

John C. Parker
61 Laken Lane
Booneville, AR 72927

June 16, 2014

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

Mr. Szenher;

I am writing to you today to offer my comments in regards to the C&H Hog Farm in Newton County, and the upcoming review of the temporary animal feeding operation moratorium within the Buffalo River Watershed. As a lifelong member of the production agriculture community, I have followed this matter from its onset. Initially, my opinion was that the matter would be quickly resolved as the powers within state government, particularly the ADEQ, would certainly uncover the fallacies asserted by the various environmental interests behind the issue, and promptly dismiss them as just that. However, as the matter has progressed, I have witnessed the ADEQ inexplicably continue to entertain these environmental interest groups as they challenge to the Newton County resident's right to farm.

The proposed moratorium has many challenges, most notably due to the fact it is fueled by pure emotion, and remains completely devoid of any scientific justification. Second, I do not believe anyone fully understands the scope of the precedent that would be set by such a moratorium. In Arkansas, all agriculture exists in one watershed or another. Which watershed will these groups be allowed to attack next? This land always has been, and always will be working land; land worked by the families who own it. It is not simply a playground for visitors who disapprove of a farm's location. Again, the basis is purely emotional.

May I remind you, C& H Farms followed the law as it was laid out by the ADEQ and they have all necessary permits as required by your agency. Farming is not the problem.

Agriculture has long been the backbone of Arkansas. However, today more than ever, Agriculture is under attack from those who simply do not understand it. Family farms, of all sizes, are quickly being regulated and legislated out of business. Please, do not be yet another obstacle for Arkansas farmers.

Sincerely,



John C. Parker