

From: lin wellford [mailto:linwellford@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 9:19 AM

To: Reg-Comment

Subject: Comments on the proposal to create a permanent ban on Medium and Large CAFOs in the Buffalo River Watershed

To: Teresa Marks-

Since this issue came to my attention last spring, I can credit Cargill with turning me into an 'accidental' activist. I have learned much through researching the experience of other states who opened their doors wide to this type of industrial animal farming. The EPA states that more than 35,000 river miles have been degraded in the 30+ years since this type of operation began to take hold. In every state where such factory farming operations are allowed, the environment has been impacted, often in unexpected and alarming ways (steroids as well as antibiotics now routinely show up in well water in Iowa- and that state has TOPSOIL!)

While I am disturbed by the prospect of untreated waste being applied to the ground where it can run off or be washed off by rain and rising creeks, for me, the biggest and most menacing danger is the leakage that is allowed to seep from the open lagoons. Up to 5,000 gallons a day are ALLOWED to leak- and C&H Hog Farms does not actually have a way to measure exactly how much is leaking from their ponds. Engineers estimate that it is around 3,400 gallons/per day. Every Dy. Since last summer. Where do you suppose it is going? A watershed, by definition, is where all groundwater flows downhill to reach a waterway. That waterway is our Buffalo River! The representative from the Pork Council tells us we have to share our resources. How is it 'sharing' when any one user is allowed to use the resource to dispose of it's farm waste? My kayak does not effect their ability to raise hogs, but their method of disposing of feces and urine from their farm will eventually ruin my ability to safely enjoy the river. Please explain how this is 'sharing.'" We are all watching this issue play out. If C&H is allowed to remain, and other such operations are allowed to move into this area as well as other vulnerable regions of the Ozarks, there will be no doubt who was at the wheel when our environment ran off the road. Soon clean water will be more valuable than oil. So perhaps that will finally help decision makers realize what they are squandering, and then we taxpayers will all get chip in to clean up the mess.

Cargill seems to be saying through their spokesman that our waterways are already being impacted by poor agricultural practices, so therefore, they should be allowed to come add their massive impact as well. Please tell me how this makes sense for our species or any of the other species with which we share this planet?

Sincerely,

Lin Wellford

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