

Carolers' message to Mr. Anthony Scardina, Dec. 21, 2015

Season's Greetings, Mr. Scardina,

This is not how we would like to be spending our holidays, which should be about the light of hope and the life-giving sun returning. Instead we come to bring you coal that must be buried for the sake of our future and to remind you that our community demands that you "care for the land and serve the people" and say no to fracking our forest. Your present course of considering leasing is illegal and dangerous. Do you really want to be known as the person who made the decision that will poison our air and water and destroy our community's economy?

As thousands of petition signatures and letters delivered to the Wayne in 2011, 2012, and this fall attest, our community says, **NO FRACKING OUR FOREST!** We have presented abundant documentation of the risks of fracking (and more is of course now available than when we last addressed the issue with Ms. Carey in 2012), which your last NEPA document, your 2006 Forest Plan, did not assess. **The Forest Service must withhold consent.**

- Fracking was not considered in the 2006 Wayne National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Plan). The Wayne's inadequate 2012 Supplemental Information Report, undertaken after community opposition got the 2011 lease sale canceled, violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by not including public input and is not a NEPA-based process. **The FS must undertake a full NEPA-based environmental review of the impacts of fracking on our forest, community, and climate before considering consent. This review must take into account all the new information** – from peer-reviewed studies, the EPA fracking study, NY's evaluation of fracking, and incident reports of the explosions, fires, and toxic, radioactive releases that have occurred at frack sites and frackwaste operations in Ohio and elsewhere, contaminating air and water and threatening drinking water supplies.
- **Doing this research will make it abundantly clear that fracking will have significant negative impacts on our community's air, water, and local economies as well as on the climate and must be rejected for these reasons.**
- Climate change is a crisis with no equal. It demands immediate and decisive action. We support legislation recently introduced into the U.S. Congress that would ban the development of all publicly owned fossil fuels, such as those underneath Wayne National Forest. #keepitintheground
- **Our community has said loudly and clearly, over and over, "We say NO! Do the research. No consent!"**

Carolers of Athens County