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From: kristy.vines@nashvillesd.com [mailto:kristy.vines@nashvillesd.com]

Sent: Sunday, June 15, 2014 11:12 PM

To: Reg-Comment

Subject: I stand with family farmers

Kristy Vines

9 Fair Beauty Ave

Nashville, AR 71852-8451

June 16, 2014

Patti Goff

Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission

101 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 205

Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Patti Goff:

My husband has worked with hundreds of Farmers in our beautiful state for over 17 years. I know first hand how farmers are already under so many unnecessary regulations. I am sure many of you on the PC&E Commission either own a farm or have family members that do and you know exactly what I am talking about. It is time for us to all stand united and not give in to these special interest groups that make decisions on their emotions without understanding the facts. Commercial pig operations have operated in Arkansas for over 40 years without having any negative impact on our rivers or any watersheds in the state. As a matter of fact, there was a study done by the EPA in the 1990's, when there were more hog farms in the BRW than there are today. The study showed how there were not any water quality issues and even awarded the APPA with an Outstanding Environmental Stewardship Award. This was when farms were even under less restrictions than they are today! The federal EPA recently inspected the C&H Farm in the BRW. The inspector found that nothing was wrong. Contact EPA if you don't believe me. The farmer was told by the EPA investigator that he wished every piece of property he inspected was in such tip-top shape. If the EPA, sent in to find something wrong on this hog farm, walks away saying there are no violations, then why would the PC&E Commission overreact to some group of environmental extremists who just know something terrible is happening on that farm? Why, I ask again?

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 arena.

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.

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.

The United States Sec. of Agriculture has gone on the record as stating that his office as well as others in Washington D.C. have investigated the C&H farm permit and regulations to find nothing at all wrong. He went on to state that "I am sure after the farm has operated for years, that everyone will see that there is nothing to be concerned about". It's time we all stand united behind our State's #1 Industry "Agriculture" and prove as we always have that we can have a very effective Ag industry and the cleanest rivers, streams and forests of any state!

Sincerely,

Kristy Vines