



Sarah Huckabee Sanders  
Governor

# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205  
agriculture.arkansas.gov  
(501) 225-1598



Wes Ward  
Secretary of Agriculture

December 11, 2023

The Honorable Tim Griffin  
Arkansas Attorney General  
323 Center Street, Suite 200  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Attorney General Griffin,

During the 2023 Regular Session of the Arkansas General Assembly the state legislature passed Act 636 which amends the law concerning ownership and possession of real property; the law had an effective date of August 1, 2023. Act 636 provides that a "prohibited foreign-party controlled business" shall not acquire by grant, purchase, devise, descent, or otherwise any interest in public or private land in this state.

In accordance with Act 636, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture is directed to collect and analyze information concerning the unlawful sale or possession of agricultural land by prohibited foreign parties and report violations to the Arkansas Attorney General.

Throughout the course of this year there have been a growing number of entities in the process of creating digital asset or crypto-mining operations across the state of Arkansas. One of these facilities is located on agricultural land near the city of DeWitt and is operated by Jones Digital LLC. A review of Jones Digital's ownership indicates that the entity may have significant ties to China. Further, it is believed that the individuals or entities involved in the ownership of Jones Digital LLC may also have significant ownership interest in other digital asset or crypto-mining operations in other parts of the state under different names.

As of the date of this letter, China continues to be a country subject to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) and is subject to the prohibitions of Act 636.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture believes that Jones Digital LLC and potentially other similarly situated digital asset or crypto-mining operations may be operating in violation of Act 636. As a result, we are reporting the potential violations to your office and requesting that you utilize the authority granted under A.C.A. 18-11-704(c)(2) to determine if a violation of Act 636 has in fact occurred, and if so, commence appropriate legal action.

Respectfully,

Wesley W. Ward  
Secretary of Agriculture  
State of Arkansas