



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 12, 2025

Contact: **Hannah East, Communications Director**
 (601) 359-1179 / cell: (662) 816-3230
 HannahE@mdac.ms.gov

Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson Meets with EPA Region 4 Administrator

JACKSON, Miss. – Yesterday, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson met with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 Administrator Kevin McOmber to discuss issues impacting Mississippi’s farmers and agriculture industry.

“It was a pleasure meeting with the Trump Administration’s U.S. EPA Regional Administrator Kevin McOmber,” said Commissioner Gipson. “We had the opportunity to discuss several key issues impacting Mississippi’s farmers, ranchers and producers, including the Yazoo Backwater Pump Project, water quality issues and easing the regulatory burden for Mississippi farmers and landowners. We also discussed important developments surrounding crop protection tools. I look forward to strengthening the partnership between the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) and regional EPA office as we continue working together to support our state’s largest industry — agriculture.”

“We were honored to visit Sumrall Farms and hear from farmers about what they need and how EPA can help,” said Kevin McOmber, EPA Region 4 Administrator. “EPA is here for farmers, to listen and work in cooperation with state and local agencies, ensuring that agriculture in Mississippi continues to thrive.”

This meeting was Regional Administrator McOmber’s first opportunity to visit with Commissioner Gipson and other leaders in Mississippi’s agriculture community since his appointment from President Trump. McOmber and Gipson were joined by Mike McCormick, President of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation; Brian Perry, MDAC’s Chief of Staff; Laura Vollar, Director of MDAC’s Bureau of Plant Industry; and Jerry Sumrall, owner of Sumrall Farms.

The meeting, which was open to members of the press, was held at Sumrall Farms in Canton.

###

Photo attached.



Pictured: Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson (second from the left) and EPA Regional Administrator Kevin McOmber (far left) with the Sumrall family.