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Public Outreach and Assistance Division

In support of a ban on new medium and large confined swine operations in the Buffalo National River Watershed by amending Arkansas Pollution and Ecology Commission Regulations 5 and 6.

I am a home owner in Gilbert, AR and spend much of my free time enjoying the Buffalo National River(BNR). I am concerned about the public health effects of leakage from holding ponds as well as runoff that would transport water borne pathogens through karst topography to the BNR. In effecting the water quality it can produce illnesses to many who recreate on the river. Having such an animal production facility in a highly sensitive ecosystem is a poor health choice and these regulations need to be changed.

If the river is contaminated the ripple effect is an economic bust for that area of the state. Tourism in the BNR region brought in over \$43 million in 2012. In addition it created over 58,000 jobs in an area of the state that is desperate for employment.

It has already been shown in North Carolina that due to heavy rainfall a large hog waste pond failed and spilled 26 million gallons of manure in the New River. This spill was devastating to the downstream fish, killing 26 million and closed 364,000 acres of coastal wetland to shell fishing. I cannot comprehend what such a spill would cause in the BNR. It would be devastating for sure.

The Buffalo National River is a unit of the National Park System and all efforts should be made to insure that what was set aside by Congress in 1972 remains in the healthy and pristine state that it was when designated. Not only is it a gem to the state of Arkansas with all manner of positive benefits from jobs, to tourism revenue and a wealth of flora and fauna resources that need to be protected, it is a gift to the country and the world.

Preventing future medium and large confined swine operations in the Buffalo National River watershed is wise, is responsible for the resource and continues an economic reality for the area.

Thank you,

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