

**CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY | DINÉ CITIZENS AGAINST RUINING
OUR ENVIRONMENT | FOOD & WATER WATCH | FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
INTERFAITH WORKER JUSTICE NEW MEXICO | NEW ENERGY ECONOMY |
NEW MEXICO INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT | MULTICULTURAL ALLIANCE
FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT | RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK | SIERRA CLUB
| WILDEARTH GUARDIANS**

18 April 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Cancel the 20 April Bureau of Land Management oil and gas lease sale in Santa Fe

Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to urge you to cancel the 20 April 2016 Bureau of Land Management oil and gas lease sale scheduled for Santa Fe, New Mexico.

This lease sale, as do all new federal fossil fuel leases, continues a dangerous disconnect between your administration's climate goals and continued use of our public lands for fossil fuel extraction. Federal leasing of publicly owned fossil fuels contributes significantly to U.S. and global greenhouse gas emissions. Over the past decade, the burning of fossil fuels from federal leasing has resulted in nationally and globally significant greenhouse gas emissions. Despite this pollution and the looming climate threat, your administration continues to lease publicly owned fossil fuels, endangering the health and welfare of communities and the planet.

As you may know, last fall more than 400 organizations and leaders called on your administration to end new federal fossil fuel leasing because the cost of continuing federal fossil fuel leasing to our communities, land, and climate is too high. The science is clear. To maintain a good chance of avoiding catastrophic levels of warming, the world must keep the vast majority of its remaining fossil fuels in the ground. Federal fossil fuels — those that belong to the people and that you control — are the natural place to begin. Each new federal fossil fuel lease opens new deposits for development that should be deemed unburnable. Placing those deposits off limits by stopping new leasing would help further align your administration's energy policy with a safer climate future and global carbon budgets.

Moreover, under your administration the Department of Interior has not attempted to quantify the cumulative greenhouse gas emissions of past and new leasing; nor has it attempted to quantify the potential emissions of remaining unleased federal fossil fuels. This ongoing failure amounts to flying in the dark amidst a dangerous and worsening climate crisis. Independent analyses have shown that (1) over the past decade, the combustion of federal fossil fuels has resulted in nearly a quarter of all U.S. energy-related emissions, (2) about 67 million acres of federal fossil fuels are already leased to industry, representing, as of last year, up to 43 billion tons of potential greenhouse gas pollution, and (3) remaining unleased federal fossil fuels contain up to 450 billion tons of additional potential greenhouse gas pollution.

Here, the Bureau of Land Management's 20 April lease sale continues this dangerous pattern by opening new fossil fuel resources and their resulting greenhouse gas emissions to development. This action is being taken in the absence of any analysis of the direct, indirect and cumulative greenhouse gas emissions. The Council on Environmental Quality, in a 2014 "Revised Draft Guidance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change Impacts," and BLM itself, in 2015 memo entitled "UPDATE Addressing Climate Change under NEPA," provide clear guidance to state and field offices to provide quantitative assessments of greenhouse gas emissions in environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act. Sadly, the Bureau of Land Management continues to ignore these requirements, dismissing the greenhouse gas emissions, climate impacts, and costs to society from this and other fossil fuel development projects as no more than "negligible."

Despite numerous requests and the urgency of this growing problem, the Secretary's Office of the Department of the Interior and the Director's Office of the Bureau of Land Management have not yet acted to provide a full accounting of the climate impacts of the federal oil and gas program and its projects to the American public. That is why we are asking you to intervene.

For these reasons, we urge you to cancel the 20 April Bureau of Land Management oil and gas lease sale scheduled for Santa Fe, New Mexico. Business as usual under the federal oil and gas leasing program is simply no longer a viable option.

Respectfully,

/s/

Taylor McKinnon
Center for Biological Diversity
1536 Wynkoop, Suite 421
Denver CO 80202

Carol Davis, Coordinator
Diné Citizens Against Ruining our Environment
HCR 63 Box272
Dilkon (Navajo Nation), AZ 86047

Eleanor Bravo, Southwest Organizer
Food & Water Watch
7804 Pan American Freeway E NE #2
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Marissa Knodel, Climate Campaigner
Friends of the Earth
1101 15th St NW, Floor 11
Washington, D.C. 20011

The Rev. Holly Beaumont, D. Min., Organizing Director
Interfaith Worker Justice - NM
PO Box 23468
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Mariel Nanasi, Executive Director
New Energy Economy
343 East Alameda
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Joan Brown, Executive Director
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
PO Box 27162
Albuquerque, NM 87125

Susan Gordon, Coordinator
Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE)
P.O. Box 4524
Albuquerque, NM 87196

Ruth Breech, Senior Campaigner Climate & Energy
Rainforest Action Network
425 Bush St. Ste 300
San Francisco, CA 94108

Alex Renirie
Sierra Club
1807 2nd St. #45
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Rebecca Sobel, Senior Climate & Energy Campaigner
WildEarth Guardians
516 Alto St.
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Cc:

Sally Jewell, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Neil Kornze, Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Amy Lueders, State Director
New Mexico State Office
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
301 Dinosaur Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87508