

**From:** Frank Millett [mailto:millett@uark.edu]

**Sent:** Monday, June 30, 2014 9:56 PM

**To:** Reg-Comment

**Subject:** Petition to ban large swine operations in the Buffalo National River watershed.

June 30, 2014

Mr. Doug Szenher

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

Public Outreach and Assistance Division

5301 Northshore Drive

North Little Rock, AR 72118

I strongly support the petition to ban new medium and large confined swine operations in the Buffalo National River watershed by amending Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission Regulations 5 and 6.

I have been a resident of Arkansas since 1972, and have canoed and hiked on the Buffalo National River every year since then. Our children were born and raised in Arkansas, and treasure their numerous visits to the river both with us and as part of scouting and church youth activities. The Buffalo National River became the first National River as the result of a major bipartisan effort culminating in an act of Congress in 1972.

The Buffalo National River has become the most renowned symbol of the State of Arkansas, and draws over 1 million visitors a year from all over the world. It contributes over \$40 million a year to the local economy, and is the central component of the Arkansas tourism industry. It would be a disaster if this precious resource of our State was destroyed by high-density hog farms like the one already in operation near Mount Judea.

The Buffalo National River watershed has porous limestone “karst” topography that allows rapid transport of pollutants into the wells, springs, streams, and tributaries of the Buffalo

River. The area is not suited for waste ponds with leakage rates of up to 5,000 gallons per day per acre of surface area allowed by current regulations, or for the land application of millions of gallons of hog waste. The risk of transporting sewage, bacteria, and other pollutants to the Buffalo River is too great.

I strongly urge you to save the Buffalo National River for our children and generations to come.

Sincerely yours,

Francis Millett

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