

From: Tennessee Reid Norton [mailto:t.norton@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, June 29, 2014 4:53 PM

To: Szenher, Doug

Subject: INFORM: Proposed Changes to Reg. 5

Dear Mr. Szenher,

This letter is to convey my sincere support of the proposed changes to Reg. 5 to ban permitting of CAFO's in the Buffalo River region. The watershed of the Buffalo National River and the areas history of large rain storms combined with the fecal lagoons of CAFO hog operations are a massive environmental catastrophe poised to have a lasting detrimental financial impact to Arkansas with the contamination of our states treasured Buffalo River and its tributaries. Over 40 million dollars in tourism generated dollars lost is just the beginning.

As nationally publicized, the H1N1 "swine influenza" viruses grow in hogs. CAFO's provide an environment that can promote mutation to produce dangerous new novel strains that can be transmitted to humans. Public hysteria of this sort of epidemic could easily effect long term future revenue from tourism and the sport fishing industries. Research has shown that out of state visitors contribute the largest financial impact in tourism, it also shows that the majority of out of state bookings are done via the internet. Social media provides priceless direct word of mouth advertising and reviews today. If current conditions on the Buffalo River and its tributaries continue its easy to imagine we soon will be seeing headlines to reviews on influential websites like "IT STINKS!!" or "SWINE FLU RIVER!!!!" Whether or not a mutation was even identified, this negative public perception once established could easily lead to an ongoing loss to public coffers that will certainly far exceed any tax dollar value gained by supporting CAFO's.

The Buffalo River area must be protected from the known environmental impacts created by CAFO's. This valuable ongoing revenue generator and the health of the National River, as well as those individuals who visit, live and work in the area are at risk.

I own land and have family ties in Newton and Searcy County that date back to the 1800's. I enthusiastically support the enactment of the proposed changes that no permits for CAFO's be granted within the Buffalo River watershed.

Respectfully,

T. Reid Norton

Sent from my iPad