

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

As Engrossed: H3/19/03

HCR 1033

4
5
6
7
8

By: Representatives Judy, Edwards, Pritchard, Kenney, Harris, *Agee, Anderson, Biggs, Bledsoe, Boyd, Creekmore, Dees, Fite, Green, Haak, Hardwick, Jackson, Jacobs, King, Key, Ledbetter, Martin, Matayo, Medley, Milligan, Pace, Penix, L. Prater, Scrimshire, Scroggin, Walters, Wood*
By: Senators Holt, Madison, *Hendren*

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY FOR ITS
OUTSTANDING EFFORTS TOWARD REDUCING PHOSPHORUS
CONTAMINATION IN THE STATE'S WATERSHEDS; URGING
CITIES AND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO JOIN WITH THE
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
RESEARCH PROGRAM TO IMPROVE ENFORCEMENT OF
EXISTING LAWS REGARDING PHOSPHORUS AND TO EXPAND
EFFORTS TO INFORM NONAGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES
ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL *EFFECTS* OF PHOSPHORUS.

22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Subtitle

COMMENDING AGRICULTURE FOR REDUCING
PHOSPHORUS CONTAMINATION AND; URGING
CITIES AND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO
INFORM NONAGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES ABOUT
THE *EFFECTS* OF PHOSPHORUS.

29
30
31
32

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

33
34
35
36

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



1 WHEREAS, phosphorus at high levels leads to green, algae slickened
2 water that could prevent tourists from seeking out Arkansas for recreation;
3 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36

1 WHEREAS, private industry, government agencies, and agricultural
2 organizations are aggressively seeking alternatives for those areas
3 experiencing surplus poultry litter conditions; and
4

5 WHEREAS, poultry producers, since 1992, have voluntarily developed and
6 implemented nutrient management plans to protect water resources of the
7 state; and
8

9 WHEREAS, in the Illinois River and upper White River watersheds, over
10 one thousand (1,000) nutrient management plans have been developed,
11 representing over ninety percent (90%) of the producers in the watersheds;
12 and
13

14 WHEREAS, University of Arkansas research has demonstrated that urban
15 and other sources account for nearly fifty percent (50%) of phosphorus
16 introduced into the state's watersheds; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the cities of Springdale, Siloam Springs, and Rogers are
19 working to reduce waste water discharge to one milligram (1 mg.) of
20 phosphorus per liter of water; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the city of Fayetteville is the only city in Northwest
23 Arkansas to include phosphorus in its National Pollutant Discharge
24 Elimination System permit; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the cities of Fayetteville and Rogers have already achieved a
27 level below its target discharge of one part per million of phosphorus,
28 consistently holding the city's discharge to one half part per million; and
29

30 WHEREAS, Arkansas law limits the use of phosphorus in many commonly
31 used items; and
32

33 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality is charged
34 with enforcing the state's laws regarding phosphorus,
35

36 NOW THEREFORE,

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

3
4 That Arkansas poultry, *dairy*, and pork producers are to be commended
5 for their efforts to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations in the
6 waters of the state by their implementation of best management practices as
7 prescribed in the nutrient management plans; and

8
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly urges cities and
10 chambers of commerce, in consultation with the Arkansas Department of
11 Environmental Quality, Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the
12 Department of Health, and University of Arkansas research programs, to
13 improve efforts to educate the state's nonagricultural communities,
14 businesses, and home owners about the environmental dangers of phosphorus.

15
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly urges the Arkansas
17 Department of Environmental Quality to expand its enforcement of the existing
18 laws regarding the use of phosphorus to reduce every form of phosphorus
19 contamination in every area of the state.

20
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the citizens of Arkansas should recognize
22 the responsibility of each person in the state to make continuous and serious
23 efforts to reduce the amounts of household phosphorus being released into the
24 state's waters.

25
26 /s/ *Judy, et al*
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36