

February 21, 2016

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

Water Division 5301 Northshore Drive

North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Dear Jim Wise and Director Keogh,

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is the state's main environmental protection agency, charged with protecting, enhancing, and restoring the environment for Arkansans. (Heading from the ADEQ website.)

The National Park Service (NPS) requested that three tributaries of the Buffalo National River be placed on the "Impaired Waterbodies" list pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

Yet the ADEQ declined to do so despite the abundance of data from the National Park Service and the United States Geological Survey. This decision does not fit with the ADEQ obligation above.

I request that the three streams be placed on the 2016 impaired list.

It would serve the people of Arkansas to investigate the submitted NPS data now.

If ADEQ does not do the above, I request that a clear public explanation be given as to why such robust data would not be used in every way possible to protect one of Arkansas's finest natural and economic resources.

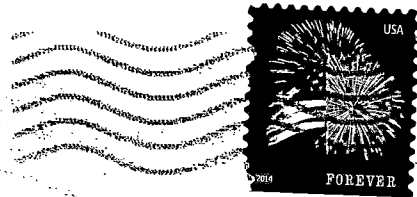
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