

[EXTERNAL] 1018Friends

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To: Info_Coll, FWHQ <info_coll@fws.gov>

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To whom it may concern,

I am very concerned about the increased oversight of the Friends by the FWS. We are a very small organization and lack many of the technical skills that may be required to comply with the FWS. We have a very small budget and for the most part do very little fundraising other than membership dues. The more "hoops" we have to jump through the harder it is to get Officers and Board Members. Personally I feel that the Friends are a 501 3 C and should remain independent of the FWS. Rather than requiring Friends Agreements and Financial reporting from the Friends, the FWS should just be grateful we are there to help. I can't help but think politics is involved in all of this.

I am President of the Friends of the Patoka River NWR but I am commenting as an individual and my opinion does not necessarily represent the feeling of our Board or Membership.

Nancy Gehlhausen