**Email Alert from Save Ohio Parks Sunday, March 17, 2024**

Greetings to supporters of Ohio's state parks, wildlife areas, and public lands:

We write today with a recap of two events on February 26, as well as three new action alerts. Read on for more!

**Commission selects bids to frack Salt Fork, wildlife areas**

First, on February 26, the Oil and Gas Land Management Commission met to consider bids to frack Salt Fork State Park, Valley Run Wildlife Area, Zepernick Wildlife Area, and several parcels of Ohio Department of Transportation land.

Given that the meeting was moved to Ohio State Police headquarters, we expected a strong police presence. So we adapted our tactics to a silent protest that included The Lamentors, seen above carrying messages of what the climate crisis -- caused by ever more drilling, fracking, and mining -- will bring.

As our members and supporters wore No Fracking T-shirts, carried banners, and held up photos of children and grandchildren, the Lamentors walked silently through the meeting. We could not stop the commissioners from awarding our parks and wildlife areas to the highest bidder, but we could make it as uncomfortable for them as possible.

Although the names of the fracking companies bidding on our parks were secret, once the bids were awarded, the companies and their entire bids became public. Here are the results:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Nomination** | **Location** | **Bid Winner** |
| 23-DNR-0001 | Valley Run Wildlife Area | Encino Acquisition Partners |
| 23-DNR-0002 | Valley Run Wildlife Area | Encino Acquisition Partners |
| 23-DNR-0003 | Valley Run Wildlife Area | Encino Acquisition Partners |
| 23-DNR-0004 | Zepernick Wildlife Area | Encino Acquisition Partners |
| 23-DNR-0005 | Salt Fork State Park | None |
| 23-DNR-0006 | Salt Fork State Park | Infinity Natural Resources Ohio |
| 23-DNR-0007 | Salt Fork State Park | Infinity Natural Resources Ohio |

You can find a line-up of [selected bids](https://click.actionnetwork.org/ss/c/u001.yjJN_MEbNx94PLaWzZ6hW3AcLdoIXqiydODQ3TbrC8W-Q5Ks8UXL1Ra-8UNbjOFU0zB1pFldJCiGDU4ua0nIcsXUi-68TOhjyHAXAP0FBcn1ikCOwMwwHMIv9tCnjepMn4TRv7JPUk_boWlTTIcKY3eD63xF0JBK9LNArYk7hYFCVKaht6ONpmEMVq_6V7rnAzW2ATlNc37qhGbFfKz4iN9Hpu8tY7-z3oG9vROs_Rzm11RJZ5nVoZ37DtNjd_iHnU9CVHNGHT0EX7MnhOae3RqsAc8EsOF6HPsJ8TAK6WI9QDSdJxemm1JeJ3m62EdECO4rtz9_Po3EwtULX2dqNnWLAb69sKq71U6qO8uBfm8nc0vGh93zfVTFxhNYsowJuVJlccFE9ZCEeObymyJjVg/44q/OAK2hayCRime3ELT1yDJZQ/h0/h001.f8b2Wd3Fo43A0MEUkQIrKAlejccacBxSb5L2KtPL0W0) on the commission website, as well as all the [bid documents](https://click.actionnetwork.org/ss/c/u001.s333gSbyhQmXsyCO3lhAD23CVzriRyHTzX0TE-CMStwOVrF8_QThBN9XjegqLxpDvHaxroTGZAOXlqDxGmS3s8FDF7lFvI09KBAfHYjqH8MpcDQsp69fNjp6p93mkR1qNe-BBNGjbvVDu4Ubx9L1bgrxRxdr6VPwOyIhbn26w1EZsFF4kK6k5SqznRmFQj3-kGPiiprZKTk5nGyBmeMTeJTgN_12lMhny7CTgPtuift4eHT0hEUsEhY96hKPy9POoq3e5DTGr1YTPjicLtxf-s1PDSt-U6pPLjhz9INzEwPIBTY4HYdc1R3CynuJ3fKrmzDSR5mDhYtMRxt9boiJg5zhMgKwehhIzbfYXAk2VFLEyEhAsc2Cqx3QTtvYioQntdO3QlaooEiELi93STXAAP7CPkVrI65A9I5IAasV51A/44q/OAK2hayCRime3ELT1yDJZQ/h1/h001.kgsJ32rksweX3A1mln51-XjpjG-AtsgwcGXnixEnOo4) for each nomination.

**Insure Our Future rally**

After the sadness of watching the Oil and Gas Land Management Commissioners decide who to sell our parks and wildlife areas to, we moved to a more empowering event, gathering on the public High Street sidewalk in front of Nationwide Insurance to tell them to insure our future, not fossil fuels.

Nationwide, like almost all large insurance companies, is abandoning policyholders in climate vulnerable states while investing heavily in fossil fuels that cause the climate crisis. According to the [Investing in Climate Chaos](https://click.actionnetwork.org/ss/c/u001.T4f1s0H8aL8dqpmq959YtAKD9mJIsVJ4YN6th_GGUADV9W-3a1wJWtVvVSbkrx97Rn6Gn08V8Z021XIDGmLBYvgNbeSQt22I6PVHPyMEQYQOiSk05bGyP0HNzSVfbcuVn_1dzA8oBtn6CECKtmUF-57Tu_U3kFtRytTiueSAnKrrsjqi3BzmAsHnhZAgWdpSbVdfDUJhhyqwy9zrnI5I8OwKffVP8_v3e6kSCQDwsHnI55bBBhbMBD1Kw1NKh0E7hJATKICQl1tFp-P5ACLk0uK4for4XDmAXV8cDkhYAFY/44q/OAK2hayCRime3ELT1yDJZQ/h2/h001.BNTxoGU2KaaIE0iXAtp6CRTSyFAdMs5CBT3EUzJCJLg) database, Nationwide invests $4.5 billion in fossil fuels. Yet they recently dropped 10,000 policyholders in coastal North Carolina.

At our rally, co-sponsored by Third Act Ohio, we heard from several speakers about the climate and insurance crisis, along with music by Jenny Morgan. We held banners and posters, and everyone signed a letter to Kirt Walker, the CEO of Nationwide.

**Special note**  
Now that the bid documents for oil and gas companies trying to frack our parks have become public, we can identify the insurance companies making this possible. Without insurance, fracking companies can't operate. Sadly, a lot of major companies are willing to provide this insurance, including:

* Arch Insurance Company
* Lloyd's of London
* Travelers Insurance
* Liberty Mutual Insurance
* Ace American Insurance
* Markel Insurance

If you have personal property insurance with any of these companies, it's time to switch. Look for a regional mutual insurance company in your area.

**Three new action alerts**

The Insure Our Future rally was part of a global week of action, with 105 events in 31 countries on five continents. There were also 476,000 digital actions -- which you can still join!

**Act Now:**  
[**Tell Big Insurance: Stop profiting off fossil fuels while leaving customers holding the bag**](https://click.actionnetwork.org/ss/c/u001.qUXRBnqZ7T8nxbpAcIVwoY50w7k8fc_PFNKBsAfCnmVejkOyJvIebG71XPDNeL32PCe-77U9ZGQLYI2uTIBL1BIutg6FLItpDsCy-N3Mzz4KqOqz54eSE9Vmo99gE19Vjr25WeixNyQCjOrHjko1FYZUhpE0GnpOi-iVJOlV6VzVBPAP7E3ZoE4CNx1qBhwe6qFafRHxNVSEUMtpOISQT1fDJsVwtCWNtcec3B03-9q8l0-mWhRfzrhhPKGmW7ICVGzjjxKhVFhDeuTq0Cb1J71mJTsOd_XcF99EGtVaTVG5TjmM3le3rYDg5DjFEQfh/44q/OAK2hayCRime3ELT1yDJZQ/h3/h001.IxisFgRYSWnnV4v6WonbM1wJBrzYXb5otym5vS67D7I)

This letter goes to over 70 executives at eight large insurance companies, telling them to stop dropping customers and raising rates while investing heavily in fossil fuels. Nationwide isn't the only company doing this:

* Berkshire Hathaway, which owns **Geico** and AMGuard, has pulled all agents from California while investing $46.2 billion in fossil fuels. CEO Warren Buffett says climate should not play any part in business decision making.
* **State Farm** will no longer renew any policies in California, while investing $18.2 billion in fossil fuels.
* **Allstate** is no longer writing policies in California while investing $2.5 billion in fossil fuels.
* **Liberty Mutual** is dropping coverage for businesses in California while investing $1.5 billion in fossil fuels.

[**This letter**](https://click.actionnetwork.org/ss/c/u001.qUXRBnqZ7T8nxbpAcIVwoY50w7k8fc_PFNKBsAfCnmVejkOyJvIebG71XPDNeL32PCe-77U9ZGQLYI2uTIBL1J5nmsr2EZM7rJLeLTSb34y9lSP5kemhvDI9StBSNSVZYhVWYhn4KD__LJv3sZkltEjNVZIAeW4VRFOr3cSjhibodIIe9NYoqRnA4tMg9iNMuMics2eJTRE2zJ-NGTHcd6Hlj9KXt4qIAdnjm9vkKZHxztumFiSG48f3Ghneokn9Ycx57FvdD-ugQdXoHTh-kei18FK-zZXvNGqKhiLkeii80_EL39DUhVtGnlASbzdE/44q/OAK2hayCRime3ELT1yDJZQ/h4/h001.9gkIhDtbJ9lK61yKg7FU7TpIXEw2PBVAILdl_OF0bVA) goes to executives at all these companies, telling them to insure our future, not fossil fuels!

**Two more wildlife areas nominated for fracking**

Directly on the heels of awarding fracking bids for Salt Fork, Valley Run, and Zepernick, the Oil and Gas Land Management Commission has posted two new nominations: **Egypt Valley Wildlife Area** in Belmont County, and **Keen Wildlife Area** in Harrison County.

**Act Now:**[**Tell the commission: No fracking in Egypt Valley Wildlife Area**](https://click.actionnetwork.org/ss/c/u001.iIBo0N5fSFzEFL40Tn-vtfOvmeTy0BoHGDawfGPprNCebXkkC1Z_LkrqM-fJ5U0mFV0XLsIbOcw0cSwRG5hf4M0MwhGIC5Om2vIMVjqpg5KOSz9E5E7XRmM3VDeSzp2YPhmq6X1hY9YeLWkrRpL-6ZVzqvk6OuVySeBZET9e9ubn-jMkTQdauNxLEhrNdC_Px_hHuMFZpjrtilkx74AFGGHUVoFHF14Pa1BZ2ErmgpMhcYmfJs5mbo3O5gzwQOdjxH2fVUpjuUrp89VJ_0KmSD5sl4QBxm56N0ZcDunjMGUeS_5Hg0_ld5ohhLClntiC4zMXEkyhuMF6Oo67icK4jf570vWemDJjkEo2P3IKg__ySmLFWSxWRZds9N0zdoPQ/44q/OAK2hayCRime3ELT1yDJZQ/h5/h001.QcDmuzK2GxNmr5Lp-DTUrHkniH_IM0aNQ04D-PcautY)

Egypt Valley Wildlife Area is over 18,000 acres, donated mostly by The Conservation Fund, and expanded in partnership with groups like Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Ruffed Grouse Society. The land was surface mined for decades, but is now recovering. It is a haven for people and wildlife alike, featuring the large Piedmont Lake.

None of this is compatible with fracking. To submit a public comment, go to the new [**Nomination Comment Form**](https://click.actionnetwork.org/ss/c/u001.yjJN_MEbNx94PLaWzZ6hW6JgAJk_08EN-WMV08xnfAu3ghxOssIVyOwf0fWr1cQp2Zrukn4DSBuJmc55Og6Plhwgd2jf0A87uJScfpyBzJKLklW5RenowrVpT2N5rHRqJ8xSnelIpQu0UL6MVoVgMHDpM3tqrjjsBZS9dUkgg8xWYP4cbStqPnrRrzn-kCdb04Z9tIrUlTKI2ElS1PweqkFUnwN-kvHrlFBziLD9tl9QR_4QT4iasuMr01OEnVs0S0ZXvuq7ZuT3A25pOhzzdG7ex30N7hGUYJvkCZrJ52TD2HhxaoysnW9qBZWd66k-xGbpRkZ5q92r0fHTEmMWYA/44q/OAK2hayCRime3ELT1yDJZQ/h6/h001.66ngtTND5e0nJkOcZK3T_EIiRoQE-eAKZoEASvFWV1g), select Nomination #24-DNR-0001, and let the commissioners know you oppose fracking at Egypt Valley Wildlife Area. [Find a sample letter here](https://click.actionnetwork.org/ss/c/u001.iIBo0N5fSFzEFL40Tn-vtfOvmeTy0BoHGDawfGPprNCebXkkC1Z_LkrqM-fJ5U0mFV0XLsIbOcw0cSwRG5hf4M0MwhGIC5Om2vIMVjqpg5KOSz9E5E7XRmM3VDeSzp2Ya-P7nBprUAXbSzJ673BTQ3A4n31yMvRMbiwcj7Ax9HJrnndx5gep5FM_WaSf-bcH5hZ1FDKkI-iqroGzuRxHq1e5n_3dN5RzxmZIMgfK5WMfYtVGeA-Gy8BuVsNmxnsKcD47UuyoGAy0IjvHCPg68aKVMaMAJeql9_Dr33_WR1BuuGM_t_7ZgsC0BX488imhIzX16gTd-2ObZowEJExNVwny_21B97dSPFE5Tv-YsJmFaxujmlQ2JE90_WGoaptS/44q/OAK2hayCRime3ELT1yDJZQ/h7/h001.GFHDJcQ71Vrc1Z8xZdYxcNpsuwUCGDYj7HoQqtw3KmA).

**Act Now:**[**Tell the commission: No fracking in Keen Wildlife Area**](https://click.actionnetwork.org/ss/c/u001.iIBo0N5fSFzEFL40Tn-vtfOvmeTy0BoHGDawfGPprNAiDpEHGt5jryG5fmeUk9uCCcpI3aesZIb8r9ZZ2JN0F8S2s9jJGc2YdE8O0PLOVw4CBeWwKAgsrUgq5TCrAc268uhNLPBdagreT5jNcwmbKQ2zjiGFt_4JeH8Tt_aC4SIFWXe-R_4_TFyBJMEfFqgJFLc6wCNC1dx2ONUJDc1WmPwz8el4VoyR74MB1BqGdBkabR3gsFBrqs6ab5o2I7Do9pWR9USc3YQ8tM44gjAD0-Igkf3i75xDqL-7vnLHCWxtWgac9ZGPDtpu54qQ5ZHrjcXgfr5EQW0cnbmj0iM8HdZ3l2Ipq8tJrFzHRYjmRXQ/44q/OAK2hayCRime3ELT1yDJZQ/h8/h001.A1ZCCnhGXnYTWljrGQulCU-j6LUfW_TPGGdkT1432sU)

Keen Wildlife Area is 84 acres donated by the estate of Mrs. Margaret Keen. Management is supposed to include protection and improvement of existing woodlands to maintain biodiversity. Major activities include hunting, hiking, bird watching, and nature study.

None of this is compatible with fracking. To submit a public comment, go to the new [**Nomination Comment Form**](https://click.actionnetwork.org/ss/c/u001.yjJN_MEbNx94PLaWzZ6hW6JgAJk_08EN-WMV08xnfAu3ghxOssIVyOwf0fWr1cQp2Zrukn4DSBuJmc55Og6Plhwgd2jf0A87uJScfpyBzJK7FkL7Ho2gN4x7hnbPLEI50e5NgpdRICx15_6KuqRGETQq8HmuhzuwjuLobNBM6_I9KiXGv1WDWNDKKOjZEZpfeLZrTfJ_pkjmgyMxClJJUoeCECYHzIdN14e2unVViMKNnd0ANiNDmhsziN61_c91GgipKTAP1vMTwZzoZlJ0det9xBpx2evNXbhIatRhK5Ctj6P6ZI8RBfpB7S55-3ZjixhZMl_XBedYKNgM2s3zjg/44q/OAK2hayCRime3ELT1yDJZQ/h9/h001.hwnEAeLLbYph0eaym23Q21t4XH2D0ZNjjkTo91WjHGo), select Nomination #24-DNR-0002, and let the commissioners know you oppose fracking at Keen Wildlife Area. [Find a sample letter here](https://click.actionnetwork.org/ss/c/u001.iIBo0N5fSFzEFL40Tn-vtfOvmeTy0BoHGDawfGPprNAiDpEHGt5jryG5fmeUk9uCCcpI3aesZIb8r9ZZ2JN0F8S2s9jJGc2YdE8O0PLOVw4CBeWwKAgsrUgq5TCrAc266GuUfe7oLjnOy3NOJTWxO_N5BJmG-vPUsTdOnuQuio-pTqwMfJazycK3XACX1IPt8I_Ykfmud-ld4hojwbMoBMfCQh0lukeUEYkM0fJzchc47q4bkgLCjEpsio5I8cxmq0gIbw3OWqslJFmPMg2gCPWnhS1WBAUkWGq7nVwlyT1rfIs42-SZQE587b7mSl78BByDJa1JTB0E6C1wVbTWcfD8_RxWcJkR2fAlwjmnob0/44q/OAK2hayCRime3ELT1yDJZQ/h10/h001.aaivVGNGlNuJ8XGygTsT8cgDSxQdBs1W3J6gwn4GKpI).

Thank you for continuing to stand up for Ohio's state parks, wildlife areas, and public lands!