USA Rice

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October 13, 2026

The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

On behalf of America's rice farmers, millers, merchants, and allied businesses, USA Rice respectfully requests that the U.S. Department of Agriculture utilize its authority under Section 32 to make a $21 million minimum purchase of U.S.-grown long grain rice for distribution through USDA domestic nutrition assistance programs.

Last month, our industry celebrated National Rice Month, where industry leaders in Arkansas and Missouri collectively helped donate over 213,000 pounds of rice to food banks in their respective states. A timely Section 32 purchase by USDA would help amplify these local contributions by rice farmers and industry members across our great nation.

The U.S. rice industry is currently confronting a difficult imbalance with the lowest harvested acres in more than 50 years but significant carryover in the supply chain from the 2024 and 2025 crops due to reduced export demand. At the same time, U.S. rice producers continue to face elevated production costs and market prices that are not sustainable and driving the highest number of Chapter 12 farm bankruptcies in the country in Arkansas, Southeast Missouri, and other parts of the Mississippi Delta.

The low acreage and compounding tough economics over the last four years have led to impacts throughout the supply chain, including closure of some critical rice infrastructure, including nine drying facilities, announced by Riceland Foods in June 2026.

USA Rice therefore requests that USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service conduct a Section 32 purchase of a minimum of $21 million of U.S.-grown long grain rice, on par or greater than USDA solicited in 2025.

A purchase of this magnitude would provide timely support to the domestic rice market by moving available supplies into USDA nutrition channels while simultaneously providing a nutritious, versatile, shelf-stable staple to Americans participating in federal nutrition assistance programs. As you can imagine, rice is particularly well suited for USDA food distribution. It is widely consumed across cultures, has a long shelf life, is easy to transport and store, and can be incorporated into a broad range of meals at an affordable cost per serving. U.S.-grown rice is already familiar to USDA procurement programs and can be supplied in product specifications and package sizes appropriate for participating nutrition programs.

We appreciate your continued support for America's farmers and USDA's efforts to strengthen domestic agricultural markets while providing high-quality, American-grown food to families in need.

Sincerely,



Peter Bachmann
President & CEO

Cc: Erin Morris, USDA AMS Administrator