

PO Box 61  
Mountain Home, Arkansas 72654



Tuesday, June 17, 2014

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

Re: Docket # 14-002-R and #14-003-R

Dear Mr. Szenher:

On behalf of the Board of Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers, (FNFWR), I am writing in support of the effort to amend Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission Regulations 5 and 6 to ban any new medium and large confined and concentrated swine operations in the Buffalo National River Watershed.

*Friends* (FNFWR) is an Arkansas non-profit (501)(c)3, chartered in 2001. We are an all-volunteer watershed protection organization dedicated to conservation, restoration and enhancement of the middle section of the White and its tributaries. Our focus begins with Bull Shoals and Norfork Dams and continues for five counties; Baxter, Marion, Stone, Izard and Independence. The Buffalo National River enters this watershed at Buffalo Point in lower Baxter County.

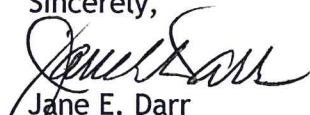
We support the third party rulemaking for many reasons. The Buffalo National River and its watershed is an irreplaceable asset and treasure. Its economic impact accounts for \$5.76 billion and employs 58,452 people. Living with land and water in the Ozarks is based on the unique characteristics of karst. The porous limestone topography allows rapid transport of pollutants, connecting surface water, groundwater, wells, springs, streams and tributaries into the Buffalo River.

*Friends* is concerned not only for the water quality to the Buffalo and the White, but the risk to public health from toxic gases emitted and carried by winds from the barns, ponds and spray fields to homes, schools and many other facets of community life.

*Friends* consistently advocates for the greatest possible public involvement in the decisions and processes that affect our streams and rivers. There was astonishment and dismay that the existing Cargill operation was permitted in the first place. We are encouraged that amendments to regulations to ban the development or permitting of any future swine operations in the watershed are being considered.

In summary, Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers supports and advocates for the permanent adoption of the third party rule (#14-002-R and #14-003-R).

Sincerely,



Jane E. Darr  
President

*Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers is an Arkansas 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to creating an ongoing dialogue where individuals, groups, and government agencies can work together to conserve, restore and enhance these beautiful rivers.*