

Governor Asa Hutchinson
State Capital Room 250 500
Woodlane Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72201

May 4, 2014

Dear Governor Hutchinson,

This letter requests your assistance in shutting down C&H Hog CAFO and in making certain that no other polluting CAFOs are permitted in the Buffalo River Watershed.

I am sure you know the details of C&H's quiet entry into the watershed on Big Creek, a major tributary of the Buffalo National River, lacking public notice, and adequate environmental assessment, the karst topography underlying the area and the likelihood of pollution from the sewage ponds and field applications of the untreated sewage eventually entering the Buffalo River.

According to a National Park Service article in the Newton County Times on April 27, 2016, tourists to Buffalo River spent \$62,243,200 in the area with a cumulative benefit of \$72,009,000 to the local economy. The River provides over 900 jobs. In contrast, C&H CAFO provides a handful of low wage local jobs, (6 or 8 is what I've heard.) To risk a resource such as a national river, known nationwide for its extradinairily pristine resource waters, has been a mistake costing tax-payers both money and time.

At one of ADEQ's public comment meetings, it appeared from ADEQ's own spokesperson, "we don't see caves or outcrops, therefore karst isn't indicated" that ADEQ was implying they were unaware of the soluble limestone underlying the entire area, which anyone living here, canoeing the river or driving our roads knows is the case. Now it seems positive evidence, in the form of an underground imaging technique, has turned up, which ADEQ may not be able to ignore. However, it makes one wonder why the burden of proof falls on volunteers, spending hours sifting through FOIA information, seeking out experts for interpretation. Has information been held back by the U of A research team in order for them to mitigate, rather than monitor as was their job? Is ADEQ really interested in protecting our environment?

Beyond providing for many forms of human recreation, the protected Buffalo National River and surrounding valleys, mountains, and streams provide a healthy natural ecosystem which give unpaid services such as cleaning and filtering air and water, natural recycling of nutrients by soil organisms, and providing places for pollinators and the native plants required for their larval stages. The C&H CAFO puts all of this at risk. Thank you for any assistance you can provide toward the removal of this CAFO.

Sincerely,

Pamela E. Stewart
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