

PRESS RELEASE:**KEMPER COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI ISSUED BDO ZONE 'A' RATING FOR WOODY BIOMASS**

– 'A' Rating Will Support Value Added Wood Industry and Job Creation –



March 20th, 2025 - [Kemper County](#), [Ecostrat](#), and the [BDO Zone Initiative](#) are pleased to announce the issue of an investment grade BDO Zone 'A' Rating for Kemper County, Mississippi. The BDO Zone is rated for 1,105,000 bone dry tons per year of woody biomass and extends within a 75-mile radius from the center point, Scooba, MS.

Kemper County's 'A' rating indicates high prospective viability to support new biobased plant operations, with low risk associated with Feedstock Supply and Infrastructure in the Zone. The region features a leading regional forest industry with a large network of experienced suppliers, nationally competitive supply chain labor costs, and an underutilized pine forest resource, making this an ideal location for biobased projects seeking a reliable supply of woody biomass. The site offers excellent connectivity through comprehensive transportation infrastructure and has received extensive utility investments, including electric service upgrades, natural gas feeder lines, and expanded water availability, while lower housing costs and cost of living enhance workforce attraction prospects.

"Our 'A' rating provides a globally accepted certification of what we all know locally, Kemper County is blessed with a strong wood basket," states **Steven Lockley, Executive Director of the Kemper County Economic Development Authority**. "As we finalize our efforts to acquire new industrial sites along the Hwy 45/COKC Rail Corridor, this designation is a marketing feather in our cap and a financial win for companies looking to make biomass investments in our county. We are excited about the future economic opportunities and positioning our region as a result of this designation."

Jordan Solomon, Chairman of the BDO Zone Initiative, stated, "Kemper County's BDO Zone 'A' rating for over 1.1 million bone dry tons of woody biomass, combined with the region's underutilized forest resources, comprehensive infrastructure, and strong community support, offers companies developing

next-generation biofuels and renewable materials, the critical supply chain stability essential for successful long-term operations in the bioeconomy.”

To see the full BDO Zone Rating for **Kemper County, MS**, please click [here](#), or visit www.bdozone.org.

BDO Zone project development support:

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About *The BDO Zone Initiative*

The Biofuel Development Opportunity (BDO) Zone Initiative certifies ‘regional readiness’ for bio-manufacturing, creates global connections and ignites an influx of new energy opportunities for farmers, economic developers, and rural businesses. A BDO Zone rating is an internationally recognized, standards-based technical risk assessment of a region’s feedstock, supply chain, and infrastructure risk with respect to the development potential for new biofuel plants. BDO Zone ratings are *site location bullseyes* for bio-project development. Investment grade ratings are force-multipliers for attracting new manufacturing plants to the areas where they are most likely to succeed, drive investment and create jobs.

For more information on the BDO Zone Initiative, contact info@bdozone.org. To view all BDO Zone ratings, visit www.bdozone.org. Check out the BDO Zone [LinkedIn](#) page for news and updates.

Ecostrat is the North American leader in biomass due diligence for biofuels, renewable chemicals, biogas, and bio-product project development and finance. **Jordan Solomon** (jordan.solomon@ecostrat.com) is Chairman of the *BDO Zone Initiative* and President of Ecostrat (www.ecostrat.com).