

**From:** Ainslie Gilligan [mailto:ainslie.gilligan@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, June 30, 2014 6:32 PM

**To:** Reg-Comment

**Subject:** support for Ozark Soc. and Ark. Public Policy Panel's rule-making petition

Dear Mr. Szenher:

I am wholeheartedly in favor of the third-party rule-making petition of the Ozark Society and the Arkansas Public Policy Panel that asks to ban new medium and large confined swine operations in the Buffalo National River watershed by amending Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission Regulations 5 and 6.

As you know, the Buffalo National River watershed is located on porous karst limestone, which allows rapid transport of pollutants. This karst pathway connects, in very complex ways, the surface water, groundwater, wells, springs, streams and tributaries of the BNR watershed.

Such an area is completely unsuited for waste ponds with leakage rates of up to 5000 gallons per day per acre, as is allowed by current regulations, nor for the land application of millions of gallons of hog waste. The risk of transporting nutrients, bacteria, and other pollutants to the Buffalo River is tremendous. The catastrophic failure of a hog waste pond, as has happened in North Carolina, would create irreversible damage to the aquatic life of the Buffalo, and of the downstream White River.

In 2012, the Buffalo National River attracted more than a million visitors, who spent almost \$44 million dollars in the communities surrounding the river. Surely, the State of Arkansas has a vested interest in protecting the river's health. And Arkansas, also, must protect the health of its citizens: nearby residents could be affected by airborne pathogens, and the thousands of people who go to the river to swim and cool off every summer could risk bodily contact with waterborne pathogens. I beg the ADEQ to act in the name of reason and in its function as protector of the state by amending the rules and honoring the petition.

I own a house and cabin on 33 acres directly adjoining the BNR corridor 5 miles north of Snowball, Arkansas.

Sincerely, Ainslie Gilligan