

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  
VIA FACSIMILE: (703) 440-1551

October 6, 2011

Dear Dr. Lyon:

I hereby protest the Bureau of Land Management's competitive lease sale, planned to take place this coming December, of publicly owned lands in Ohio, in the Wayne National Forest, including parcels in Athens County, Perry County, and Gallia County. I am referring to the offering of ES-041-12/11, OHES 57244 ACQ (528.15 acres, Perry County); ES-042-12/11, OHES 57245 ACQ (1,50.65 Acres, Gallia County); ES-043-12/11, 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), and the lease sale to take place in accordance with 43 CFR 3120.1-3.

I live in the town of Athens, Ohio; I moved here a decade ago partly because of the area's natural beauty. I and my husband, whom I met here and who grew up here, as well as many, many others who live and work in this area, are extremely concerned and distressed about the possible threat posed by horizontal hydro-fracturing ("h-fracking") to our water supplies and to the economy of this area.

If our water supply becomes polluted and the nearby public forests, parks and lakes cease to be as beautiful as they now are, then fewer students will come from outside Ohio and from other parts of Ohio to attend Ohio University and Hocking College, which are two of the biggest employers in the Athens and Nelsonville areas. I and many others who work at Ohio University (I am a professor) will be motivated to try to move elsewhere. And there will be a decrease of tourism in this area, which has been increasing in recent years and is one of the most important components of our economy.

Whatever jobs h-fracking might bring to residents of this area will be offset by other jobs lost in other sectors of our local economy, and whatever other benefits h-fracking might bring to our local economy will be temporary, and will be far outweighed by the harms done.

Please do not issue any drilling leases that would legally permit (i.e., not explicitly prohibit) h-fracking in the Wayne National Forest.

Sincerely,



Alyssa R. Bernstein  
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