

VIA FACSIMILE: (703) 440-1551

TO: Dr. John Lyon

Eastern States Office Director

United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Eastern States

7450 Boston Blvd.

Springfield, Virginia 22153

**RE: Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale
Concerning Parcels in Perry, Gallia, and Athens Counties, Ohio**

Dear Dr. Lyon:

I hereby protest the agency's planned offering of ES-401-12/11, OHES 57244 ACQ (528.15 acres, Perry County); ES-042-12/11, OHES 57245 ACQ (150.65, Gallia County); ES-043-12/11, OHES 57246 ACQ (264.93 acres, Athens County); OHES 57247 ACQ (1,238.06 acres, Athens County); OHES 57248 ACQ (1,120.58 acres, Athens County) at the December 7, 2011 lease sale in accordance with 43 CFR 3120.1-3. The five parcels are publicly owned lands of the Wayne National Forest, and will hereinafter be referred to as Parcels 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45, respectively.

Statement of Reasons

1. The BLM and FS Will Violate NEPA if They Offer These Leases For Sale

The FS and BLM are relying on the analysis contained in the 2006 Wayne NF LRMP, Record of Decision and Final EIF for the site specific preleasing NEPA analysis necessary to assess the impacts arising from oil and gas exploration and development on these leases. None of the documents take a "hard look" at the impacts, which is necessary to satisfy NEPA's requirements. In addition, conditions have changed and new information has arisen since the 2006 FEIS was completed, necessitating further analysis.

High volume horizontal fracking is a recently developed process of natural gas drilling that differs significantly in many respects from both vertical fracking and conventional oil and gas drilling.

2. We are very concerned that the stipulations for the sale of the leases do not protect the Hocking River and aquifer that provides water to several counties. The stipulations surround the

offering of the leases do not protect the Hocking River and aquifer that provide water to several counties. Ohio's ample water supply is its most precious resource and should not be put in jeopardy for any reason. Fracking waste is exempt from the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, and RCCRA, (hazardous waste regulation) and local communities can neither adequately monitor nor remediate any damages to these wells. Our local economy depends upon healthy farms and food, tourism, and vibrant communities and is seriously threatened by this BLM auction.

Thank you for your attention to this very serious matter.

Mary Anne and Don Flournoy

Sugar Bush Farm

6675 Baker Rd.

Athens, OH 45701

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Anne Flournoy Don Flournoy", written over a horizontal line.