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Date: 2/18/16

**Via Fax (505-954-2010) and U.S. Mail**

Ms. Amy Leuders  
Bureau of Land Management  
New Mexico State Office  
P.O. Box 27115  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

Re: Protest of April 20, 2016 Lease Sale

Dear Ms. Leuders:

I am filing this protest of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) planned April 20, 2016, oil and gas lease sale and Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-O40-2015-61-EA, pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3. I formally protest the inclusion of the following parcel, NM-201603-43, covering a total of 258.9 acres located on/adjacent to Lewisville Lake.

I am filing this protest on behalf of myself and my family. We are homeowners who live and work near Lewisville Lake. Our drinking water comes from this lake. We believe the auction of the 10-year mineral lease on/around Lewisville Lake will adversely affect us, our family's health and our home values for the following reasons:

1. Highland Village obtains its drinking water supply from Lewisville Lake and public water wells near the lake. We are worried that drilling/fracking/wastewater injection and its chemical runoff will contaminate our drinking water and endanger our family's health and well-being.
2. Drilling/fracking will further deteriorate the local air-quality. Studies have raised concerns that residents of nearby Town of Flower Mound already have an increased risk of breast cancer and other forms of cancer which may be linked to poor air quality. Drilling/fracking in the area will further damage our air quality possibly creating

significant breathing problems and life-threatening health concerns for us and our families.

3. With studies linking drilling/fracking to earthquakes and seismic activity, we are concerned that drilling/fracking will threaten the foundations and structural integrity of our homes. Homes in our area are already prone to foundation and structural problems due to our highly expansive/contractive clay soil. Earthquakes and other seismic activity could further threaten our homes and home values.
4. We are concerned that drilling/fracking could induce earthquakes which will further endanger the dam at Lewisville Lake which is already in need of structural repairs and/or replacement. A failure of the dam at Lewisville Lake would threaten thousands of human lives in the Dallas area and would cause huge property losses as well.
5. Drilling/fracking under and around Lewisville Lake will decrease our home values. We believe that drilling/fracking in our area has already adversely affected home values. Property owners will have no known recourse against the oil & gas companies as we do not own any mineral rights to the proposed parcel up for auction. Gas drilling near our homes create environmental & health concerns, not to mention noise pollution, bright lights at night, industrial traffic, and eyesores on the landscape – all of which have a negative impact on home values.

We believe that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proposed lease sale is grossly inadequate. It appears to be substantially and procedurally flawed. There was no analysis of how drilling, fracking or wastewater injection could impact the Woodbine, Trinity or Paluxy aquifers in relation to this parcel. The EA does not address the soils or the geology regarding this Lewisville Lake parcel along with other important issues. Therefore, BLM's offer of this parcel is unlawful as it fails to sufficiently address the above issues as required by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request that you withdraw this parcel from the April 20<sup>th</sup> auction. Please do not put our family's health and physical & financial well-being at risk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melanie Sawyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" and "S".

cc: Congressman Michael Burgess