

Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States
703-440-1701

Lynda and Joseph Berman
52 Charles Street
Athens, OH 45701

October 7, 2011

Dear Bureau of Land Management,

We are very concerned about the recent news that more than twenty-five hundred acres of land in York Township in Athens County, Ohio will be offered at auction for gas/oil leasing rights.

We live in the city of Athens, surrounded by the Wayne National Forest. This proposed leasing would open the possibility for deep well drilling in the Wayne National Forest. The potential for accidents and the resulting contamination of surface water and ultimately, our area's drinking water is unacceptable.

I understand that the Wayne National Forest has about 1,200 active shallow wells – some of which have been in production for decades. My concern regarding this auction by the BLM of mineral rights in York Township is the possibility that deep wells may be drilled. The damage resulting from accidents that have occurred with deep drilling and fracturing has been sensationalized but the fact remains that there ARE accidents and the damage is long term and sometimes irreversible.

Please count our voices among those who oppose this latest selling of mineral rights.

Sincerely,

Lynda Berman
Joseph Berman

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