



Office of the President  
Cutler Hall 108

October 6, 2011

Dr. John Lyon, Eastern States Office Director  
United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States  
7450 Boston Boulevard  
Springfield, Virginia 22153

**RE: Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale on 2623.57 acres in Athens County, Ohio (OHES 57246 ACQ, ES-044-12/11, OHES 57247 ACQ; and ES-045-12/11, OHES 57248 ACQ)**

Dear Dr. Lyon:

Ohio University in Athens, Ohio protests the Bureau of Land Management's planned offering of OHES 57246 ACQ (264.93 acres, Athens County); ES-044-12/11, OHES 57247 ACQ (1,238.06 acres, Athens County); and ES-045-12/11, OHES 57248 ACQ (1,120.58 acres, Athens County) at the December 7, 2011 lease sale in accordance with 43 CFR 3120.1-3. These parcels are publicly owned lands of the Wayne National Forest.

*Interest of Protesting Party:* Ohio University is accountable for the health and safety of its students, employees and the communities we serve. To date, there is insufficient research on the effects the proposed activities from the sale of oil and gas leases would have on our community and our campus. We understand that the Athens City Council has also offered a protest of this sale. We echo their concerns for regional water safety.

*Statement of Reasons:* It is our duty as an institution of higher education to lead and support our campus and greater community as we seek safe living conditions, healthy economies and fertile lands where we live and work. The potential December 7, 2011 sale of the publicly owned lands referenced above poses a threat to a healthy living and learning environment at Ohio University.

Ohio University is currently unable to support a practice that is not strictly regulated and highly accountable. We request the withdrawal of the lease sale until a comprehensive, objective environmental and economic analysis is conducted and the absence of risk to our water supply, community health, and local economy can be assured.

Cordially,

Roderick J. McDavis  
President