

MARILYN K. KIRKPATRICK  
Madam Chair



*Board of County Commissioners*

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October 8, 2019

Bureau of Land Management  
Attn: Tiera Arbogast  
702 North Industrial Way  
Ely, NV 89301

RE: Protest to BLM Decision for November 2019 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale: DOI-BLM-NV-L000-2019-0004-EA in Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine Counties

Dear Ms. Arbogast,

It has been brought to my attention that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has made the decision to move forward with a competitive sale of oil and gas leases in Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine counties, Nevada. The parcels that are being made available for competitive lease are located within Hydrographic Basin 222, which serves as the primary source of culinary water for the City of Mesquite.

An oil or gas lease within Hydrographic Basin 222 could put at risk the drinking water for this entire community, including 1 million tourists that visit the city each year. While the benefits versus risks of modern oil and gas extraction practices are still being debated in the public sphere, I believe that any potential for impact to drinking water sources is simply unacceptable. Accidents are not uncommon during extraction efforts and the parcels up for competitive leases are located directly above and up-gradient from the water system that serves the City of Mesquite and its 1 million visitors.

The community has expressed a strong desire that oil and gas leases not be doled out in their back yard; the City Council of Mesquite has unanimously passed a resolution opposing the competitive leases and the Virgin Valley Water District has sent letters to your office in protest of these sales. Our citizens deserve a safe and secure supply of drinking water. It is with utmost urgency that I respectfully request you reconsider the competitive sale of oil and gas leases within Hydrographic Basin 222.

Should you wish to discuss further, please don't hesitate to contact me. We look forward to working with the BLM further on this matter.

Sincerely

Marilyn Kirkpatrick  
Chair County Commission

cc: John Raby, BLM Nevada State Director  
Jared Bybee, Associate District Manager, Ely District