I want thank you and apologize to you and your staff for coming to Jasper on May 8th. Newton County residents welcome and respect all visitors and do not treat them the way you were treated. I do not apologize for the questions asked, the people had every right to inquire of you what they wanted to know, I apologize for their attitude and lack of respect of some doing the asking. Your presentation on the C&H Hog Farm permit, and the permitting process, was very informative and answered a lot of questions for the Newton County residents.

Since the Buffalo River was designated a National River, Newton County residents have continually had to protect our way of life. In 1842, Newton County was established as an agriculturalist community living in harmony with the land, supporting our customs and culture which historically is based in timber, cattle, swine, poultry, wildlife and agricultural industries.

We understand that we must adapt with the changing times but we feel the changing times must understand, adapt and respect our history and culture while visiting our County. Newton County residents remember when the Buffalo River was owned by the residents that lived along its' banks. The river was clean and well cared for because it was owned by the residents. Since the National Park took control of the Buffalo River, it is no longer clean nor a source of pride because, it now belongs to everyone, and no-one. Many of our residents no longer visit the Buffalo River as they see it today, and remember what was. Visitors come in and enjoy our community only to leave their trash and waste where it drops as they depart. They do not understand nor seem to care that this is our home and I’m sure they do not treat their home in a similar fashion nor would they tolerate others coming in and leaving their filth.

From time to time we have “experts” visit our County to “enlighten” us on how we should live our lives so they can enjoy our home. You may have noticed we had several here on May the 8th. Again, I apologize and hope their attitude was not mistaken for that of the residents of Newton County.

Thank you again for your visit, we hope you can visit again under different circumstances.