



Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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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.

Since the passage of Act 636, one entity that has come to the attention of the Department is Risever Machinery LLC which has a facility in Craighead County. A review of Risever Machinery LLC's ownership indicates that the entity has significant ties to China.

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 Risever Machinery LLC 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