

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2025-088

REQUESTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONDUCT A STUDY ON ARKANSAS RIVERS AND STREAMS.

WHEREAS, Arkansas's rivers and streams are crucially important, providing Arkansans with cultural significance, wildlife, recreational activities, and job creation; and

WHEREAS, the economy is also impacted by Arkansas's many rivers and streams through the numerous tourism options and recreational activities available to those who come to experience the beauty and wonder of The Natural State; and

WHEREAS, throughout the year, visitors can be found at the Buffalo National River, which was the first national river to be designated in the United States, as well as at other wonderful rivers and streams throughout the state, including the White River, Mulberry River, Kings River, Illinois River, and Crooked Creek; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Arkansas has over one thousand eight hundred sixty (1,860) miles of navigable inland waterways, ranking third in the nation, that provide an efficient and cost-effective means of transporting critical commodities that further bolster the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, with their many impacts on the economy and on the enjoyment of citizens, preserving these natural resources is critical,

NOW THEREFORE,

31 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC
32 DEVELOPMENT OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development conduct a study to:

36 (1) Review the impact of all point source and nonpoint source

1 pollution within the watersheds to include a review of the impact on water
2 quality related to:

- 3 (A) Nutrient management plans;
- 4 (B) Gravel bar buildup;
- 5 (C) Recreation activities;
- 6 (D) Commercial development;
- 7 (E) Residential development;
- 8 (F) City development; and
- 9 (G) Agricultural and general land use; and

10 (2) Allocate twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) of
11 surplus funds to be distributed to North Arkansas College as follows:

12 (A) Fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) to study the
13 Buffalo National River, Kings River, Crooked Creek, and Mulberry River; and
14 (B) Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to study the Illinois
15 River.

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17 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry,
18 and Economic Development include local committees in the study that shall be
19 formed to provide support and participation in the study and that will adhere
20 to the Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq., for all
21 studies, resources, and communications. The local committees shall be
22 balanced between agriculture, recreational, and local watershed groups.

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30 Respectfully submitted,

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34 Senator Ronald Caldwell

35 District 10

36 Prepared by: CRH/CRH

