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Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2014 4:49 PM

To: Reg-Comment

Subject: In support of Reg 5 and 6

Hello- I attended the public hearing in Harrison and heard many people speak against reinstating the ban against medium and large CAFOs in the Buffalo River watershed. Many of them claimed that we should wait until 'the science' could prove the dangers of introducing large amounts of raw waste into that environment. There is actually abundant scientific research that has established just how unsustainable these kinds of industrial 'farms' are. The EPA has stated the 135,000 miles of US waterways have been degraded by CAFOs in the past 30 years since this kind of operation took hold. As stated at the website for EPA in the Midwest

(http://www.epa.gov/region07/water/cafo/cafo_impact_environment.htm)

"Failures to properly manage manure and wastewater at CAFOs can negatively impact the environment and public health. Manure and wastewater have the potential to contribute pollutants, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, organic matter, sediments, pathogens, heavy metals, hormones and ammonia, to the environment."

Farmers also insisted at the hearing that they are good stewards of the land and would never do anything to harm the environment. Yet as corporations have squeezed independent farmers out of business

All the pressure of properly handling more waste than should ever be applied in an area with such direct transmission of pollutants into the groundwater is placed in the hands of a contractor who is already heavily burdened by debt. If things go wrong, if a "25-year rain event" causes his lagoons to spill-over, or his machinery breaks down just when he needs it most, he will do whatever he has to do to stay in business. And no one is standing over him on his private property to see if he decided to dig a secret pit and bury excess waste he can't get rid of properly. Machinery break-downs and other factors will always place pressure to cut corners on the weakest link in this equation.

A quick internet search of CAFO Failures will turn up ample evidence that these kinds of operations are vulnerable in myriad ways. The actual experiences in other states who allowed CAFOs to proliferate should be enough. Research done by reliable and respected entities also point to long and short term degradation that is caused by these cheap and unreliable methods of handling millions of gallons of waste. Calling for our own Arkansas research is simply a stalling tactic. Sharpley's research team will happily draw out their study for years and have publically stated that they will need years to complete their work (at yours and my expense.)

Thank you.