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Attn: Doug Szenher
Arkansas department of Environmental Quality
Public Outreach and Assistance Division
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Roack, Arkansas 72118

To Whom It May Concern:

I read with much concern about the attacks on the family farmers who opened a new hog farm in Newton County. Those families have jumped through hoops to ensure compliance with all the environmental and regulatory requirements of the State and Federal Government.

I know that a reference was made that this is a "factory farm" because the families involved decided to enlarge the size of their own farm. But there are three families that make up this farm, and all cousins. Not a "factory" but a "Family" farm.

We have fewer hogs in the watershed than any time since it became a national river, and in 2014 the PC&E Commission is choosing to put the clamps on any more hog farms on the Buffalo?

If hogs are a threat to contaminate the river, why isn't it already contaminated? And how do you think the Buffalo River has stayed so clean? Well, it is the work of those family farms in the area that have kept it in such good condition!

From my standpoint (and I am not alone), it looks like the Commission has heard one too many complaints from those who are against that farm and have decided they will not allow any further farm feeding operation in the Buffalo River watershed.

Are they objecting because there is evidence of wrongdoing by the hog farm? If so, where is the evidence? From what I understand, there have been no environmental violations. Why would the PC&E Commission restrict the next person who wants to use HIS land to make a living, if they meet the State's environmental standards?

The PC&E Commission needs to do what is right for Arkansas, and that is to go by the laws that we already have in place. Our farmers have taken care of the Buffalo River by following those laws, and it has worked so far!

Sincerely,


Kenneth W. Hartley