



## WHO WILL STAND UP AGAINST WATER POLLUTION? April 11, 2002

*Most folks in Oklahoma are sick and tired of water pollution caused by excessive nutrients from improper disposal of animal wastes. A long list of our waters are polluted by phosphorus: our Scenic Rivers, Lake Tenkiller, Grand Lake, Honey Creek, Wister Lake, the Poteau River, and Tulsa's water supply lakes, Eucha and Spavinaw – just to name a few.*

### **Who is taking a stand against this pollution?**

- *The Department of Agriculture (ODA) adopted new rules to govern poultry operations. The Governor supported and signed the ODA's new rules.*
- *NE Oklahoma citizens managed to fight off an invasion by a bunch of big chicken houses.*
- *Nonprofit citizen groups have sought remedies through education, lobbying and litigation*
- *Tulsa is taking action to stop pollution of Lake Eucha and its drinking water sources.*
- *Citizens along Honey Creek and Grand Lake filed private lawsuits against poultry integrators.*
- *The Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission recommended, and the Water Board adopted, new phosphorus standards for scenic rivers that are supported by our state environmental agencies.*
- *The Oklahoma Attorney General is contemplating litigation to protect Oklahoma watersheds*

### **What is happening in the Legislature? Several bills this session seemed hopeful at first, but now:**

- *HJR 1057 (Gray and Hutchison) was filed to disapprove the new ODA poultry rules.*
- *House may file a resolution to disapprove of the Water Board's new phosphorus standard for scenic rivers.*
- *HB 2349 (Liotta) was watered down to establish setbacks from drinking water wells and the like for poultry operations only if they are owned by certain corporations*
- *SB 0972 (Rozell) has been stripped of its protective standard for scenic rivers*
- *SB 1323 (Easley and Hutchison) had language gutted which would have designated Honey Creek as a scenic river*
- *SB 1348 (Littlefield) helps eliminate foreign corporations from ownership of agricultural property for poultry operations, but its only protective language (prohibiting new poultry operations and CAFOs) is limited to a one mile buffer around Grand Lake*

### **Our legislators need to listen:**

1. *Vote NO on HJR 1057*
2. *Vote NO on any resolution to disapprove the Water Board's new phosphorus rules*
3. *Amend language in existing bills to protect East Oklahoma watersheds and other areas where nutrients are a problem by prohibiting or strictly limiting land disposal of animal wastes along our rivers, streams and tributaries, and by setting other meaningful prohibitions and buffer zones that apply to all animal feeding operations.*
4. *Make the poultry integrators, not the citizens, pay for proper waste disposal and clean up of the pollution they have caused.*

***PROTECT OKLAHOMA'S WATER, FOR OUR FAMILIES, FOR OUR FUTURE***