Rick Pate
Commissioner

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRIES

1445 Federal Drive • Montgomery, Alabama 36107-1123

October 27, 2026

Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
U. S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Re: Harvest Fuel Relief Program

Dear Secretary Rollins:

I thank you and President Trump for creating the U. S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) $8 billion Harvest Fuel Relief (HFR) program to assist American farmers this harvest season to offset increased input costs and provide relief during temporary market disruptions. This investment will provide much needed relief to Alabama's farmers and rural communities.

I respectfully request that USDA allow loggers to participate in the HFR program. The timber industry is crucial to Alabama's economy contributing over $37.5 billion dollars annually to our economy. Our state's 23 million acres of timberland provide over 123,000 jobs in Alabama that are all dependent on the approximately 1,500 logging operations throughout Alabama. Without these loggers, we cannot harvest and deliver wood to be processed into useable products every day. From September 21, 2025, to September 21, 2026, the average price of diesel fuel in Alabama increased 79% from $4.09 per gallon to $6.15 per gallon. The rising cost of diesel fuel and other input costs tied with market disruptions due to recent pulp mill closures have placed unusual pressure on the ability of loggers to stay in business. This request for relief appears to be in line with the purposes of the HFR.

All Americans are dependent on our forest products industry, and everything in the timber supply chain starts with our loggers. They deserve our support and a helping hand.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Rick Pate, Commissioner

Phone (800) 642-7761 • (334) 240-7100 • Fax (334) 240-7190
www.agi.alabama.gov
"We provide employment & services without discrimination."