

Chris Hite  
 Chief, Branch of Fluid Minerals Adjudication  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Wyoming State Office  
 5353 Yellowstone Road  
 Cheyenne, WY 82009

June 5, 2015

Dear Mr. Hite,

In accordance with 43 C.F.R § 3120.1-3, Clark, Wyoming area residents, Clark Resource Council and our members, and the organizations signed on below, protest the sale of oil and gas lease sale parcel WY-1508-72 (formerly WY-1508-237) included in the August 2015 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale Notice. We submitted comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for this lease sale on February 23, 2015 and these are incorporated by reference.

### **PROTESTING PARTIES**

Clark, Wyoming residents have been negatively impacted by oil and gas development since 1999. In the Line Creek drainage and Line Creek Wilderness Subdivision, on-going groundwater contamination, toxic emissions from production equipment, and serious impacts to residents' health and well being continue. Clark area residents have also experienced negative impacts from the oil and gas development. Clark Resource Council, representing residents and landowners, was founded and affiliated with Powder River Basin Resource Council in 2004, as a result of the exploration and development in the Line Creek drainage, along with a 45 square mile 3-D seismic exploration that threatened the greater Clark community along the Beartooth Front.

### **STATEMENT OF INTEREST**

The Sale Notice for Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sales describes the manner in which protests will be considered. At page ix, the Sale Notice requires that "a protest must state the interest of the protesting party in the matter." We have an interest in preventing the adverse effects leasing parcel WY-1508-072 would have on: 1) quality of life for residents in the Line Creek Wilderness Subdivision and greater Clark area along the Absaroka-Beartooth Front, including residents in Montana and Wyoming; 2) property values in the Line Creek Wilderness Subdivision and greater Clark area along the Absaroka-Beartooth Front, including properties in Montana and Wyoming; 3) quality of groundwater and air quality; 4) the natural environment including important wildlife habitat; and 5) human health. In addition, notification to private surface owners was not given according to the BLM's own rules in the handbook on competitive leases, landowner notification.

### **ADVERSE EFFECTS OF PROPOSED LEASING PARCEL WY-1508-072**

As stated above, there are six reasons why BLM should not offer parcel WY-1508-072 for oil and gas lease sale.

Quality of life for area residents

Protection of property values in the area

Protection of natural resources, including air and water

Protection of the natural environment and wildlife habitat

Protection of human health

Inadequate landowner notification

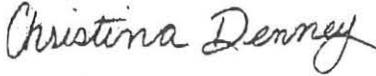
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We appreciate the BLM's consideration of this protest. We ask that parcel WY-1508-072 not be offered at the August oil and gas lease sale.

Sincerely,



Deborah K. Thomas, Line Creek Resident  
920 Road 1AB  
Clark, WY 82435



Christina Denney, Chair  
Clark Resource Council  
457 Road 8VE  
Clark, WY 82435

John C. Mitchell, Line Creek Resident  
143 Louis L'Amour Lane  
Clark, WY. 82435

Sands Dickson, Line Creek Resident  
157 Louis L'Amour  
Clark WY. 82435

John Linebaugh, Line Creek Resident  
177 Louis L'Amour Lane  
Clark, WY 82435

James A. Sonderman, Line Creek Resident  
919 Road 1AB  
Clark WY 82435

James E. Melton, Line Creek Resident  
35 Hoot Owl Tr.  
Clark, WY. 82435

Dick Bilodeau, Line Creek Resident  
920 Road 1AB  
Clark, WY 82435

Pete Dronkers, Area Resident  
29149 Rd M.4  
Delores, CO 81323

John Fenton, Board Director  
Shale Test  
202 Indian Ridge Road  
Pavillion, WY 82523

Bruce Baizel  
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Durango, Colorado 81302

Carbon County Resource Council  
220 South 27th Street, Suite A  
Billings, MT 59101

Jenny Harbine  
Earthjustice  
313 East Main Street.  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Amanda Jashan, Wildlife Energy Conservation Fellow  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
317 East Mendenhall Street, Suites D & E  
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