm families and their communities – and by extension, Arkansas’ economy and way of life.

Because of this, I am in full support of the recent request by the Arkansas USDA Farm Service Agency for a Secretarial Disaster Declaration and approval of the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). I am also requesting your approval of any other disaster assistance programs within USDA that may help Arkansas’ agriculture industry recover.

Your friend and my dad was fond of saying that if a country can’t feed itself, fuel itself, or fight for itself, then it cannot survive. Arkansas is important to all those goals and especially excels in agriculture. Agriculture is Arkansas’ largest industry, contributing more than \$20 billion to our economy each year and employing one in seven Arkansans. It is also an integral part of our way of life, from the rice fields of the Delta to the broiler flocks of the Ozarks to our nearly 19 million acres of forestland throughout the state.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and thank you for your commitment to our farmers, in Arkansas and across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Sanders".

Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor of Arkansas

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