



ARKANSAS RICE GROWERS  
A S S O C I A T I O N

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### NEW REVENUE FOR RICE FARMERS

The Arkansas Rice Growers Association wishes to recognize Representative Dewayne Dobbins of North Little Rock, Arkansas and Senator Steve Higginbothom of Marianna, Arkansas for sponsoring our bill HB2842. The bill passed the Senate today 35-0 and will now go to the Governor for his signature. This bill creates a \$15 per ton tax credit to the end user for the purchase of rice straw used for processing, manufacturing, generating energy, or producing ethanol. The income tax credit is an incentive for companies to utilize what is currently a waste product that burned in the open field. "This is a proactive, environmentally friendly way to turn an expense and waste item into money for farmers and jobs for Arkansans," stated Greg Yielding, Executive Director of the Arkansas Rice Growers Association.

The Arkansas Department of Economic Development and other economic developers testified in committee earlier this week that they have a prospect that is very interested in using rice straw to manufacture wallboards. This company has a choice of Arkansas and Louisiana, and media reports state that Louisiana has already put incentives on the table to lure them away from Arkansas. This one company could generate as many as 100 jobs in some very high unemployment counties.

An average plant of this type could use between 35-50 thousand tons of rice straw annually. This would create a new source of revenue for farmers as they sell rice straw from the fields.

The Arkansas Rice Growers Association is the only organization solely representing the views of the Arkansas rice farmer.

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