

THIRD PARTY RULEMAKING PUBLIC HEARING BY THE ARKANSAS
POLLUTION CONTROL AND ECOLOGY COMMISSION JUNE 17, 2014

RE: Amendment to APCEC Reg. 5 seeking to prohibit the ADEQ Director from issuing Regulations No. 5 permits for Confined Animal Operations (CAFO) and Regulation No. 6 permits for CAFO for facilities in the Buffalo National River Watershed with either 750 or more swine weighing 55 pounds or more, or 3,000 or more swine weighing less than 55 pounds. The regulation changes will prohibit an increase in the number of swine at exiting facilities in the Buffalo National River Watershed.

STATEMENT:

I am Frances Alexander and live in Fayetteville, AR and am here representing myself as a citizen of the United States, and of Arkansas, and as a property owner in Newton County, where I own 225 acres of land and a house.

And, I am here because I feel we must, "Save The Buffalo River.....Again!"

Fifty years ago I was walking through the Student Union on the University of Arkansas campus and saw a table set up with posters around it which said simply, "Save the Buffalo."

I was curious as I had not been to the Buffalo River so I stopped and learned about the Corps of Engineers' plans to dam the river, one of the last beautiful free flowing rivers in the nation. Right then and there I paid my dues to the Ozark Society, and shortly thereafter floated the river with a fellow I'd recently had a blind date with to go cave exploring in Fitton Cave, which is not far from here.

I am only telling you this to emphasize the importance of this river's health to me personally. Forty eight years ago today I married that guy I'd had the blind date with so I'd much rather be out having my anniversary dinner with him than being here trying to save the BuffaloAGAIN, but you've got to do what you've got to do.

Unfortunately citizens of this country, state, and county must come before commissions such as this to renew protections of land, water, air, and beauty sometimes multiple times. Also unfortunately these basic necessities are often endangered because someone wants to utilize these resources for themselves.

Common sense tells us water runs down hill and takes stuff with it as it travels, and the more unobstructed its path, the more rapidly and more concentrated materials travel in water.

Many of us believe that CAFO's on top of karst geology provide the pollutants that could destroy the health, beauty, recreational use, and economic viability of this

National River and that at the very minimum Regulations 5 and 6 should be amended as petitioned to help stem the flow of these pollutants into the watershed of the Buffalo River. Prohibiting new medium and large CAFO's will help limit further nutrient loading and other pollution associated with increased swine production in the watershed.

I fully support these amendments to Regulations 5 and 6 and hope the commission will do its due diligence to control pollution and preserve the ecology of the watershed of the Buffalo River. The science is there, and it is hard to refute if those in authority will simply look at it and use their powers of reasoning to protect the river and the residents and visitors to this crown jewel of our state.

Thank you.

Frances Alexander
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