

## MINUTES

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Jointly

Thursday, December 5, 2024

10:00 AM

Hot Springs Convention Center, Room 208-209, 134 Convention Blvd

Hot Springs, Arkansas

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Committee members present: Senators Ronald Caldwell, Chair; Representatives Jack Fortner, Chair; Roger D. Lynch, Vice-Chair; Cameron Cooper, Bruce Cozart, Steve Hollowell, Ron McNair, Kendra Moore, Chad Puryear, and Danny Watson

Other members present: Representative Jeremy Wooldridge

Representative Fortner called the meeting to order.

### **Consideration to Approve the October 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]**

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

### **Update from Arkansas Agriculture Department**

Wes Ward, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Agriculture, discussed projects that the department was working on.

### **Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts**

Debbie Moreland, Program Administrator, Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts, provided an overview on the Arkansas conservation districts, noting that there has been no increase in conservation districts since 1996.

### **Other Business**

Don Wright, President, Arkansas Farm Bureau, thanked the committee for coming and discussed the state of farming in Arkansas.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.