2265 Penn. Blvd.
Green River Wyoming
Nov. 15, 2008

Don Simpson, Acting State Director
Bureau of Land Management Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Re: Protest of Dec. 2, 2008 Competitive Oil and Gas Sale

Protest of 14 parcels. Specific parcels protested include: Parcels WY-0812-177, WY 0812-178, WY-0812-179, WY-0812-180, WY-0812-181, WY 0812-182, WY-0812-183, WY-0812-186, WY-0812-187, WY-0812-188, WY-0812-189, WY-0812-190, WY-0812-191, and WY-0812-192.

Dear Director Simpson,

As a 30 year resident and recently appointed commissioner of Sweetwater County I was disappointed to see the inclusion of the above referenced parcels in the lease sale advertised by the Bureau of land Management on October 17, 2008. I request these parcels be withdrawn from this sale for several important reasons.

The BLM itself, in its own resource management plan, identified the area as a highly significant resource area worthy of protection. This area is high-value wildlife habitat, containing a world-class elk herd and large concentrations of deer and antelope. For hunters, this area is in such demand the Wyoming Game and Fish Department deemed it a limited-quota elk area, and one's chances of drawing an elk tag on Little Mountain is only about 6%. These parcels in question also overlap critical riparian/watershed areas for Colorado River cutthroat trout, which are slowly making a comeback in small streams like Currant Creek. State and federal agencies and citizen's groups like Rocky Mountain Elk Federation, Trout Unlimited. Also of significance is the fact that bow hunters of Wyoming have spent more over $2 million in habitat restoration projects in the Little Mountain area on and near these proposed lease sales. Certainly oil and gas activity with their attendant roads, pipelines, noisy machinery, air and water pollution, and general chaos in these pristine areas would inexorably and adversely impact these habitats.

We must remember that this area has long been the recreational hot spot for not only Sweetwater County residents, but for many folks across Wyoming and throughout the Rocky Mountain region. The outdoor recreation opportunities this area affords are priceless. From hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, biking, wildlife viewing and an abundant of other outdoor activities, this area is exemplifies the heritage of which Wyoming residents pride themselves and makes Wyoming Wyoming. The impact of the proposed energy developments would have irreversible impacts that would prove detrimental to not only the recreational opportunities, but to the many species of wildlife that are native to this area.

With so much of the Little Mountain already leased to oil and gas developers, it is clear we must retain the rest as natural areas for the benefit of everyone. Since we have many thousands of non pristine acres available for oil and gas development, it would be a shame to waste some of our most

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spectacular. Many people throughout the region enjoy the recreational opportunities available on Little Mountain, but no one would visit it if it became an oil field.

To quote President Theodore Roosevelt: It is time for us now as a nation to exercise the same reasonable foresight in dealing with our great national resources that would be shown by any prudent man in conserving and wisely using the property which contains the assurance of well-being for himself and his children.

Respectfully,

R. Walker

Randy J. Walker

Sweetwater

County Commissioner

Copy to: Governor Dave Freudenthal
BLM-Rock Springs Office
Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Commission
Senator Barasso's Field Office Wyoming State Representatives-local Sweetwater County Commission
Wyoming State Representatives and Senators-local
Sweetwater County Commission