

CALL TO ACTION FOR THE PERMANENT MORATORIUM!

“I wanted to make permanent the moratorium against CAFOs, large scale animal feeding operations in the Buffalo River Watershed.” Governor Hutchinson, February 11, 2020.

The proposed changes to Regulation 5 & 6 to make the temporary moratorium permanent on large and medium swine CAFO’s in the Buffalo River Watershed will be reviewed by the legislature, beginning with the Public Health and Welfare Committee on Monday, March 9, 2020 and by the full Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) on March 20.

We are asking **those of you who are constituents** of the Public Health Committee and Arkansas Legislative Council members to contact your legislator by phone, text, or mail to encourage their support for this rule change. Thanks to your previous support, the hog factory is closed and the waste is being removed. Let’s make sure that this type of facility is NEVER allowed in the watershed again!

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN for your support in helping to Preserve and Protect the Buffalo National River!

1. Contact information for ALC members is listed here:

<https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/Committees/Detail?code=000&ddBienniumSession=2019%2F2020F>

(If there is a slight delay when clicking the link be patient. The page will open.)

Links for additional House Public Health Committee Members who will vote on the issue are listed below.

2. If you are unsure of your legislators, use the Arkansas Children’s Hospital link below to find your Senator and Representative. Click on their name for contact information. <https://www.votervoice.net/mobile/ACH/Home> .
3. A sample letter is included below that can be used in letter form or to base email, phone or text comments on. Please be sure to mention that you are a constituent. Personal comments are also helpful.
4. Please use respectful language. We do not want to alienate any Legislators.

Additional voting members of the Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee:

Representative Jack Ladyman

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2019/2019R/Pages/MemberProfile.aspx?member=Ladyman>

Representative Mary Bentley

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2019/2019R/Pages/MemberProfile.aspx?member=Bentley>

Representative Justin Boyd

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2019/2019R/Pages/MemberProfile.aspx?member=Boyd>

Representative Bruce Coleman

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2019/2019R/Pages/MemberProfile.aspx?member=Coleman>

Representative Justin Gonzales

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2019/2019R/Pages/MemberProfile.aspx?member=Gonzales>

Representative Justin Gonzales

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2019/2019R/Pages/MemberProfile.aspx?member=Gonzales>

Representative Michelle Gray

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2019/2019R/Pages/MemberProfile.aspx?member=M.%20Gray>

Representative Stephen Magie

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2019/2019R/Pages/MemberProfile.aspx?member=Magie>

Representative Austin McCollum

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2019/2019R/Pages/MemberProfile.aspx?member=McCollum>

Representative Clint Penzo

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2019/2019R/Pages/MemberProfile.aspx?member=Penzo>

Representative Mark Perry

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2019/2019R/Pages/MemberProfile.aspx?member=Perry>

A sample letter is found below.

Date:

Dear Representative/Senator _____,

I encourage you to approve the APC&EC Regulation 5&6 revisions/rulemakings that include a permanent moratorium on medium and large CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) in the Buffalo National River's watershed.

"I wanted to make permanent the moratorium against CAFOs, large scale animal feeding operations in the Buffalo River Watershed." Governor Hutchinson, February 11, 2020.

I support Governor Hutchinson's call for this moratorium for the following reasons:

1. The Buffalo National River is the crown jewel of Arkansas and is a valuable tourism destination in the state contributing \$54.9 million to the area in 2018.
2. 86% of the watershed which feeds the Buffalo River lies outside of the National Park boundary and deserves robust protection by the state. A medium to large CAFO produces approximately 2.5 million gallons of untreated raw swine sewage yearly. This liquid animal waste must be disposed of near the CAFO because transportation costs to distribute it out of the Buffalo National River watershed are cost prohibitive.
3. The pasture soils in the watershed are too thin to accommodate this industrial level distribution of CAFO waste that contains far more nutrients than the vegetation could possibly use resulting in soil with legacy phosphorous that can continue to leach for years producing algal blooms.
4. The Buffalo watershed is particularly vulnerable to pollutants due to karst geology that underlies it. Dye trace studies cited by the Big Creek Research Extension Team's report show just how far and how fast water can run underground.
5. In 2018 Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality placed Big Creek and 14 miles of the Buffalo River on the 303(d) draft list of impaired streams.
6. The Buffalo National River is an economic engine for the area. Many family businesses such as outfitters, restaurants, farm to table growers, cabin rentals and more rely upon the health of the river to support and sustain their livelihoods for their families and employees.

Approval of these rule changes makes the temporary moratorium PERMANENT. The state has already invested a considerable amount of money and time trying to correct the mistake of allowing a large CAFO in the Buffalo River Watershed. We need a permanent moratorium to preserve and protect the Buffalo National River and to ensure that such a mistake never happens again. Let your support be part of your legacy.

Signature: _____

Name (Print): _____

Address: _____

Additional Comments:

