

BURR OAK REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT

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Friday, October 7, 2011

TO: U. S. Bureau of Land Management
RE: Oil and Gas Leasing of Wayne National Forest Parcels, Athens County, Ohio

Please accept this letter as an official protest of the impending auction and sale of oil and gas leasing rights on certain parcels of property owned by the Wayne National Forest in Athens County, Ohio.

The Burr Oak Regional Water District (BORWD) is a regional water system that supplies potable water to 25,000 households, small and mid-size businesses and school districts in parts of four Ohio counties, including Athens, Hocking, Perry and Morgan. The BORWD – at an expense exceeding \$15 million - recently converted its raw water supply from surface water to groundwater, by developing a well field near the Hocking River and constructing a “state-of-art” groundwater treatment facility.

We are extremely concerned about the potential for contamination to the aquifer that the BORWD is now totally dependent on for its raw water supply if oil and gas drilling is permitted. The parcels of the Wayne in Athens County in question are located directly along this aquifer. The BORWD believes there would be a serious and catastrophic health risk to the people and communities that depend on this water source if contamination occurs.

Therefore, we respectfully request that these parcels in question be removed from the list of parcels of the Wayne that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management will be auctioning for bid for oil and gas leases on December 7, 2011.

Thank you for your consideration.


Roger McCauley, President
Burr Oak Regional Water District

Copies to:

Athens County Commissioners
BORWD Board of Trustees