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Governor Michael DeWine

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Hydraulic Fracturing on Public Lands

Dear Governor DeWine:

 I am writing to urge you to issue an executive order to end high-pressure hydraulic fracturing (fracking) on public lands in Ohio—that is, to do what your predecessor, Governor John Kasich, did while he was in office.

 It was deceitful and dishonest that the Ohio Legislature buried this issue of fracking on public lands in a poultry bill, HB 507. Such an act left this issue of fracking on public lands under the radar and not eligible for public hearings.

 Now it is up to the Oil & Gas Land Management Commission to approve or deny these “nominations” from oil & gas companies, which have been pouring in like the 1849 California gold rush. The major targets for these nominations are Salt Fork State Park and Wolf Run State Park. It is quite likely that at their November 15 meeting the Commission will approve these nominations.

 I am aware that you have restricted these companies from drilling on Ohio public lands themselves. But even with the (minimal) setbacks required, there will be considerable health and environmental risks with this industrialized activity immediately adjacent to our state parks and other public lands. Each fracking well will required millions of gallons of fresh water, presumably to be drawn from the watersheds of these lands. Truck traffic from the import of sand, harmful chemicals and water and from he export of brine waste will be augmented. There will be more noise, air pollution, and light pollution from these fracking activities. As a resident of eastern Ohio and one who has frequented the two state parks mentioned above, I am highly concerned about this issue.