

RESOLUTION (3)

No. 2025 - _____

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF BOONE, STATE OF ARKANSAS, A RESOLUTION TO BE ENTITLED:

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE STATE’S PROPOSED RULES IMPLEMENTING A MORATORIUM IN THE BUFFALO RIVER WATERSHED AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR SB290 AND SB80 OF THE 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

WHEREAS, Boone County is located within the Buffalo River Watershed, and the livelihoods of many of its residents depend on agricultural and land-use rights; and

WHEREAS, Boone County recognizes the importance of protecting the Buffalo National River, one of Arkansas’ most treasured natural resources, for future generations, and believes that agricultural operations and environmental stewardship can coexist through responsible management and case-by-case oversight; and

WHEREAS, the proposed state moratorium on certain agricultural activities within the Buffalo River Watershed would infringe upon the rights of landowners to utilize their land as they see fit, particularly affecting farming operations; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture and the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment already possess the authority to review and deny permits for agricultural operations on a case-by-case basis, providing sufficient oversight without the need for a blanket moratorium; and

WHEREAS, the right to farm as codified in ACA § 2-4-101 *et seq.* is a fundamental individual right recognized by the State of Arkansas, and any actions that restrict this right without due cause threaten the economic stability of rural communities; and

WHEREAS, decisions about land use within Boone County should align with the Boone County Land Use Management Plan and be made by those most directly impacted—its residents—and not by individuals or organizations based outside of the county, including those from Little Rock and Northwest Arkansas, who may not fully understand the local agricultural needs and practices; and

WHEREAS, the proposed state moratorium on certain agricultural activities within the Buffalo National River Watershed is contrary to the Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, § 232 as it would infringe upon the private property rights of landowners to utilize their land as they see fit, particularly affecting farming operations; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Legislature has introduced **SB290** and **SB80**, which would help ensure that agricultural producers are not unfairly targeted by overreaching regulations and reaffirm the role of legislative oversight in major rule changes that impact property rights and economic development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF BOONE COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

1. **SECTION 1.** The Quorum Court of Boone County hereby opposes the implementation of any state-imposed moratorium on agricultural operations within the Buffalo River Watershed and expresses its support for the continued evaluation of permits on a case-by-case basis.
2. **SECTION 2.** The Quorum Court asserts that land-use decisions impacting the residents of Boone County should be made locally and with direct input from county stakeholders, not imposed by individuals or groups located outside the county or the State of Arkansas.
3. **SECTION 3.** The Quorum Court reaffirms its commitment to protecting the Buffalo River for future generations through responsible environmental stewardship that balances conservation with agricultural viability.
4. **SECTION 4.** The Quorum Court of Boone County expresses its full support for SB290 and SB80 and urges the Arkansas Legislature to pass these bills, recognizing their importance in protecting property rights and maintaining fair, balanced regulatory oversight.
5. **SECTION 5.** A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, and the relevant state legislative committees as a formal expression of Boone County’s position on this matter.

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION ON MARCH 11, 2025.

SUBMITTED BY: Justice Sam Tinsley

ATTEST: _____
Crystal Graddy
Boone County Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Robert Hathaway
Boone County Judge

In accordance with the requirements of Ark. Code Ann. 14-14-116, this publication is paid for from the budget of the Boone County Quorum Court. The total cost of this publication is _____.