



*Via Electronic Mail*

Val Dolcini  
Administrator  
Farm Service Agency  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave. SW, Suite 0078  
Washington, DC 20250  
[val.dolcini@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:val.dolcini@wdc.usda.gov)

Linda Newkirk  
Arkansas State Executive Director  
Farm Service Agency  
700 West Capitol Ave, Rm 3416  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
[Linda.Newkirk@ar.usda.gov](mailto:Linda.Newkirk@ar.usda.gov)

C&H Hog Farms EA  
c/o Cardno, Inc.  
501 Butler Farm Road, Suite H  
Hampton, VA 23666  
[CHHogFarmComments@cardno-gs.com](mailto:CHHogFarmComments@cardno-gs.com)

Re: **Request to Extend Public Review Period for Draft Finding of No Significant Impact and Final Environmental Assessment for C&H Hog Farms**

Earthjustice, on behalf of the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance, Arkansas Canoe Club, National Parks Conservation Association, and Ozark Society (collectively, "the Coalition"), submits this request to extend until January 29, 2016 the public review period for the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact and Final Environmental Assessment ("Draft FONSI and Final EA") for C&H Hog Farms, Newton County, Arkansas, prepared by the Farm Service Agency and Small Business Administration (jointly, "the Agencies").

The Draft FONSI and Final EA were made available to the public on December 16, 2015. The Notice of Availability indicates that comments will be accepted until Monday, January 18, 2016. This 30-day period falls during the holiday season, when most of the public, including members of the Coalition, are traveling or otherwise unable to direct their attention to review of the Draft FONSI and Final EA. The deadline for comments, moreover, inappropriately falls on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, another federal holiday. The poor timing of the Public Review Period will have a material impact on the ability of the public to adequately review the Draft FONSI and

Final EA, which total 143 pages – 62 more pages than the Draft EA – and which include a Summary of Comments listing sixteen sections in which changes were made from the Draft EA.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Public Review Period be extended eleven days, until Friday, January 29, 2016, to ensure that all commenters have enough time to analyze the Draft FONSI and Final EA and provide meaningful comments to the Agencies. Given the brevity of the public review period, we would appreciate a response to this request as soon as possible.

Thank you,

/s/ Jonathan J. Smith

Jonathan J. Smith

Earthjustice

[jjsmith@earthjustice.org](mailto:jjsmith@earthjustice.org)