

From: Wes Norton [mailto:w.wes.norton@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2014 3:12 PM

To: Szenher, Doug

Subject: APC&E Commission Docket #14-002-R, Support of Proposed Changes to Regulation 5

Dear Mr. Szenher,

I am writing to express my strong support of the proposed changes to Reg. 5 to ban permitting of CAFO's in the Buffalo River region. The nature of the karst geology in the Buffalo National River watershed and the prevalence of large rain events that are likely to overwhelm 'nutrition plans' will result in contamination of the treasured Buffalo River and its tributaries.

The Buffalo River area must be protected from the known environmental impacts wrought by medium and large CAFO's. Over 40 million dollars in tourism generated dollars and the health of the National River, those individuals who visit, live and work in the area are at risk.

- CAFO's generate vast amounts of fecal waste, stored in onsite lagoons that can leak/breach or are spread on fields and pollute local watersheds during heavy rains
- Fecal indicator bacteria counts in surface waters downstream of CAFO hog operations have been found to exceed Federal concentration standards for contact recreation and limiting use of the waterways
- US Geological Survey and other organizations have identified impacts from CAFO's to nearby waters including eutrophication/hypoxia, harmful algal blooms, and diseases from pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, and parasites
- Water contamination with pharmaceuticals has lead to antibiotic-resistant pathogenic microbes such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus*

aureus (MRSA), and also endocrine disruption that influence changes in fish health and reproductive capability

- Hog CAFO's are linked to Pfiesteria outbreaks that destroy fish's skin causing hideous sores and affect the immune and nervous system. Can similarly affect humans.
- Water quality has been severely compromised by hog CAFO's in rivers including North Carolina, Iowa and Michigan.
- Wastes emit a piercing odor that can be detected for miles
- CAFO odors can evoke emotional distress and headaches among local residents and Tourists (if they continue to visit)
- Pose a threat to waterfowl health due to pathogen exposure to organisms including Salmonella, Bacillus, Wisteria , Staphylococcus
- H1N1 "swine influenza" viruses grow in hogs. CAFO's provide an environment that can promote mutation to produce dangerous new novel strains that can be transmitted to humans

I own land in Newton and Searcy County and my family ties to the area extend back to the 1800's. I support enactment of the proposed changes and that no permits for CAFO's be granted within the Buffalo River watershed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wes Norton CIH, CSP

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