

March 17, 2017

Ms. Katherine McWilliams

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

5301 Northshore Drive

North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Dear Ms. McWilliams:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Buffalo River, the first designated national river in the United States. The Buffalo River cannot voice its concern to you as an officer of the Department of Environmental Quality or to our legislators. It is up to the citizens of Arkansas to speak on behalf of the Buffalo River's voice and concerns.

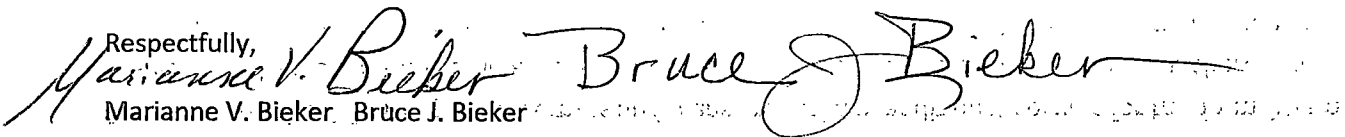
All Arkansans should be proud to have the Buffalo River in our Natural State. How can we let the C & H Hog farm spoil our natural beauty and harm Arkansans expecting the state to protect their clean water supply?

I have been an active member of the Ozark Society for several years. The Ozark Society was founded to protect Arkansas' natural gifts – especially our rivers. There are so many citizens in NW Arkansas, where my husband and I live, who would like to protect our great treasure. We moved to Arkansas from Minnesota, which has a rich history of preserving the environmental treasures. We expect Arkansas to cherish and respect these same environmental values.

Please review the C & H Hog Farm permits and please repeal any additional permits for this farm. There is evidence –based facts and studies which support the problem with this hog farm. Why is there any question about the validity of the studies conducted to date which substantiate the contamination of the groundwater and the watershed? As concerned Arkansas citizens, we cannot understand the political climate which allows this hog farm to exist so close to our state treasure.

Please send us your response to this very concerning issue. Governor Beebe and now Governor Hutchinson have been notified of the concern from their constituents. It is now on your watch in the Department of Environmental Quality to protect our watershed and our national and state river treasure.

Respectfully,


Marianne V. Bieker, Bruce J. Bieker

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