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

Dear Mr. Szenher:

I am writing to support the changes proposed by the Ozark Society and the Arkansas Public Policy Panel to Regulations 5 and 6 that will prohibit issuance of new permits for any new Confined Animal Operations within the Buffalo National River Watershed. The risk of contamination of the resource, and potential personal economic impacts to any new Confined Animal Operations should contamination occur, are too great to allow any new facilities to begin operation.

The porous limestone geology of the Buffalo National River Watershed could potentially allow contaminants from the holding ponds and spray fields to be easily transported into the river. Prohibiting new Confined Animal Operations to within the watershed would be prudent to ensure no new facilities can negatively impact the watershed. Additionally, if new facilities are permitted and begin operation the owners and operators could suffer significant economic loss if contamination occurs and the permits had to be revoked. For these reasons, the prudent course of action is to prohibit new facilities in this watershed.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Smith