

February 21, 2016

Governor Asa Hutchinson
State Capitol Room 250
500 Woodlane Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201

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.)

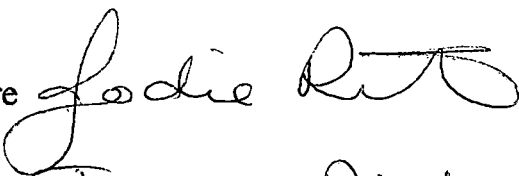
The National Park Service (NPS) requested that three tributaries of the Buffalo National River be placed on the "Impaired Waterbodies" list pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

Yet the ADEQ declined to do so despite the robust data from the National Park Service and the United States Geological Survey. This decision does not fit with the ADEQ obligation above. If there are technicalities to be overcome the ADEQ certainly must act to do so.

I request that you make sure that the ADEQ do their job by placing these three streams on the 2016 impaired list. The Buffalo River and its tributaries deserve the mandates of the Clean Water Act.

Given the economics and its protected status as a National River, all data collected by scientific entities related to the Buffalo River needs to be considered. Investigation and enforcement needs to follow immediately.

I request that you and the ADEQ do EVERYTHING in your power to assure the "protection, enhancement and restoration" of the Buffalo River and its tributaries.

Signature 

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