

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003

HCR 1033

4  
5 By: Representatives Judy, Edwards, Pritchard, Kenney, Harris  
6 By: Senators Holt, Madison

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9 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

10 COMMENDING THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY FOR ITS  
11 OUTSTANDING EFFORTS TOWARD REDUCING PHOSPHORUS  
12 CONTAMINATION IN THE STATE'S WATERSHEDS; URGING  
13 CITIES AND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO JOIN WITH THE  
14 ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, THE  
15 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
16 RESEARCH PROGRAM TO IMPROVE ENFORCEMENT OF  
17 EXISTING LAWS REGARDING PHOSPHORUS AND TO EXPAND  
18 EFFORTS TO INFORM NONAGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES  
19 ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL DANGERS OF PHOSPHORUS.

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21 **Subtitle**

22 COMMENDING AGRICULTURE FOR REDUCING  
23 PHOSPHORUS CONTAMINATION AND; URGING  
24 CITIES AND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO  
25 INFORM NONAGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES ABOUT  
26 THE DANGERS OF PHOSPHORUS.

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29 WHEREAS, phosphorus contamination in Arkansas waterways poses a serious  
30 threat to the state's environment; and

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32 WHEREAS, phosphorus at high levels in streams depletes oxygen, causes  
33 algae blooms, and threatens aquatic life; and

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35 WHEREAS, phosphorus at high levels leads to green, algae slickened  
36 water that could prevent tourists from seeking out Arkansas for recreation;



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3 WHEREAS, farmers in Arkansas have made significant progress in reducing  
4 phosphorus contamination in the state's waterways; and

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6 WHEREAS, there are seven thousand (7,000) poultry producers in this  
7 state; and

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9 WHEREAS, each year, one billion two hundred million broilers  
10 (1,200,000,000) with a value of two billion two hundred forty million dollars  
11 (\$2,240,000,000), two million seven hundred thousand (2,700,000) turkeys with  
12 a value of two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000), and three billion four  
13 hundred million eggs, (3,400,000,000) with a value of three hundred two  
14 million dollars (\$302,000,000) are raised in this state; and

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16 WHEREAS, poultry producers are ever conscious of their stewardship of  
17 their land and water resources; and

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19 WHEREAS, eighty percent (80%) of all producers are currently using a  
20 voluntary best management practice, including, set back and nutrient plans  
21 involving soil analysis, nutrient analysis, and application rates; and

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23 WHEREAS, poultry production and the resulting byproduct poultry litter  
24 has generated a readily available source of nutrients that have played a  
25 significant role in increasing productivity on vast acreage of farmland; and

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27 WHEREAS, many regions of the state have benefited through increased hay  
28 production, greater carrying capacity for grazing livestock, and sustainable  
29 vegetable growth that enhances soil and water conservation; and

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31 WHEREAS, poultry litter has and continues to serve as a viable economic  
32 alternative to commercial fertilizers, representing a significant cost saving  
33 to agricultural producers; and

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35 WHEREAS, private industry, government agencies, and agricultural  
36 organizations are aggressively seeking alternatives for those areas

1 experiencing surplus poultry litter conditions; and

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3 WHEREAS, poultry producers, since 1992, have voluntarily developed and  
4 implemented nutrient management plans to protect water resources of the  
5 state; and

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7 WHEREAS, in the Illinois River and upper White River watersheds, over  
8 one thousand (1,000) nutrient management plans have been developed,  
9 representing over ninety percent (90%) of the producers in the watersheds;  
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12 WHEREAS, University of Arkansas research has demonstrated that urban  
13 and other sources account for nearly fifty percent (50%) of phosphorus  
14 introduced into the state's watersheds; and

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16 WHEREAS, the cities of Springdale, Siloam Springs, and Rogers are  
17 working to reduce waste water discharge to one milligram (1 mg.) of  
18 phosphorus per liter of water; and

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20 WHEREAS, the city of Fayetteville is the only city in Northwest  
21 Arkansas to include phosphorus in its National Pollutant Discharge  
22 Elimination System permit; and

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24 WHEREAS, the cities of Fayetteville and Rogers have already achieved a  
25 level below its target discharge of one part per million of phosphorus,  
26 consistently holding the city's discharge to one half part per million; and

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28 WHEREAS, Arkansas law limits the use of phosphorus in many commonly  
29 used items; and

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31 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality is charged  
32 with enforcing the state's laws regarding phosphorus,

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34 NOW THEREFORE,

35 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH GENERAL  
36 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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That Arkansas poultry, diary, and pork producers are to be commended for their efforts to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations in the waters of the state by their implementation of best management practices as prescribed in the nutrient management plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly urges cities and chambers of commerce, in consultation with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the Department of Health, and University of Arkansas research programs, to improve efforts to educate the state’s nonagricultural communities, businesses, and home owners about the environmental dangers of phosphorus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly urges the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to expand its enforcement of the existing laws regarding the use of phosphorus to reduce every form of phosphorus contamination in every area of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the citizens of Arkansas should recognize the responsibility of each person in the state to make continuous and serious efforts to reduce the amounts of household phosphorus being released into the state’s waters.