

To: USA Rice Federation
James K. Vines
King & Spalding LLP
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006-4706

October 9, 2008

From: John Alter
Arkansas Rice Growers Association
PO Box 95226
Little Rock, AR 72190

Mr. Vines,

The farmers of Arkansas are taxed millions of dollars every year in the form of a program loosely called a check-off. They have no right of refund or referendum. The USA Rice Federation is in charge of handling this money. We think the farmers of the state should have the right to see how this money is being spent. We have asked several times for records so that we might see for ourselves how 3 million dollars of farmer money is being handled, the last 3 requests being FOI request for those records. We have yet to receive any meaningful records.

During our meeting in Lonoke at the office of Jerry Kelly on Monday October 6, 2008, you told us the problem with our request for information was that it was a formal request in the form of an FOI. You told us if we would have simply written the USA Rice Federation and asked for information that request would be acceptable. You also told us the scope of the documents we requested was too broad. We are writing this letter in the spirit of cooperation to work through those problems as you see them.

Without waving any of the terms of our initial request or prejudicing our rights there under we are requesting copies of all the USA Rice Federation bank statements (of any type) for the calendar year 2006. We would also request copies of all credit/debit card bills the USA Rice Federation uses or has access to or paid for the year 2006.

We have made this request as per your suggestion. We have narrowed the documents requested also as you wanted. I would not think this request would be overly burdensome to comply with.

The USA Rice Federation is a trade association, not a business. Slick "lawyer speak" like "trade secrets" or "lawyer client privilege" have no place in this discussion. The USA Rice Federation's tactics in this matter makes us think you have something to hide. By not giving us meaningful information you make us more determined to get at the entire truth.

Signed,

John Alter
Arkansas Rice Growers Association