

EXHIBIT B1

MINUTES

**SENATE AND HOUSE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

**The Executive Hotel At City Center, Belle Star Room, 700 Rogers Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas**

Friday, August 12, 2016

The Senate and House Interim Committees on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development met Friday, August 12, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. at The Executive Hotel at City Center, Belle Star Room, 700 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Committee members present: Senator Alan Clark, Vice Chair. Representatives Dan Douglas, Chair; Rick Beck, Douglas House, Lane Jean, Mark McElroy, Ron McNair, Steven Meeks, John Payton, Matthew Pitsch, and James Ratliff.

Other legislators present: Senator Jon Woods; Representatives Jana Della Rosa, Jim Dotson, Charlotte Douglas, and Marcus Richmond.

Representative Douglas called the meeting to order. He recognized Representative Pitsch for brief remarks.

Mr. Wes Ward, Secretary of Agriculture, Arkansas Agriculture Department, was recognized for comments. He stated the Governor has decided not to re-fill the executive director's position of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission (ALPC) in an effort to increase efficiencies.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES [Exhibit B1,B2]

Representative Beck made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 20, 2016 and July 21, 2016. The motion was seconded by Representative McElroy, and without objection, the motion carried.

OVERVIEW OF THE ARKANSAS CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION (ACA)

Mr. Gary Patton, President, ACA and **Mr. Adam McClung**, Executive Vice President, were recognized. Mr. Patton thanked everyone for attending the ACA Convention and noted his tenure as ACA's president will end this year. Mr. McClung gave a brief overview of the ACA infrastructure and the cattle industry. He stated Arkansas has 1.8 million in cattle and calves and generated \$600 million cash receipts, which has had an economic impact in the state. Notably, Arkansas has 22,000 cattlemen of which 8,000 are members of ACA. Moreover, the ACA has 60 local county associations that have their own board and officers that work independently under the ACA. Fifty-eight is the average age of cattlemen in Arkansas. Mr. McClung noted there is a shortage of large animal veterinarians, as more are needed to meet the demands of the producers.

Regarding broadband technology issues in rural Arkansas, ACA has a policy in place that supports efforts of bringing new broadband technology to rural areas.

Mr. Jerry Christian, First Vice-President, ACA, was recognized and stated more towers are needed in Nashville to facilitate cell phone coverage. Representative Douglas asked that Mr. Clung keep the committee informed on resolutions and the needs of the cattle industry.

**UPDATE FROM THE ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY COMMISSION (ALPC)
CONCERNING CATTLE HEALTH REGULATIONS**

Dr. Brandon Doss, State Veterinarian, ALPC, was recognized and presented a PowerPoint presentation titled, “Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission [see Handout 1 for full report]. He gave a brief history of the ALPC and its mission. The ALPC is undergoing restructuring and the Arkansas Agriculture Department (AAD) will bring all agricultural agencies under the direct supervision of the AAD and the Secretary of Agriculture. Some of the main bovine and health regulatory issues that are dealt with on a daily basis include: animal disease, proposed changes to the federal tuberculosis/brucellosis rules, and trichomoniasis. Dr. Doss is reviewing and revising the vast majority of ALPCs regulations as they are outdated. Traceability is key to tagging and tracing eligible animals that are required to be officially identified across state lines. Some current animal disease traceability (ADT) challenges include ensuring data is accurate and quickly searchable electronically, continuing education and outreach on ADT, and encouraging the use of electronic tags and interstate certificates of veterinary inspection (ICVIs). Dr. Doss noted one of his goals is to improve the ALPC information technology capabilities.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.