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From: awicker72@gmail.com [mailto:awicker72@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 11:43 AM

To: Reg-Comment

Subject: Ag is good for the Buffalo

Andrea Wicker
6508 Albert pike Rd.
Royal, AR 71968-8705

June 24, 2014

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

Dear Doug Szenher:

I oppose a moratorium on farms in the Buffalo River watershed for numerous reasons. While I do not farm in the Buffalo River watershed, my fellow Arkansans do. I am very concerned over this right to farm issue and that the PC&E Commission is considering a permanent moratorium on hog farms in this area.

I have read much about the University of Arkansas research team that is studying the impact of the hog farm in the Buffalo River Watershed, and the money Gov. Mike Beebe put behind their efforts. The research being performed at the C&H Hog Farm by the Big Creek Research Team is the most extensive performed on any farm in Arkansas and likely the country.

The willingness of the farmers at C&H Hog Farm to open their farm for testing and scrutiny is a sign of their environmental stewardship and their desire to do what is right on their farm. If the ongoing research on C&H Hog Farm shows current regulatory requirements are not adequate, then the regulations can be modified to include additional permit requirements.

I ask that you let the research take its course and generate the science and data needed to make the right decisions concerning moratoriums, expanded restrictions being placed on private land owners, or other unneeded limitations on farmers and ranchers until AFTER the Big Creek Research Team has presented their findings so the science will speak for itself.

We believe those behind this request, if emboldened by your actions, will be back before this Commission and at the state legislature trying to expand the scope to include other farms and businesses that they find unnecessary. That will be disastrous. To take such a drastic measure, sets an extreme precedent. What will happen when the decision is made to expand beyond limits on hogs to include dairy, beef and/or poultry? While we understand this only applies to medium and large farms THIS time, what is next? ALL farms?

We need every farm we have in Arkansas, in fact we need more! Please don't take an action that ultimately would impact all farms in an incredibly irresponsible way.

Please consider the benefits and stewardship of Arkansas farmers before making a decision that will affect our State in so many ways!

Sincerely,

Andrea Wicker
501-520-9383