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Hearing Location JASPER

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ADEQ

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Good evening, my name is Laura Timby. My mailing address is PO Box 25 Gilbert, AR. Many of you may have heard of Gilbert, it is the coolest town in Arkansas. And it’s not because of the people there are really cool, it’s because my neighbor used to keep records of the temperatures here in Arkansas and typically it was the coolest. And being from Gilbert and living there, knowing a lot of folks who make their living off the Buffalo National River and the tourism for the whole county, anything that happens up river is a major concern for us. Here it is over two years down the road that this whole C&H Hog Farm issue has come to our attention and it seems that it goes down one more rabbit hole as far as there a lot of questions that there doesn’t seem to be answers for. That the permitting process that we felt, a lot of felt was, woefully inadequate to begin with is now covering issues and procedures that are pretty much untried, maybe they’ve been tried someplace but they certainly haven’t been tried in a major, in the watershed of the Buffalo National River, the first national river that sees in excess of a million visitors a year and brings in over $40 million of revenue for the neighbors downstream all the way to the White River. Bill took my line about if it’s not fixed... if it’s not broke, don’t fix it. I kind of believe in that, so I’m kind of suspicious and also I don’t believe it’s a good idea to throw good money after bad. If we could build new ponds and put these in place and make sure 100% their efficacy then it might be worth it, but I’m not sure if that’s on the table. I’m concerned that the original permit is given them, is like a blanket umbrella, and that we have no recourse. And there are major concerns about the river, the watershed, the air quality and how it affects the children and the people that live in Mount Judea. And as we’ve been told tonight, there really it’s either not covered by the permitting or they don’t feel it’s worth covering. So I find that very disappointing. Thank you for your time.