

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
VIA FACSIMILE: (703) 440-1551

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

Dear Dr. Lyon:

We hereby protest the agency's planned offering of ES-041-12/11, OHES 57244 ACQ (528.15 acres, Perry County); ES-042-12/11, OHES 57245 ACQ (150.65 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) 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.

We serve on the Steering Committee of an organization in Southeast Ohio called "Democracy Over Corporations." Between October 4 and 6, 2011, we polled our members by e-mail in order to obtain approval to speak for them with regard to this protest. All 39 of the respondents to our poll indicated their approval.

1. We are deeply worried about the possible threat posed by hydrofracking to our water supplies and to the environmental integrity of our area.
2. Advocates of fracking argue that there are no carefully controlled, objective studies linking fracking to water or air pollution, but the avocates have not invested in objective studies. Evidence of adverse health outcomes and environmental degradation has emerged from areas where extensive fracking has been done. As a result, Congress has now instructed the EPA to examine the effects of fracking on drinking water supplies and the EPA has designed and initiated such a study to be reported out initially in 2012 and subsequently in 2014.
3. Some of the risks of fracking may be statistically unlikely, such as contamination of aquifers, but the potential consequences for farming, general economic well-being, and health and safety of our people, are too grave to accept even a small risk. Other negative outcomes of

fracking in terms of environmental degradation seem virtually certain, and those, too, are unacceptable.

4. Whatever small gains in economic activity fracking might bring to the area, by a small and temporary increase in jobs, is likely to be offset by other economic and quality of life losses. The beauty of this area is a major factor attracting students to Hocking College and to Ohio University, which is the economic life-blood of this area.

5. Yes, energy supplies are a national concern. The solution, however, does not lie in finding more fuel to burn; it lies in reduction of energy waste and more extensive harnessing of sustainable energy sources like solar.

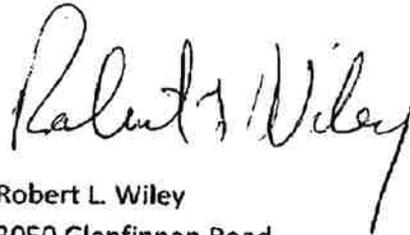
6. We urge the BLM to withhold issuance of any drilling leases that would permit fracking in Wayne National Forest until data from the EPA report of its study of fracking is available.

Sincerely yours,



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