

I'm writing to respectfully ask, and, in fact, **plead** that you not approve a permanent permit for this large hog operation on the Buffalo River watershed. I don't understand why they were EVER allowed to operate so close to a national river in the first place, but they certainly must not be allowed to continue without close and continuous monitoring and testing. The most recent soil tests reveal that all C&H fields have already exceeded optimum phosphorus levels and no further phosphorus is recommended.

A regulation 5 permit for this facility means cumulatively up to 78,000 hogs and almost 3 million gallons of waste each year into the Buffalo River Watershed. As you know, this high-risk facility operates on karst topography, so there is no way for it to operate without contaminating the watershed, and thus the river. As this country's very first river to be set aside as a national park, it should be of utmost importance to the state of Arkansas to protect this national treasure, the crown jewel of our state. Therefore, I urge you to **deny all permit requests** by any operation that would jeopardize the future health of the Buffalo River. Please act now to preserve the beautiful treasures of our "natural state" for our children and grandchildren and all future generations of Americans to enjoy.

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of this urgent matter.

Chea Ball
Official Court Reporter
Benton County Circuit Court, Div. 6
202 E. Central Avenue
Bentonville, AR 72712