

-----Original Message-----

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

Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 11:18 AM

To: Reg-Comment

Subject: Agriculture is an environmental benefit to the state

Judy Castleberry

102 Deer View Ct.

Hot Springs, AR 71913-7348

June 24, 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 greatly oppose a moratorium on farms in the Buffalo River watershed for numerous reasons. I believe that much of the natural beauty Arkansas is owed to agriculture.

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

What happens when you choose to expand beyond limits on hogs to include dairy, beef, poultry? While we understand this only applies to medium and large farms this time, what is next? All farms?

The decision to allow a third-party rule-making proposal to be adopted for 180 days, and considered for permanent adoption, is a poor reflection on the staff of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and the PC&E Commission.

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. If the ongoing research on C&H Hog Farm shows current regulatory requirements are not adequate, then the regulations can be modified to include additional permit requirements.

We believe those behind this request, if emboldened by your actions, will be back before this Commission and at the state legislature trying to expand the scope to include other farms and businesses that they find unnecessary. That will be disastrous. We need every farm we have in Arkansas, in fact we need more! Please don't take an action that ultimately would impact all farms in an incredibly irresponsible way.

Please consider the benefits and stewardship of Arkansas farmers before you react to misinformation in the public arena.

Sincerely,

Judy Castleberry  
501-767-5325