

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,

BE IT PROPOSED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC  
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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Ronald Caldwell  
District 10  
Prepared by: CRH/CRH

