



Matt King

Senior Vice President

July 13, 2021

Dear Congressman Westerman:

Arkansas Farm Bureau is the largest agricultural advocacy organization in Arkansas representing more than 189,000 member families in the state. We are writing today in opposition of H.R. 3764, the Blue New Deal. The proposed bill will have a significant impact to agriculture by placing additional requirements on farmers and ranchers, increase operating costs to produce the food and fiber, and open the door for environmental groups to attack farm families through litigation.

The requirement in this bill for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) to map watersheds with no limit on how far upstream the map can extend is concerning. While programs like Discovery Farms program have shown producers are doing a very good job managing runoff, this type of mapping has the potential to create numerous challenges for agriculture in the future as well open the door for unnecessary litigation against farm families. We have seen in the past that sound science in our favor will not prevent our adversaries from challenging agriculture. When this program is combined with potential changes to Waters of the U.S. it could have a significant impact of farmers ability to produce the food and fiber American consumers depend on.

Agriculture producers in Arkansas depend on vessels greater than 5,000 lbs to deliver their product to market. Arkansas farmers export more than \$3.1 billion in agriculture goods, much of which moves via the Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers. Measuring the carbon output of these vessels is only part of the story, water transportation has much smaller carbon footprint than truck, rail, or other forms of moving product to the market.

Finally banning of offshore drilling, will have a significant negative impact on Agriculture as energy cost are a major cost to Arkansas producers. As we have seen over the last few months, removing American energy production from the market causes energy prices to increase significantly.

We appreciate your leadership on the issue and thank you for your continued support of agriculture through your opposition of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "K".

Matt King

Senior Vice President

Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation

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