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From: Alvin Thomas King [mailto:tom_king@cox.net]

Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 9:57 AM

To: Reg-Comment

Subject: Comment on Proposed ban on new medium and large-size CAFOs

June 27, 2014

Mr. Doug Szenher
Department of Environmental Quality
Public Outreach and Assistance Division

Dear Mr. Szenher:

I am writing in support of the proposed ban on new medium and large-size CAFOs in the Buffalo River watershed. I believe that such operations are inappropriate in this environmentally sensitive area for many reasons. To begin with, the porous karst formation means that it is difficult to control contaminants that leach into the ground. As you know, some leaching is to be expected. I am very concerned that bacterial and other contaminants will inevitably reach the Buffalo from such leaching and will degrade the water quality, making it unsafe and unsightly for recreational use. I would also add that severe flooding—which will also inevitably occur—means that waste will be transported directly into the river. We know how serious such problems can be because they have happened elsewhere, as in North Carolina.

The preservation of the Buffalo has been one of Arkansas's proudest environmental moments. The river has been a wonderful scenic and recreational attraction. Simply from the perspective of economic benefits to the state, it has been very important. The value of tourist dollars greatly exceeds the profits to be made from locating medium and large size CAFOs in this area. I would emphasize that I am not opposed to CAFOs that are located in appropriate places—but the Buffalo River watershed is not appropriate. When—and not if—the Buffalo River is contaminated by these CAFOs, the economic loss and the shame to the state for permitting such things will be incalculable.

Please do not allow any more of these operations in the Buffalo River watershed or any other inappropriate location.

Sincerely,
Alvin Thomas King

PS: I am ashamed, embarrassed, and furious that the state has permitted even one CAFO in the Buffalo River watershed. I wish with all my heart that it could be removed.