From: <u>Joe Hixson</u>

To: Water Draft Permit Comment
Subject: [BULK] C&H permit near Buffalo
Date: Saturday, April 01, 2017 12:44:19 PM

## Hello!

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this message. I am an Arkansan who is extremely proud of our state's heritage. I have been living in Montana for the last 2 years and telling everyone that I meet about the treasures that fill the heart of Arkansas. The Ponca Wilderness, Devils Den, Blanchard Springs: but most of all, I tell them of the Buffalo National River. It's pristine water, towering bluffs, and recreation opportunity are as quintessential to the Arkansan identity as anything else in the state. PLEASE, do everything that you can to protect this wonderous river, as it provides so much joy and fulfillment to so many people. Is the risk of damaging a key element of the Arkansan soul worth a few hundred jobs? Is the risk of ruining the tourism industry for thousands and thousands of folks who need it worth the generation of wealth for a few? To me the answer is clear. No. It is not.

Please protect our national river. Please protect our people's soul.

Thank you for reading. Joe Hixson, Fayetteville native.