**Sample Letter for consideration**

**WaterbodyComments@adeq.state.ar.us**

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118

Re: Proposed 2018 Impaired Waterbody List

Director Keogh,

I submit these comments with regard to placing segments of Big Creek and segments of the Buffalo River in Category 4b. (AR 1101003 022, AR 1101003 020) and segments of Buffalo River (AR 11010005 011, AR 11010005 010) in Category 4b.

(Share your experience and your passion for the Buffalo)…how has the algae and the pathogen reports affected you view of the Buffalo River?

* Findings document rapid growth of algal masses in the lower half of the Buffalo National River and Big Creek
* Reports state floating and fishing in the rivers is restrictive due to the heavily affected waters
* Fishing guides have reported fewer fish
* Arkansas Health Department has issued written warnings to the general public about exposure of pets and humans to pathogens found in the Buffalo river waters.

**My request/recommendation:**

I ask ADEQ to act quickly and take decisive enforceable action to determine what sources are impairing the Buffalo River and Big Creek.

I ask ADEQ to designate these stream segments as Category 5 impairment. I understand that status will allow tracking and enforcement of pollution limits (through a TMDL)

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Further background/general information about categories of impairment:

* Category 5 requires a TMDL
* According to the EPA Clean Water Act Section 3(d) website, “A TMDL establishes the maximum amount of pollutant allowed in a waterbody and serves as the starting point for restoring water quality”
* These are Extraordinary Resource Waters.
* Category 4b of impairment excludes enforcement of permitted facilities and does not acknowledge impairment of Big Creek.