

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson
Governor of Arkansas
State Capitol Room 250
500 Woodlane Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72758

Dear Governor Hutchinson:

For the last two years I have been observing the developments and news surrounding the C&H Hog Farm ("C&H" or "the CAFO") located in the Buffalo National River watershed. I really believed that elected officials would correct the mistake made by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality ("ADEQ") by shutting down the operation of C&H.

Much to my dismay the CAFO facility continues to operate. Even more surprising to me is the information I learned at my very first meeting of the Arkansas Pollution Control & Ecology Commission ("APC&E") on April 29, 2016. During that meeting it was disclosed that waste storage ponds at C&H may be leaking. Statements from experts note there is a danger of a collapse or subsidence of the waste ponds. Such a risk negates any environmental protection that installation of a liner in the waste ponds might provide. Members of APC&E as well as employees of ADEQ seemed to be unaware of this information.

I respectfully ask you to direct ADEQ to halt C&H operations until this information can be validated by independent experts. If the waste ponds are leaking, ADEQ must ensure that immediate action is taken to clean up the damage and close the CAFO permanently.

As former Congressman Ed Bethune made clear in his remarks

about C&H at the APC&E meeting, granting of the original permit was a "mistake". It needs to be corrected now. In my own mind I simply cannot justify the environmental and economic risk that comes with the operation of this hog farm. Admittedly, it generates a few jobs in the area, but that pales in comparison to the 969 jobs and over \$70,000,000 currently generated by a clean and unpolluted Buffalo National River. The most basic risk/reward analysis clearly dictates the immediate closure of the CAFO. Just imagine the headlines if we as citizens allow the Buffalo River to become polluted...

In the interest of full disclosure you should know that I am a supporter of the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance. I do not however, represent BRWA. I am just a concerned citizen who has been enjoying the Buffalo River since I was a boy growing up in Little Rock. That's been over 40 years now. Let's not squander the opportunity to protect this river.

Sincerely,