

Doug Szenher
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Public Outreach and Assistance Division
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118

Mr. Szenher,

I'm writing this letter concerning the circumstances involving the moratorium that was placed on C&H Hog Farms in Newton County by the Pollution Control and Ecology Commission.

To begin with, I am extremely disappointed that the 180 day moratorium was imposed to begin with when there is absolutely no evidence to suggest or support such a suspension. C&H Farms has followed the law laid out by the ADEQ and has the proper permits and has went through the process established by the agency; yet their operation has been temporarily suspended and a permanent suspension is being considered? There have been absolutely no scientific findings to suggest that this farm will be detrimental to the environment or the Buffalo River watershed. I'm appalled that the Pollution Control and Ecology Commission would even consider such a ban based solely on the voice of animal and environmental activists; and in this case, their voice is based on emotion and not facts. I can assure you, that if hard scientific evidence existed, proving that this operation was detrimental to the environment, I would support the moratorium.....but it simply doesn't exist. How in good conscience can you place a permanent moratorium on a business that has followed the letter of the law, isn't harming the environment, isn't causing anyone harm, and is simply trying to farm on land that they own?

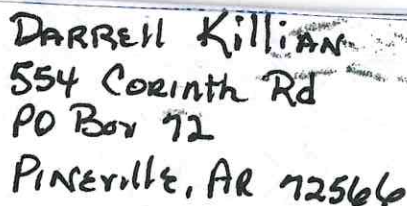
I live and operate a farm in the White River watershed and I fear that to take such a drastic measure, without science to back up the decision, sets an extreme precedent. What is next? Will you decide to ban poultry farms? Will my cow/calf operation be shut down next? This moratorium would open Pandora's box. Are you willing to say that a farm that has the proper permits, has broken no law and doesn't harm the environment can't operate simply because of the unfounded and uninformed emotions of activists? The Commission should be realistic and reasonable in their decisions and actions; and in this case, placing a moratorium on C&H Farms wouldn't be based on science or reason.....it would be based on emotion. Ladies and Gentleman, emotional decisions are dangerous!

All across this great nation, agriculture is under attack from those that don't understand its mission or benefits. Activists and the uninformed public who know little about farming are working to regulate the family farm out of business. As you know, agriculture comprises a huge portion of this state's economy and these farmers believe that you have no right to regulate them out of business based on the uninformed public's opinions. Never in history, has the farmer needed your help more than they do now. Please don't be another obstacle for them to overcome.

Sincerely,



Darrell Killian
Arkansas Farm Bureau Board Member



DARRELL Killian
554 Corinth Rd
PO Box 72
Pineville, AR 72566