

ARKANSAS SOYBEAN PROMOTION BOARD
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Zoom Only

Minutes

January 15, 2026
3:30 p.m.

Members Present via Zoom: Brad Doyle, West Higginbotham, Patrick Matt Smith

Members Absent: Josh Cureton, John Freeman, Boyce Johnson, Donald Morton Jr., Matthew Roberson, BJ Royce Rogers II

The Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board met via Zoom only, in a joint meeting with the Arkansas Beef Council, Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board, Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board, Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board, and the Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Promotion Board.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Doyle welcomed all members and guests. With only three members present via zoom, a quorum was not established.

LETTER OF SUPPORT CONSIDERATION

Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture, Wes Ward, provided an update on the America First Trade Promotion Program and outlined the Department's proposal to apply for funding to support inbound and outbound trade missions with five partner countries: Guatemala, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Israel, and Morocco.

Secretary Ward highlighted that the program provides \$285 million in trade-promotion funding, with an estimated 60 entities expected to receive awards. He requested that the board consider issuing a formal letter of support to accompany the state's application. Chairman Doyle asked if there were any questions, and there were none.

Motion to authorize the Board to issue a letter of support for the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's application to the America First Trade Promotion Program; Moved by West Higginbotham, seconded by Patrick Matt Smith. The motion failed for lack of quorum.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.



Brad Doyle, Chairman

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January 16, 2026
2:00 p.m.

Members Present via Zoom: Josh Cureton, Brad Doyle, John Freeman, West Higginbotham, Boyce Johnson, Matthew Roberson, BJ Royce Rogers II, Patrick Matt Smith

Members Absent: Donald Morton Jr.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Doyle welcomed all members and guests. With eight members present via zoom, a quorum was established and confirmed by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

LETTER OF SUPPORT CONSIDERATION

Amy Lyman provided a recap of previous days update on the America First Trade Promotion Program and outlined the Department's proposal to apply for funding to support inbound and outbound trade missions with five partner countries: Guatemala, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Israel, and Morocco.

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Brad Doyle, Chairman



Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov
(501) 225-1598



Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture



January 16, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

The Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board is pleased to provide this letter in support of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's request for funding under the America First Trade Promotion Program.

Our board represents soybean producers across Arkansas and invests in research, promotion, and market development to strengthen demand for our industry. Export markets are essential to long-term price stability and growth for our producers, and the proposed Arkansas trade missions to Guatemala, the United Kingdom, Morocco, Israel, and Portugal directly align with our mission.

The strategy to promote Arkansas-origin soybeans through targeted buyer engagement and trade missions will help our producers access new markets, expand existing customer relationships, and compete effectively against foreign suppliers. We strongly support this effort and look forward to coordinating with the Department of Agriculture to maximize its impact.

Sincerely,

Brad Doyle
Chair
Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board