

Charles J. "Chuck" Bitting
HC 73, Box 182-A
Marble Falls, AR 72648

VIA electronic delivery: Water-Draft-Permit-Comment@adeq.state.ar.us

April 13, 2016

Becky Keogh
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Dear Director Keogh:

I write today to show my OPPOSITION to the renewal of the Arkansas NPDES CAFO General Permit ARG590000.

This General Permit streamlined the permitting for a large scale swine factory CAFO to be placed in the most fragile and sensitive part of Arkansas and within the watershed of the Buffalo National River. This area is well known as a cave and karst area. People come here from all over the United States to enjoy our outstanding cave resources and from all over the world to canoe and kayak the Buffalo River.

The half-assed (no offense intended to any mules who might read this) effort ADEQ put into permitting this CAFO is a national disgrace. It is really too bad ADEQ did not put more effort in to the permitting process than they did. I am certain that this single facility has cost Arkansas and American taxpayers well over a million dollars above and beyond the several million dollar loan guarantee. What do we have to show for it? Nasty water, stinky air, and really nice white gravel roads around Mt. Judea, courtesy of a crony political system. Your agency has certainly spent untold tens or hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars defending your utterly indefensible decision to permit the abomination known as C&H Hog Farm, Inc. Now I see that your agency plans to further water down the permit requirements, even after three years of steady public opposition to the swine factory. Moreover, ignoring a substantial body of scientific and economic data which has emerged to show the ill effects of the CAFO on the surrounding countryside. Still, your agency persists with defending this operation which provides a few jobs in the Mt. Judea community, but risks hundreds of jobs in the Buffalo River region.

From my reading of the proposed permit, I think you need to throw away what you have developed, and start over, this time getting public support up front, rather than at the back end of the process.

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There was a time not too many years ago when I respected the work of ADEQ and was proud to point to them as stewards of the environment. Unfortunately, those days are past. I continue to dream of the day when ADEQ throws the industry lobbyists and political cronies out of bed and gets back to doing its job of **protecting, enhancing, and restoring the natural environment for ALL Arkansans.** Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Bitting

Cc delivered via email:

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Please read attached letter and take it to heart.