

From: sballoun [mailto:sballoun@centurytel.net]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 11:07 PM
To: Szenher, Doug
Subject: E-mail_from_your_Division's_Main_Page

Dear Commissioners: I want to thank you for opportunity to comment on the proposed Third Party Rulemaking to change Reg. 5 and 6 entitled Liquid Animal Waste systems and Regulations for State Administration of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, respectively. I am opposed to any changes made in these regulations for several reasons. Obviously this Third Party Rulemaking is a result of the opposition to the C and H hog farm and this whole outcry is led by uninformed, misunderstanding individuals that have have no idea how much time and research goes into the planning and guidelines set up for these type operations. There are a lot of smart scientists and engineers involved in every aspect of planning and design of these operations, and the farmers involved with them are no less environmentally and regulatory minded than anyone else. The Cand H farm has been in operation for over a year with no problems or degradation to the Buffalo River as has there been several other farms in years past with no issues. There is a team of scientists doing an ongoing study to see how the C and H farm is affecting the Buffalo. Why can't the Commission wait to see the results of this study carried out by very reputable individuals before imposing this Third Party Rulemaking? How can the Commissioners in good conscience impose such Rulemaking on a single industry when there are many other industries and activities going on in the Buffalo River Watershed? The sewage from the State Park runs directly into the river for goodness sake. There is poultry farms visible within 1/4 mile of the river, without the intense regulation the swine industry has I might add. Cattle, horses and any other animal you might think of are in this watershed along with a couple thousand elk the area residents are so proud of. Proponents of the Third Party Rulemaking claim a million people visit the Buffalo each year and there are no bathrooms along the river to accommodate them when nature calls. To make the changes in the Third Party Rulemaking is a very negative and dangerous precedent to set against an industry that has more regulation in place now than any other inside this state, and in my opinion is just being used as a scapegoat in this situation. I hope the Commission will make the right decision and not isolate a single industry in this watershed as it sets up a very slippery slope for all the other watersheds in Arkansas. Is the Commission not supposed to look at issues from all angles and base any regulatory changes on scientific study and give each side of an issue a fair shot? The Third Party Rulemaking is an infringement on the right to work and the right to farm. Agriculture feeds our country and is the backbone of our economy locally, statewide and nationwide. Arkansas Pork Producers have an excellent environmental record and have always been pro active in working with ADEQ on any issue at hand. Why throw us under the bus? Thank you for allowing me to comment. Sincerely, Steve Balloun 10047 Cedar Hill Cir, Dardanelle AR 72834