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

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2018 FEB -2 A 3:40

Dear Director Mouritsen,

I hereby file this protest of the Bureau of Land Management's planned March 2018 Competitive Oil & 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 and Noble Counties, Ohio – 2 parcels covering 345.49 acres.

ES-004
39.65 acres in Monroe County

EX-005
305.84 acres in Noble County

PROTEST

I. Protesting Party: Eric Engle (304) 488-4384; ericengle85@yahoo.com
This Protest is filed on behalf of: Keep Wayne Wild

II. Statement of Reasons as to Why the Proposed Lease Sale is Unlawful:

The dangers of this leasing in Ohio's only national forest cannot be overstated. On December 22nd, Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt signed Secretarial Order 3360, "effectively throwing out the agency's handbook for minimizing environmental impacts from public land uses – of which oil and gas leases account for 90 percent," to quote from The Hill news publication. The BLM's repeal of the Obama administration's 2015 rule to set standards for the construction of hydraulic fracturing operations on federal land and requiring oil and gas companies to disclose the chemicals used in the process makes this leasing all the more dangerous. The rule was challenged in court and never implemented, but it is absolutely critical. Groundwater and aquifer contamination; increased seismicity from injection wells and drilling into the shale to begin with; hundreds of brine and residual waste trucks running to and from fracking sites; the use and contamination of millions of gallons of fresh water per frack site; forest clearing to build frack pads and the release of

copious amounts of methane at every stage of oil and gas development are all reasons that this extraction should not be taking place on our public lands.
Please do not approve this lease sale for the sake of our precious public lands. Future generations deserve this land to be as pristine and well-preserved for them as it was for us.

Sincerely,

Eric D. Engle

Eric Engle
324 Point Drive
Parkersburg, WV 26101