

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Fiscal Session, 2026

HR 1034

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5 By: Representatives K. Moore, Torres

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8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

9 TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR ARKANSAS POULTRY PRODUCERS IN  
10 THE ILLINOIS RIVER WATERSHED AND TO URGE A RETURN TO  
11 GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATIONS.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR ARKANSAS POULTRY  
16 PRODUCERS IN THE ILLINOIS RIVER  
17 WATERSHED AND TO URGE A RETURN TO GOOD  
18 FAITH NEGOTIATIONS.

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20 WHEREAS, a significant portion of the Illinois River Watershed lies  
21 within the State of Arkansas, including in Northwest Arkansas where poultry  
22 production is a cornerstone of the regional economy; and

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24 WHEREAS, agriculture contributes more than twenty-five billion dollars  
25 (\$25,000,000,000) annually to Arkansas's economy, and poultry production, the  
26 state's largest agricultural sector, serves as a primary economic driver in  
27 many rural communities and supports thousands of farm families and jobs; and

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29 WHEREAS, litigation involving nutrient management in the Illinois River  
30 Watershed has persisted for approximately forty (40) years, creating  
31 prolonged uncertainty and concerns about precedent that could negatively  
32 impact agricultural producers across Arkansas and beyond; and

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34 WHEREAS, Arkansas poultry producers have demonstrated a longstanding  
35 commitment to environmental stewardship through significant investments in  
36 conservation practices, including nutrient management plans and other



1 science-based best management practices; and

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3 WHEREAS, agriculture is a foundational industry in Arkansas, and  
4 farmers must be able to continue lawful operations without undue  
5 interference, consistent with the state's commitment to protecting private  
6 property rights; and

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8 WHEREAS, meaningful and lasting progress is best achieved through  
9 cooperative, science-based solutions developed through good faith  
10 negotiations among all affected parties; and

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12 WHEREAS, Arkansas met the forty percent (40%) total phosphorus load  
13 reduction in 2005 as set forth by the Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River  
14 Compact Commission and has maintained a seventy-five percent to eighty  
15 percent (75%-80%) reduction over the last decade; and

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17 WHEREAS, poultry producers, cattle ranchers, Arkansas municipalities,  
18 and poultry companies have invested over seven hundred fifty million dollars  
19 (\$750,000,000) in wastewater treatment plant improvements, phosphorus-based  
20 nutrient management plans, the removal of excess litter from the Illinois  
21 River Watershed, and poultry processing facility improvements to reduce the  
22 phosphorus discharged and land applied, or both, resulting in significant  
23 phosphorus concentration declines in the Illinois River, which are  
24 approaching the thirty-five thousandths milligrams per liter (0.035 mg/l) as  
25 recommended and agreed to by the states of Arkansas and Oklahoma in the 2016  
26 Joint Study Committee and Scientific Professionals final report,

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28 NOW THEREFORE,

29 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
30 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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32 THAT the House of Representatives:

33 (1) Express the House of Representatives' strong support for  
34 Arkansas poultry producers operating within the Illinois River Watershed;

35 (2) Recognize and commend the conservation efforts and  
36 environmental stewardship demonstrated by Arkansas poultry producers;

1           (3) Affirm the importance of protecting the right of farmers to  
2 operate and produce food and fiber while continuing to advance responsible  
3 environmental stewardship; and

4           (4) Reaffirm the House of Representatives' commitment to both  
5 environmental protection and the continued viability of agriculture as  
6 Arkansas's leading industry.

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