

June 26, 2014

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

Mr. Szenher:

We are writing this letter to state our strong opposition to the Confined Animal Feed Operation (CAFO) on the Buffalo River watershed. Banning large swine operations in the Buffalo watershed is absolutely critical. Geological studies have shown that the area is not capable of handling runoff from large swine operations.

Over the past fourteen years, we have visited the Ozark region of Arkansas and the Buffalo River in particular several times (2000, 2003, 2008, 2014). We enjoy canoeing in the Ozarks with their distinctive blue water color found nowhere else in the US. Also, our family members from the Memphis area have made many canoe trips and enjoy the Buffalo area. These types of large swine operations threaten the water quality on the Buffalo, one the most important things that attract us to Arkansas. During our trips to Arkansas, we will stay multiple days in cabins in Ponca and another nearby places in the Ozarks. Certainly a deterioration of the water quality in the Buffalo River makes the river experience much less appealing.

The Buffalo River is not just an Arkansas resource, it is an American resource. During our most recent visit this past March, we saw visitors from many states – Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, just to name a few – enjoying what the Buffalo River has to offer. These swine operations will have an adverse effect on Arkansas tourism. They certainly will impact our decisions and those of our family regarding future visits to Arkansas.

Please keep the Buffalo clean and free. Do not allow these swine operations to proceed.

Sincerely,



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