

Erin Yarrobino

-----Original Message-----

From: Kelley, Angela

Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 3:02 PM

To: Lemaster, Jeff

Subject: FW: [QUAR] Factory farms don't belong here

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From: thecatlady2015@outlook.com [mailto:thecatlady2015@outlook.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 1:00 PM

To: Keogh, Becky

Subject: [QUAR] Factory farms don't belong here

Dear Becky Keogh

I am writing to ask that you deny the permanent permit application from C&H Hog Farms on Big Creek to continue operations, and require this poorly sited facility to move out of the watershed of the Buffalo National River. I am concerned that the Buffalo National River is imperiled by the presence of this industrial-scale hog operation in the Ozarks— a unique, sensitive and extraordinary region.

The natural beauty of the Buffalo River is the highlight of any trip to Arkansas, and a perfect symbol of "The Natural State." However, there is nothing natural about raising thousands of large hogs in windowless metal buildings, while their waste is collected in pits beneath their feet.

Even more disturbing are the millions of gallons of untreated liquid manure that are sprayed on fields adjacent to Big Creek, which feeds into the Buffalo where children play downstream. An effective buffer between fertilized fields and streams has not yet been determined, even by soil scientists. However, we do know that excessive nutrients are leaching through the porous karst geology of the Ozarks and into our water supply. Surely our country's first National River should not be the guinea pig for calculating exactly how much raw sewage it takes to permanently alter the function of a river.

Decades of progress in regulating human wastewater treatment plants and point-source pollution

are now being undone by turning a blind eye to the dangers of corporate sponsored Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and their impact on our shared natural resources.

Please stand up for the Buffalo National River and help Arkansas set an example for the rest of the country by recognizing the pollution threat of allowing CAFOs in the watershed, especially in environmentally sensitive areas like the karst region. I join with American Rivers, Ozark River Stewards, Ozark Society and Buffalo River Watershed Alliance in urging you to deny this facility a permit and require it to move out of the Buffalo National River watershed. Do not allow the 'Beautiful Buffalo' to become just a memory.

Sincerely,

Erin Yarrobino