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From: charleslichti@windstream.net [mailto:charleslichti@windstream.net]

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 8:49 PM

To: Reg-Comment

Subject: Stop Third Party Rulemaking at Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

Charles Lichti  
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June 30, 2014

Doug Szenher  
Public Outreach and Assistance Division  
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72118

Dear Doug Szenher:

While I do not farm in the Buffalo River watershed, I am still very interested in this right to farm issue. I am concerned that the PC&E Commission is considering a permanent moratorium on hog farms in this area. As a group that embraces science at the core of its everyday function - to protect the water-quality and environmental resources of the state of Arkansas - it is amazing to me that the commissioners of the PC&E are allowing a third-party rulemaking proposal that is devoid of science to be considered for approval. How can you turn your back on science at the time it is most needed?

The willingness of the farmers at C&H Hog Farm to open their farm for testing and scrutiny is a sign of their environmental stewardship and their desire to do what is right on their farm. The federal EPA was recently on their farm, requested by somebody who lives in a different county, I suspect, to look in on their operation. The inspector found that nothing was wrong. Contact EPA if you don't believe me. The farmer was told by the EPA investigator that he wished every piece of property he inspected was in such tip-top shape. If the EPA, sent in to find something wrong on this hog farm, walks away saying there are no violations, then why would the PC&E Commission overreact to some group of environmental extremists who just know something terrible is happening on that farm? Why, I ask again?

I have read much about the University of Arkansas research team that is studying the impact of the hog farm in the Buffalo River Watershed, and the money Gov. Mike Beebe put behind their efforts. The research being performed at the C&H Hog Farm by the Big Creek Research Team is the most extensive performed on any farm in Arkansas and likely the country. I ask that you let the research take its course and generate the science and data needed to make the right decisions concerning moratoriums, expanded restrictions being placed on private land owners, or other unneeded limitations on farmers and ranchers until AFTER the Big Creek Research Team has presented their findings so the science will speak for itself.

I think agriculture is a huge reason that our state is clean, beautiful and natural. Environmental regulations should be science-based and reasonable, not driven by emotion. Please consider the benefits and stewardship of Arkansas farmers before you react to misinformation in the public arena.

Sincerely,

Charles and Carole Lichti