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Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Division  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-5317

July 4, 2017

To whom it may concern,

I recently completed a 70 mile paddle on the Buffalo River. My husband and I manage to get the opportunity to take such an extended trip only once every year or two, so it is a big event for us. We camp on gravel bars, practicing no-trace camping, and usually pick up trash that others have left, or that has washed in from tributaries.

This year we found the weather gorgeous, the bluffs magnificent, the water... polluted? Our river!?! After passing the river stop at Carver, and for the next 30 miles the river bottom is covered with a carpet of thick, brown, ragged algae. Big mats of it float on the surface of water that used to be turquoise and crystal clear. As we approached Tyler Bend we could begin to see the stony bottom again, but the floating pieces of brown algae accompanied us all the way to Buffalo Point, where we took out.

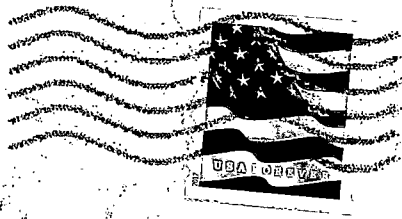
This out-of-control algae growth indicates that the water is polluted and is not how the river used to be. Most likely this has to do with the large hog farm situated on a major tributary to the river, yet the governor's "Beautiful Buffalo River Initiative" does not even address the issue of swine CAFOs. You are charged with protecting the environmental quality of our state. Please do your job.

Sincerely,

Susan Siegele  
479/738-1018

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