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First name: Ellen

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good Afternoon,

Please prohibit and ban all leasing or sales of land in the Ruby Mountains.

Please prohibit and ban all oil or gas drilling, of any kind, including fracking anywhere in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests or BLM public land in Nevada.

Water is a precious resource around the world and country, but particularly, here in Nevada, as you know. We are prone to droughts and water shortages here in the Great Basin Desert. On top of it, water rights are already scarce, competitive and expensive. The water we have in Nevada and in the Great Basin must be protected for the sake of our citizens' public health, both the present and future generations. If we want safe drinking water we must prohibit leasing of the land.

The allowance of land leasing and oil and gas drilling, especially fracking would pollute our water and is a largely unregulated business that puts the whole environment at risk. In addition to the need to protect drinking water, we must also stop this in order to prevent more frequent and intense earthquakes, which could rise if leasing and drilling is allowed. Again, Nevada is an active geological area and prone to the real consequences of gas and oil drilling.

I voice these concerns as a local citizen. I also voice them as an educated professional who works in the environmental health field as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist with a BA in Environmental Studies.

Finally, the Ruby Mountains are a beautiful, pristine wilderness area, often referred to as Little Tahoe by locals. Allowing this business would ruin the current recreational and business opportunities that the Rubies currently provide with their wild, remote beauty. I believe it would also endanger species that call this land their home such as the protected sage grouse, Lahontan cut-throat trout and other endangered and threatened species. No species should have their habitat further threatened. I frequently visit this area and do not want to see oil or gas derricks.

Please research and consider all of these concerns.

Please prohibit and ban all leasing or sales of land in the Ruby Mountain and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in order to protect our water, land and the public's health.

Thank you,

Ellen Kunz

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