

September 25, 2019

Bureau of Land Management Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Boulevard
Reno, NV 89502-7147

RECEIVED

SEP 30 2019

BLM Nevada

Re: Protest of BLM Nevada's November 2019 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

To: Ms. Kemba Anderson, Branch Chief for Fluid Mineral Resources

Please accept and fully consider this protest of BLM Nevada's November 2019 lease sale.

I live in the city of Mesquite and was deeply disturbed about the BLM plan to open to fossil fuel extraction leases lands which are adjacent to our city. The parcels I am specifically concerned with are: NV-19-11-368, NV-19-11-419, NV-19-11-420, NV-19-11-367, NV-19-11-441, NV-19-11-410, NV-19-11-445, NV-19-11-366, NV-19-11-449, NV-19-11-439, NV-19-11-404, NV-19-11-405, NV-19-11-366, NV-19-11-430, NV-19-11-426, NV-19-11-436, NV-19-11-426, NV-19-11-402, NV-19-11-445, NV-2019-12-2869, NV-2019-12-2889, NV-2019-12-2857, NV-2019-12-4445, NV-2019-12-3023, NV-2019-12-2913, NV-2019-12-3178, NV-2019-12-3191, NV-2019-12-4234, NV-2019-12-2939, NV-2019-12-2925, NV-2019-12-3175, NV-2019-12-3172, NV-2019-12-3151, NV-2019-12-3157, NV-2019-12-2388, NV-2019-12-4191, NV-2019-12-2384, NV-2019-12-4110, NV-2019-12-4501, NV-2019-12-4458, NV-2019-12-4481, NV-2019-12-4502, NV-2019-12-4498, NV-2019-12-4407, NV-2019-12-4480, NV-2019-12-2869, NV-2019-12-3338, NV-2019-12-4470, NV-2019-12-4533, NV-2019-12-4495, NV-2019-12-4455, NV-2019-12-4477, NV-2019-12-4480, NV-2019-12-4413, NV-2019-12-4470, NV-2019-12-4473, NV-2019-12-4486, NV-2019-12-4561, NV-2019-12-4563, NV-2019-12-4689, NV-2019-12-4681, NV-2019-12-4678,3, NV-2019-12-3166, NV-2019-12-4667, NV-2019-12-4692, NV-2019-12-4664, NV-2019-12-4636, NV-2019-12-4653, NV-2019-12-4652, NV-2019-12-4606, NV-2019-12-4604, NV-2019-12-4609, NV-2019-12-4045, NV-2019-12-4601. I feel these are too close to the city of Mesquite, and would have listed all adjacent parcels but feel these cover the parcels closest to the Virgin River.

It is my understanding that lands in southern Nevada of which these parcels are a part, are not particularly useful for fossil fuel extraction and that in the past, the only lands that have been profitable for this type leasing are located in the northern part of the state. Even if this is also likely the case with the parcels I have cited, I feel extensive damage will already have been done if these parcels are leased for fossil fuel extraction/fracking purposes.

As you are probably aware, fracking for fossil fuels is a water intensive business. As you may probably also be aware, Nevada is ranked the driest state in the contiguous US. We cannot afford to use our water resources so frivolously. These same water resources that would be

used for fossil fuel extraction are often combined with toxic chemicals in the fracking process. Using any of our water resources for this purpose will pollute the water which we already have too little of. We in Mesquite are fortunate to have a pristine aquifer with water resources available to us. I am concerned that there is a great potential that the polluted water used for fracking enterprises will leech into our pristine aquifer and pollute our water. This is the same water we drink and use to cook every day. We cannot afford to use our water resources for this purpose. We cannot afford the possibility that fracking occurring on public lands may leech into our local aquifer, having a deleterious effect on our limited water resources.

Fracking has resulted in an increase in earthquake activity and intensity. This is even in states where you would not expect earthquake activity to occur at all, such as the state of Oklahoma. We in Nevada live in a state in which earthquakes activity is daily although ordinarily we do not feel many of these. Although we do not feel our daily earthquakes, we have in the recent past had earthquake activity that people have been well aware of. I believe since I moved to Mesquite 10 years ago, there have been at least a couple of earthquakes which were very noticeable to the people experiencing them. We neither need nor want additional earthquake activity /intensity in our earthquake prone state.

Nevada has been blessed with spectacular public lands which are not appropriate for oil and gas leasing or development. These lands and waterways are home to sage grouse, mule deer, bighorn sheep and cutthroat trout. The extensive November sale threatens established US Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat of the threatened species. The sale flies in the face of the Department of Interior's Secretarial Order 3362, which prioritizes the protection of migration corridors, by offering for lease hundreds of parcels within these clearly identified priority migratory corridors.

Nevada has a robust outdoor economy that generates \$12.6 billion in consumer spending annually. Our oil and gas sales generate paltry sums in comparison. A study by the National Park Service shows that "153,000 visitors to Great Basin National Park in 2018 spent \$8.8 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 121 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$9.0 million." In the past two years, Nevada's BLM has offered a little over 1.4 million acres in oil and gas sales but has only sold 10% of those acres; 85% at the minimum bid of \$2 an acre. Oil and gas leasing has generated a little over \$400,000 from lease sales. In two years. This is NOT a good return on our investment. We should be working to maintain our natural resources since these generate a much greater income for the state.

Finally, I am a firm believer that a Climate Crisis is occurring, and that our weather which I have seen deteriorate during my lifetime, has gotten much less predictable, causing much greater catastrophic damage. As an example, the Houston area in Texas has been experience 500 year floods every few years in the last decade. We as a society should be actively decreasing our fossil fuel extraction and usage if we are to prevent the even more extreme weather events that are predicted unless we stop using fossil fuels. The impact of gas and oil development on atmospheric warming and extreme weather events is even more frightening than the impacts to

Nevada's wildlife and outdoor economy. These impacts are well documented by the scientific community. We ignore them at our risk and at the risk of future generations.

The incredibly massive fossil fuel lease that the BLM plans for Nevada will have egregious and immitigable impacts to Nevada's water resources, earthquake potential, lands, wildlife and economy, and ignores the looming global Climate Crisis. I feel that the leases should not happen at all. But in any case, **I strongly urge you to reconsider leasing specifically the land that could adversely impact the Mesquite aquifer, the parcels which I cited in this letter, and any other parcels not cited that are in close proximity to the Virgin River.** I hope in the future that BLM will cease and desist from putting up for fossil fuel leasing ANY further Nevada land.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janis Sullivan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Michael and Janis Sullivan
430 Bannock St.
Mesquite, NV 89027

1184 Clouds Rest Point
Mesquite, Nevada
September 27, 2019

Bureau of Land Management Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Boulevard
Reno, NV 89502-7147

RECEIVED

Re: Protest of BLM Nevada's November 2019 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

SEP 30 2019

To: Ms. Kemba Anderson, Branch Chief for Fluid Mineral Resources

BLM NVSO IAC

Please accept and fully consider this protest of BLM Nevada's November 2019 lease sale.

I have lived in the city of Mesquite for ten years and came here because of the warm weather, clean air and water, and the many opportunities to be in nature. I am very concerned about the BLM plan to open to fossil fuel extraction leases so much of our untouched land in Nevada but am much more troubled by the parcels that are adjacent to the city where I live, Mesquite. The parcels I am specifically concerned with are: NV-19-11-368, NV-19-11-419, NV-19-11-420, NV-19-11-367, NV-19-11-441, NV-19-11-410, NV-19-11-445, NV-19-11-366, NV-19-11-449, NV-19-11-439, NV-19-11-404, NV-19-11-405, NV-19-11-366, NV-19-11-430, NV-19-11-426, NV-19-11-436, NV-19-11-426, NV-19-11-402, NV-19-11-445, NV-2019-12-2869, NV-2019-12-2889, NV-2019-12-2857, NV-2019-12-4445, NV-2019-12-3023, NV-2019-12-2913, NV-2019-12-3178, NV-2019-12-3191, NV-2019-12-4234, NV-2019-12-2939, NV-2019-12-2925, NV-2019-12-3175, NV-2019-12-3172, NV-2019-12-3151, NV-2019-12-3157, NV-2019-12-2388, NV-2019-12-4191, NV-2019-12-2384, NV-2019-12-4110, NV-2019-12-4501, NV-2019-12-4458, NV-2019-12-4481, NV-2019-12-4502, NV-2019-12-4498, NV-2019-12-4407, NV-2019-12-4480, NV-2019-12-2869, NV-2019-12-3338, NV-2019-12-4470, NV-2019-12-4533, NV-2019-12-4495, NV-2019-12-4455, NV-2019-12-4477, NV-2019-12-4480, NV-2019-12-4413, NV-2019-12-4470, NV-2019-12-4473, NV-2019-12-4486, NV-2019-12-4561, NV-2019-12-4563, NV-2019-12-4689, NV-2019-12-4681, NV-2019-12-4678,3 NV-2019-12-3166, NV-2019-12-4667, NV-2019-12-4692, NV-2019-12-4664, NV-2019-12-4636, NV-2019-12-4653, NV-2019-12-4652, NV-2019-12-4606, NV-2019-12-4604, NV-2019-12-4609, NV-2019-12-4045, NV-2019-12-4601. I feel these are too close to the city of Mesquite. I would have listed all parcels but feel these cover the parcels closest to the Virgin River are the ones that will have the most impact for me and for my city.

It is my understanding that lands in southern Nevada of which these parcels are a part, are not particularly useful for fossil fuel extraction and that in the past, the only lands that have been profitable for this type leasing are located in the northern part of the state. Even if this is also likely the case with the parcels I have cited, I feel extensive damage will already have been done if these parcels are leased for fossil fuel extraction/fracking purposes.

As you are probably aware, fracking for fossil fuels is a water intensive business. As you may probably also be aware, Nevada is ranked the driest state in the contiguous US. We cannot afford to use our water resources in such a foolish way. These same water resources that would be used for fossil fuel extraction are often combined with toxic chemicals in the fracking process. Using any of our water resources for this purpose will **pollute the water which we already have too little of**. We in Mesquite are fortunate to have a pristine aquifer with water resources available to us. There is a great potential that the polluted water used for fracking enterprises will leech into our pristine aquifer and pollute our water! This is the same water we drink and use to cook every day. We cannot afford to use our water resources for this purpose!

It has been shown that fracking results in an increase in earthquake activity and possibly intensity. This is even in states where you would not expect earthquake activity to occur at all, such as the state of Oklahoma. We in Nevada live in a state in which earthquakes activity is daily although ordinarily we do not feel many of these. In the recent past in Mesquite, we have had earthquake activity that people have been aware of. I believe since I moved to Mesquite 10 years ago, there have been at least a couple of earthquakes which were very noticeable to the people in Mesquite. We don't need additional earthquake activity /intensity in our earthquake prone state.

Nevada has been blessed with spectacular public lands which are not appropriate for oil and gas leasing or development. These lands and waterways are home to sage grouse, mule deer, bighorn sheep and cutthroat trout. The extensive November sale threatens established US Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat of the threatened species. The sale will affect the protection of wildlife migration corridors, by offering for lease hundreds of parcels within these clearly identified priority migratory corridors. As I stated earlier, one of the main reasons I came to Nevada was to enjoy our beautiful and diverse natural environment. I often hike in the BLM lands near Mesquite. I would hate to see our beautiful natural environment damaged and our wildlife made extinct due to fracking or other fossil fuel activities.

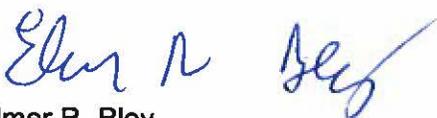
From a business standpoint, Nevada has a robust outdoor economy that generates \$12.6 billion in consumer spending annually. Our oil and gas sales generate paltry sums in comparison. A study by the National Park Service shows that "153,000 visitors to Great Basin National Park in 2018 spent \$8.8 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 121 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$9.0 million." In the past two years, Nevada's BLM has offered a little over 1.4 million acres in oil and gas sales but has only sold 10% of those acres; 85% at the minimum bid of \$2 an acre. Oil and gas leasing has generated a little over \$400,000 from lease sales. In two years. This is NOT a good return on our investment. I don't understand why we would want to negatively affect our natural environment for such an unprofitable business activity. We should be working to maintain our natural resources since these generate a much greater income for the state.

Finally, I believe that a Climate Crisis is occurring, and that our weather which I have seen deteriorate during my lifetime, has gotten much less predictable, causing much greater catastrophic damage. Although, the impact of gas and oil development on atmospheric warming and extreme weather events is not as important to me as the impacts to Nevada's wildlife and outdoor economy, I still think we should consider them also.

The massive fossil fuel lease that the BLM plans for Nevada will have major impacts to Nevada's water resources, earthquake potential, lands, wildlife and economy, and ignores the global Climate Crisis. I feel to maintain our natural environment that the leases should not happen at all. But if any leases are going to be let, **I strongly urge you to reconsider leasing specifically the land that could adversely impact the Mesquite aquifer, the parcels which I cited in this letter, and any other parcels not cited that are in close proximity to the Virgin River.**

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Elmer R. Bley
Mesquite, NV

September 22, 2019

RECEIVED

Bureau of Land Management Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Boulevard
Reno, NV 89502-7147

OCT 04 2019
BLM NVSO IAC

Re: Protest of BLM Nevada's November 2019 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

To: Ms. Kemba Anderson, Branch Chief for Fluid Mineral Resources

Please accept and fully consider this protest of BLM Nevada's November 2019 lease sale.

I represent the 2,699 members of the Sierra Club in southern Nevada. We most strongly object to the leasing of over 547,959 acres of Nevada's public lands in the November oil and gas lease sale. Please see the attached list of parcels with their associated serial numbers.

These spectacular public lands are not appropriate for oil and gas leasing or development. These lands and waterways are home to sage grouse, mule deer, bighorn sheep and cutthroat trout. This November sale also threatens established US Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat of the threatened Desert Tortoise species. There are also parcels in close proximity to the Wayne Kirch Wildlife Management Area where there is established critical habitat of the Moorman White River springfish. This sale flies in the face of the Department of Interior's Secretarial Order 3362, which claims to prioritize the protection of migration corridors, by offering for lease hundreds of parcels within these clearly identified priority migratory corridors.

This is unacceptable and this sale should be stopped.

Nevada has a robust outdoor economy that generates \$12.6 billion in consumer spending annually. Meanwhile, our oil and gas sales generate paltry sums in comparison. The Elko County Commission released a study showing that "in Elko County 2006 through 2008 outdoor recreation generated an average of \$165 million annually in outdoor recreational uses through commercial retail sales, services, lodging and personal income." And "the personal income received by Elko County residents directly from employment in those businesses averaged over \$40 million." No doubt those numbers have only grown in the 10 years since then. Another study by the National Park Service shows that "153,000 visitors to Great Basin National Park in 2018 spent \$8.8 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 121 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$9.0 million." In the past two years, Nevada's BLM has offered a little over 1.4 million acres in oil and gas sales but has only sold 10% of those acres; 85% at the minimum bid of \$2 an acre. Oil and gas leasing has generated a little over \$400,000 from lease sales. In two years. This is NOT a good return on our investment.

The impact of gas and oil development on atmospheric warming and extreme weather events is even more frightening than the impacts to Nevada's wildlife and outdoor economy. These impacts are well documented and do not need to be repeated here.

This incredibly massive lease, this egregious and unmitigatable impact to Nevada's lands and wildlife, the life-threatening boost to global warming must not happen.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Christine Picin
917 Diamond Circle
Mesquite, NV 89027
435-229-9964

1184 Clouds Rest Point
Mesquite, Nevada
September 27, 2019

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It is my understanding that lands in southern Nevada of which these parcels are a part, are not particularly useful for fossil fuel extraction and that in the past, the only lands that have been profitable for this type leasing are located in the northern part of the state. Even if this is also likely the case with the parcels I have cited, I feel extensive damage will already have been done if these parcels are leased for fossil fuel extraction/fracking purposes.

As you are probably aware, fracking for fossil fuels is a water intensive business. As you may probably also be aware, Nevada is ranked the driest state in the contiguous US. We cannot afford to use our water resources so frivolously. These same water resources that would be used for fossil fuel extraction are often combined with toxic chemicals in the fracking process. Using any of our water resources for this purpose will pollute the water which we already have too little of. We in Mesquite are fortunate to have a pristine aquifer with water resources available to us. I am concerned that there is a great potential that the polluted water used for fracking enterprises will seep into our pristine aquifer and pollute our water. This is the same water we drink and use to cook every day. **We cannot afford the possibility that fracking occurring on public lands may outflow into our local aquifer, having a deleterious effect on our limited water resources.**

Fracking has resulted in an increase in earthquake activity and intensity. This is even in states where you would not expect earthquake activity to occur at all, such as the state of Oklahoma. We in Nevada live in a

state in which earthquakes activity is daily although ordinarily we do not feel many of these. Although we do not feel our daily earthquakes, we have in the recent past had earthquake activity that people have been well aware of. I believe since I moved to Mesquite 10 years ago, there have been at least a couple of earthquakes which were very noticeable to the people experiencing them. We cannot afford the effects of additional earthquake activity/intensity in our earthquake prone state.

Regarding the other leases planned elsewhere in the state: Nevada has been blessed with spectacular public lands which are not appropriate for oil and gas leasing or development. These lands and waterways are home to sage grouse, mule deer, bighorn sheep and cutthroat trout. The extensive November sale threatens established US Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat of the threatened species. The sale flies in the face of the Department of Interior's Secretarial Order 3362, which prioritizes the protection of migration corridors, by offering for lease hundreds of parcels within these clearly identified priority migratory corridors. I do not want our beautiful public lands defaced by fossil fuel activity.

Our state has a robust outdoor economy that generates \$12.6 billion in consumer spending annually. Our oil and gas sales generate paltry sums in comparison. A study by the National Park Service shows that "153,000 visitors to Great Basin National Park in 2018 spent \$8.8 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 121 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$9.0 million." In the past two years, Nevada's BLM has offered a little over 1.4 million acres in oil and gas sales but has only sold 10% of those acres; 85% at the minimum bid of \$2 an acre. Oil and gas leasing has generated a little over \$400,000 from lease sales. In two years. This is NOT a good return on our investment. We should be working to maintain our natural resources since these generate a much greater income for the state.

Finally, I am a firm believer that a Climate Crisis is occurring and that our weather which I have seen deteriorate during my lifetime has gotten much less predictable, causing much greater catastrophic damage. As an example, the Houston area in Texas has been experience 500-year floods every few years in the last decade. I feel strongly that we as a society should be actively decreasing our fossil fuel extraction and usage if we are to prevent the even more extreme weather events that are predicted unless we stop using fossil fuels. The impact of gas and oil development on atmospheric warming and extreme weather events is even more frightening to me than the impacts to the state of Nevada. **Climate Crisis impacts are well documented by the scientific community. We ignore them at our risk and at the risk of future generations.**

The massive fossil fuel lease that the BLM plans for Nevada will have egregious and unmitigable impacts to Nevada's water resources, earthquake potential, lands, wildlife and economy, and ignores the looming global Climate Crisis. For the reasons stated above, I believe that these leases should not happen at all. But if these leases are to be prioritized, **I strongly urge you to reconsider leasing specifically the land that could adversely impact the Mesquite aquifer, the parcels which I cited in this letter, and any other parcels not cited that are in close proximity to the Virgin River.** I hope in the future that BLM will cease and desist from putting up for fossil fuel leasing ANY further Nevada land.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ann Bley
Mesquite, NV