465 Sandburn Lane
Vienna, IL 62995
February 10, 2017

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Karen Mouritsen
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States Office
20 M Street SE, Suite 950
Washington, D.C. 20003

Re: Protest of the March 23, 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, Wayne National Forest
Dear Director Mouritsen:
I hereby file this Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's ("BLM") planned March 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale and the programmatic Final Environmental Assessment for oil and gas leasing in the Wayne National Forest, Marietta Unit of the Athens Ranger District, Monroe, Noble, and Washington Counties, Ohio (DOI-BLM-Eastern States-0030-2016-0002-EA) ("EA"), pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3. I formally protest the inclusion of each of the 21 parcels, covering 1,186 acres in the Wayne National Forest's Marietta Unit in Monroe County, Ohio: Parcel #: ES-001-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058226 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-002-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058227 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-003-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058228 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-004-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058229 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-005-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058230 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-006-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058231 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-007-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058232 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-008-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058233 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-009-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058234 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-010-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058235 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-011-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058236 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-012-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058237 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-015-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058240 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-018-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058243 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-020-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058249 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-022-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058251 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-023-03/2017 BLM Serial #: OHES 058252 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-025-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058254 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-026-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058255 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-027-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058256 ACQ, Parcel #: ES-028-03/2017BLM Serial #: OHES 058257 ACQ

PROTEST
I. Protesting Party: Contact Information and Interests
This Protest is filed on behalf of Jane E. Miller:

Although I don't live near the Wayne, I do plan to visit it in the future, as I have visited National Forests in 18 states and plan to continue more, including the Wayne.

II. Statement of Reasons as to Why the Proposed Lease Sale Is Unlawful:
BLM's proposed decision to lease the parcels listed above is substantively and procedurally flawed for the reasons discussed below:

The Wayne is one of Ohio's few public forests and should not be industrialized by fracking or oil extraction. The Wayne was created to achieve restoration of streams and forests previously damaged by mining. Years of progress in reclaiming these lands and watersheds must not be reversed by allowing fracking.

Many of the proposed lease parcels are near the Ohio River and its tributaries. Increased transport of fracking chemicals and wastewater via trucks and pipelines, and runoff pollution from new roads and well pads would risk contamination of this drinking water supply for millions of people in Ohio and downstream states. In 2014, a well pad fire in Monroe County near the Wayne resulted in 60,000 gallons of toxic fracking chemicals spilling and contaminating a tributary of the Ohio River. 70,000 fish were killed over a five-mile stretch. Injection of fracking wastewaters underground also poses a risk to groundwater in a state with some of the weakest safeguards against toxic wastewater injection.

Fracking would threaten endangered species such as the Indiana bat. The bat is already overstressed by existing habitat fragmentation, white-nose syndrome, and climate change. Increased habitat destruction, deadly

wastewater pits, and water contamination from fracking activities could devastate bat populations. The Forest Service should be doing all it can to protect precious habitat for the bat and other imperiled species, not allowing oil and gas corporations to raze and pollute the forest.

Fracking has no place in our national forests, and especially not in the Wayne, Ohio's only national forest. Please cancel the lease auction and end all new oil and gas leasing in the Wayne.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Jane E. Miller
Jane E. Miller