

TO: Jesse Juen, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office, Fax: 505-954-2010

From: Jim Horne Minter, Silverback Sages, Publishers, L.L.C., 110 Private Drive 1727, Youngsville, N.M. 87064

Subject: **Opposition** to lease sale of 13 parcels in the Rio Chama Watershed of the Santa Fe National Forest, which are up for lease in the October 22, 2014 BLM Lease Sale. (Parcels NM-201410-001, 004-015)

1. I live for more half of each year on family-owned acreage in the Rio Chama watershed and operate a business from here year-round.

2. I strenuously object to "fracking" **anywhere east of the continental divide in New Mexico, but especially anywhere in the watershed that drains into the Rio Chama/Rio Grande.** As BLM leaders fully understand, this watershed supplies the majority of this water-starved state's population. To even remotely endanger this vital, living, yet already barely-renewable water resource for the slight possibility of recovering an infinitesimal amount (on the global scale) of petroleum product would be the height of irresponsible folly. Trading-off a one-time-use resource (petroleum) for our most vital and eternally renewing resource (water) would be short-sighted, unwise and irresponsible resource management.

3. I will not catalogue the well-known dangers that fracking poses to groundwater; BLM officials are well-aware of them, and of the "fracking" accidents that have already polluted groundwater. But even with newer technology and extra care, the frackers cannot guarantee against unforeseen slipups in which **the devastating results would be permanently** with us.

4. New Mexico west of the Continental Divide is already being exploited by the industry and this will continue until it is drained dry. Let's not stampede into the East. *If there is* petroleum product here it is not going anywhere; it has been here for millions of years. Decades or even a century from now, when our nation might desperately need it, the technology for its safe exploitation will only have continued to improve. For God's sake let's save a little resource for our grandchildren! Let them weigh and consider whether a little petroleum is worth the possibility of irrevocably damaging their precious and ever-renewing source of water.

**Again, I strongly protest this proposed lease sale!**

Thank you and may God bless and guide your stewardship of our lands.

Jim Horne Minter

110 Private Drive 1727

Youngsville, NM 87064

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Horne Minter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.