

## **USFS Land Conveyance to Perry County, Arkansas**

H.R. 3187, To Require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Forest Service to Perry County, Arkansas, and for other purposes.

## **BLUF:**

H.R. 3187 will convey a U.S. Forest Service building, along with 0.81 acres of Forest Service land located at 1069 Fourche Avenue, Perryville, Arkansas 72126, to Perry County.

- This property has been vacant since October 2024.
- This legislation would sustainably and effectively utilize existing infrastructure to meet county needs and support youth development and agricultural education in Perry County.

## **Background:**

Perry County is a rural area with a population of approximately 10,000 people. About 16% of the population lives below the poverty line. Roughly 77% of the land in Perry County is forested, with 72% of this forested land privately owned. The major public landowner in the county is the U.S. Forest Service, which owns the Ouachita National Forest, encompassing 119,171 acres of forested land.

Perry County has been trying to acquire the U.S. Forest Service building and its surrounding land in Perryville, Arkansas, for several years. However, due to the county's small size and high poverty rate, it lacks the necessary funds to purchase the property. As a result, Rep. French Hill has introduced legislation to facilitate the transfer of the property to Perry County.

## Impact:

This legislation would greatly benefit Perry County by providing permanent space for youth programs, agricultural education, and conservation efforts. The conveyance of this property will offer lasting benefits for Perry County residents.

Please contact Amelia Allert at <u>Amelia.Allert@mail.house.gov</u> if you have any questions or need additional information.