# **STIR**Kingfisher%20small%20jpg[1]

**Save the Illinois River Inc.**

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January 17, 2019

Oklahoma Water Resources Board

3800 Classen Blvd.

Oklahoma City, OK 73118

**Dear Oklahoma Water Resources Board**,

**Regarding: 785:45-5-5 WQ Standards Variance**

**Oklahoma Scenic Rivers and Lake Tenkiller must have the very highest water quality protection possible. I ask you to reject the rule allowing a variance to Oklahoma water quality regulations especially for Oklahoma Scenic Rivers.  Designated scenic rivers should not be compromised by allowing a variance to meet pollution limits. Oklahoma’s phosphorus limit for scenic rivers must be enforced without further delay. It must not be weakened for any length of time, for any reason or for any private, corporate or municipal entity.**

We respectively ask Oklahoma State agencies including the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to work in concert to enforce the water quality regulations currently in place. One of those regulations that is especially important to the protection of Oklahoma Scenic Rivers is our numeric, instream phosphorus limit. This protective limit, proven scientifically defensible by the Baylor University Joint Scenic Rivers Study, still is not being enforced by Oklahoma. Phosphorus levels at the Arkansas-Oklahoma border surpass our phosphorus limit by greater than 80-percent. After nearly 20-years of passage by the OWRB, this is unacceptable.

**Sincerely,**

Denise Deason-Toyne, President of STIR

***“Clean Water is Northeastern Oklahoma’s Future”***