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From: joemusick@att.net [mailto:joemusick@att.net]

Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 6:18 PM

To: Reg-Comment

Subject: Don't Decide Before the Science is Shown

Darlene Musick
6183 S. County Road 245
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June 27, 2014

Doug Szenher
Public Outreach and Assistance Division
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118

Dear Doug Szenher:

I oppose a moratorium on farms in the Buffalo River watershed. I think agriculture is a huge reason that our state is clean, beautiful and natural. Environmental regulations should be science-based and reasonable, not driven by emotion. Please consider the benefits and stewardship of Arkansas farmers before you react to misinformation in the public arena.

While I do not farm in the Buffalo River watershed, I am still very interested in this right to farm issue. I am concerned that the PC&E Commission is considering a permanent moratorium on hog farms in this area.

I believe those behind this request, if emboldened by your actions, will be back before this Commission and at the state legislature trying to expand the scope to include other farms and other businesses that they find unnecessary. That will be disastrous.

The willingness of the farmers at C&H Hog Farm to open their farm for testing and scrutiny is a sign of their environmental stewardship and their desire to do what is right on their farm.

I have read much about the University of Arkansas research team that is studying the impact of the hog farm in the Buffalo River Watershed, and the money Gov. Mike Beebe put behind their efforts. The research being performed at the C&H Hog Farm by the Big Creek Research Team is the most extensive performed on any farm in Arkansas and likely the country.

I ask that you let the research take its course and generate the science and data needed to make the right decisions concerning moratoriums, expanded restrictions being placed on private land owners, or other unneeded limitations on farmers and ranchers until AFTER the Big Creek Research Team has presented their findings so the science will speak for itself.

The federal EPA was recently on their farm, requested by somebody who lives in a different county, I suspect, to look in on their operation. The inspector found that nothing was wrong. Contact EPA if you don't believe me. The farmer was told by the EPA investigator that he wished every piece of property he inspected was in such tip-top shape.

If the EPA, sent in to find something wrong on this hog farm, walks away saying there are no violations, then why would the PC&E Commission overreact to some group of environmental extremists who just know something terrible is happening on that farm? Why, I ask again?

I fear you are listening to the wrong group of people when you make decisions that limit the work that good people can do on their private property. Just because someone is loud does not make them right.

Sincerely,

Darlene Musick
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