

**EDIE STAHL
950 SOUTHFORK LN
MOUNTAIN HOME, AR 72653**

September 9, 2018

Ms. Becky Keogh, Director
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118

Re: Proposed 2018 Impaired Waterbody List

Dear Ms. Keogh:

The Buffalo National River has been a special place for me, my family and many of my friends. We have kayaked, canoed, swum and fished its clear waters and hiked along its scenic trails and bluffs for many years. Our grown children are drawn back to the Buffalo from different parts of the state for annual floats with friends. I was even fortunate enough to participate in a trail ride and trash pick up along the entire length of the river in 2016 as a way to celebrate the 100th year since the establishment of the National Park Service.

The recent algae and pathogen reports have me very concerned for the health of this national treasure and all it has to offer. There is no enticement to retreat to the Buffalo if it is full of sludge and danger. Instead of being a place that restores the soul and lifts the spirit it could become another depressing example of human screw up.

I believe mistakes have been made in permitting polluters within the Buffalo watershed. The inevitable results is that Big Creek and parts of the Buffalo are now impaired. Many people are following this issue closely and hoping that you and your agency have the will to do whatever it takes to make things right.

I want you to designate the impaired segments of Big Creek and the Buffalo with the terminology that will allow you the most authority and responsibility to identify, track and correct the source of pollution in the most timely and urgent way. It is my understanding that a category 5 designation would allow best for this.

Sincerely,

Edie Stahl