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From: ernieott@yahoo.com [mailto:ernieott@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 10:18 PM

To: Reg-Comment

Subject: Don't Decide Before the Science is Shown

Ernie Ott

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June 26, 2014

Doug Szenher

Public Outreach and Assistance Division

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

5301 Northshore Drive

North Little Rock, AR 72118

Dear Doug Szenher:

I oppose a moratorium on farms in the Buffalo River watershed. I think agriculture is a huge reason that our state is clean, beautiful and natural. Environmental regulations should be science-based and reasonable, not driven by emotion. Please consider the benefits and stewardship of Arkansas farmers before you react to misinformation in the public.

I ask that you let the research take its course and generate the science and data needed to make the right decisions concerning moratoriums, expanded restrictions being placed on private land owners, or other unneeded limitations on farmers and ranchers until AFTER the Big Creek Research Team has presented their findings so the science will speak for itself.

While I do not farm in the Buffalo River watershed, I am still very interested in this right to farm issue. I am concerned that the PC&E Commission is considering a permanent moratorium on hog farms in this area.

To take such a drastic measure, without the science to back up the decision, sets an extreme precedent. What happens when they decide to allow another outside 3rd Party Rulemaking group that wants to change something in another area? What happens when you choose to expand beyond limits on hogs to include dairy, beef, poultry? While I understand this only applies to medium and large farms this time, what is next? All farms?

The willingness of the farmers at C&H Hog Farm to open their farm for testing and scrutiny is a sign of their environmental stewardship and their desire to do what is right on their farm.

I fear you are listening to the wrong group of people when you make decisions that limit the work that good people can do on their private property. Just because someone is loud does not make them right.

Sincerely,

Ernie OTT
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