

Hi Mr. Scardina: Yesterday I attended a public hearing at the Athens Community Center in the hopes of being able to tell you face-to-face why I oppose fracking in the Wayne and to ask you to not give consent for drilling. But you were not there – in spite of multiple invitations.

I am extremely disappointed that you decided not to come – as it shows the deep disrespect you have for public opinion – and your lack of commitment to fulfilling the duties of your job – protecting the Wayne National Forest and the people who enjoy its beauty.

I have always worried that southern Ohio is beautiful only because no one has figured out how to exploit it – but now the oil and gas industry has done just that and you are evidently too intimidated by their political power to listen and react to the concerns of the people you serve.

I shake my head over the substance-free EA report and the fact that you have rejected or failed to examine current evidenced-based studies on the impact of fracking and frack waste on health and on the environment. You ask for peer reviewed studies yet don't produce them yourself. You are given peer reviewed studies and you ignore them.

Yes, the hearing was after 5:00 p.m. But your job does not stop at 5:00. You are responsible for the Wayne 24/7. You owed us an audience and you bailed. But we will not shut up – and we will not go away.

As tax payer and 45-year resident of Athens, I am asking you to do your job – and do it well. Deny consent to frack in the Wayne. Thank you. NC

Nancy Cooper
Coordinator, Health Policy Fellowship
Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine