

-----Original Message-----

From: gccdistrict@yahoo.com [mailto:gccdistrict@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 10:58 AM

To: Reg-Comment

Subject: I stand with family farmers

Gene Parker

2886 Hwy 290

Hot Springs, AR 71913-8794

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:

We oppose a moratorium on farms in the Buffalo River watershed for numerous reasons.

We believe that much of Arkansas' natural beauty is owed to agriculture and that farming as a whole is vital to the wellbeing of Arkansas, including it's citizens.

While we do not farm in the Buffalo River watershed, our fellow landowners do. We are 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.

To take such a drastic measure without the science to back up the decision, sets an extreme precedent. What happens when they decide to allow another outside 3rd party rulemaking group that wants to change something in another area? What happens when you choose to expand beyond limits on hogs to include dairy, beef, poultry? While we understand this only applies to medium and large farms this time, what is next? All farms?

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.

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. 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 you react to misinformation in the public arena. Sincerely, Garland County Conservation District

Sincerely,

Gene Parker  
501-321-1289