

12 August 2014

Jesse Juen  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
New Mexico State Office  
PO Box 27115  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Mr. Juen,

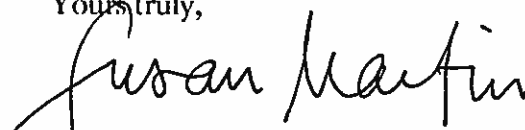
I have been a resident of Abiquiu, New Mexico for more than 12 years. In that time I have learned the importance of the traditional way of life here. I have served on the Pueblo de Abiquiu Library and Cultural Center and currently serve on the Community Council of the Northern Youth Project, a program for underserved youth that features a flourishing organic Teen Garden here in Abiquiu. This garden provides not only food, but also is the basis for cooking, health, and other classes and for learning entrepreneurial skills by giving our youth an opportunity to sell their produce and products from the garden at local Farmer's markets.

I am writing to protest the serious threat fracking poses to our ecosystem and to the life of the community that is so dependent on water for its existence. We live in a desert with very limited water and the drought of the past three years has already had a severe effect on farming and on the land. The use of millions of gallons of water in the hydraulic fracking process puts a severe strain on our natural resources *for private gain* and I am dismayed by this misuse of our precious water resources.

I have read a great deal about the chemicals used in fracking and about the deleterious health effects of gases released into the air by private gas and oil companies in the process. We cannot risk polluting our precious resources and risk the health of our residents. An enormous percentage of water for entire state originates in Rio Arriba County and the results of pollution would be devastating to the entire State, not to mention the cultural tourism, which draws visitors from all over the world!

I again ask you to defer leasing the parcels still at play in the October 22, 2014 BLM lease sale.

Yours truly,

  
Susan Martin