

From: Margaret Bailey [mailto:mtucker22@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 01, 2014 4:12 PM

To: Reg-Comment

Subject: Please prohibit NEW medium to large CAFOs in the Buffalo River Watershed

To Doug Szenher,

Thank you for taking the public's comments concerning new swine CAFOs in the Buffalo River Watershed.

I oppose all confined animal feeding operations in our Natural State's watersheds, the Buffalo included.

I recently moved away from Newton County, but will be back to visit as well as start a home and small farm with my husband. We are a young, working couple that have had our heart set on making Newton County our lifelong home for years. We fish, canoe, swim and drink the well water of the Buffalo River Watershed, and additional pollution from hog farms should be the least of our worries. When more hog waste leaches through the cracks, crevices, and caves of the region, the geology loses its ability to adequately filter and clean the groundwater. The entire county depends on well water, springs, and the recharging of groundwater, and it is essential that human health be at the top priority of the State of Arkansas.

My husband is from Harrison and we lived in Low Gap and Ponca for three years. We worked (guiding groups & canoe shuttling), played, and depended on tourism on the Buffalo our entire lives, and that river is the heart and soul, of, not only Arkansas, but the South Central Region. We are currently working in Louisiana, and I cannot tell you how many times these Louisiana folks have said, "You lived on the Buffalo?! Why the hell did you move down here?!"

The Buffalo brings an excess of tourism from the multi-state region to the ENTIRE STATE OF ARKANSAS. The financial gain that occurs from tourism MUST bypass that of a hog farm? We must keep it free of the pollution we are in control of, and beautiful for the present and future.

I worked at the famous Ozark Cafe in Jasper, and it was, by far, the most diverse group of diners I have ever seen at a restaurant in Arkansas. The University, WalMart, and other NWA/LR business brought individuals from all over the world, the rolling hills brought bikers from all over the country, and the pristine views and humble living brought artists, families, work-from-homers, and retirees to the Buffalo. I served so many different kinds of people that every day was exciting! And, all of them wanted to know more about the gorgeous bluffs, springs, swimming holes, and hiking that the area had to offer. The Buffalo is a model for the rest of our state in tourism.

Arkansas is truly blessed as being The Natural State. I ask you, and the ones who hold the key, to please, please do all that you can to make the morally right, in your heart, decision about maintaining the health of our state's watersheds.

Please ban medium-to-large swine operations in the Buffalo River Watershed. The global community will thank you, and you will be taking the lead in changing our communities for the best across the country. Your decision and others following it will eventually sway the meat industry to make smart decisions for the health of people, communities, and the environment. All we have to do is vote with our voice, our dollar, and our hearts. And, the alternative, grassfed pork, is damn good!

Thank you,

Maggie Seebach