

June 17, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Szenher:

I love the Buffalo River as much as anyone but I am also a realist, and I still like to eat. We can regulate our whole nation out of business and into a food shortage, a depression, and a much weaker nation. I know of no one who is more sensitive to the environment than our farmers. I was raised on a dairy farm 80 + years ago and still have a hand in farming and the agriculture community, even though I am a retired banker.

The proposed moratorium on the C&H Farms is based on emotion and there is no evidence that their operation is harming the river or that other farms like it would harm the river.

The land in the Buffalo River watershed, the land in every river watershed is working land not simply a playground for visitors.

Landowners should have the options about how they use their land and farming is a viable option in rural Arkansas. Restricting land use to the point of a moratorium is a dangerous precedent to set.

Where does it stop? Could someone halt the use of land for rowcrops or rice? Could the dairy, poultry, or beef farms be restricted out of business?

Before making arbitrary moratoriums let us think of the implications it will have not only on farmers, but also on the economy of Arkansas.

Sincerely,


John R. Stipe