

From: [Elaine Brett](#)
To: [Stallings, William](#)
Subject: RE: Civil Action No. 12-cv-00395-RPM-MEH
Date: Saturday, April 21, 2012 12:27:14 AM

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Ragged Mountain Gas Drilling Tract near Paonia, CO

Mr. Stallings:

I know what it is like to live in the Washington D.C. area. My husband and I spent our careers for nearly 30 years working in and with the Federal Government while living in suburban Maryland. In my career, I contracted with the DOD, NSA, NIH, VA, DOJ, the State Department, the US Capitol, the Smithsonian, GSA and other government organizations.

In 2005, I made the decision to leave the D.C. area to come to Western Colorado. Here in the North Fork Valley, the towns of Hotchkiss, Crawford and Paonia offer what DC residents only dream about – clean air, no traffic, quiet settings, healthy food, beautiful mountain views, plenty of outdoor recreation opportunities, starry skies and a great community of caring people.

Little did I know that I would find myself in the middle of an anti-trust suit against Gunnison Energy Company (GEC) and SG Interests (SGI), federal land swaps favoring an opportunistic billionaire (William I. Koch), and heinous BLM Oil and Gas leases that will put an end to the agriculture and recreation that our community and its visitors love.

I understand that your office is handling the anti-trust suit. The case is Civil Action No. 12-cv-00395-RPM-MEH. I also understand that a minor penalty has been assessed against GEC and SGI. While a penalty is justified, the companies have been allowed to proceed with leasing of the federal lands and with the opportunity to commence with drilling. The low bids that occurred meant that the federal government, the state of Colorado, and the local counties and municipalities got less money than they would have if the four lease sales had been conducted competitively. We all know that drilling for and production of gas puts a tremendous burden on government through roads, regulations, public health and the like. And now we learn that the companies that would put that burden on our communities acted to reduce how much money we would get to deal with these impacts.

I ask the Department of Justice to set aside the proposed settlement, to vigorously investigate the other BLM auctions these companies have participated in, and at a minimum to revoke the four leases that the Department of Justice alleges were obtained in an illegal manner. It is not fair that the two gas companies should violate the law and then get to keep the leases. In addition, the two companies own many leases in the area the DOJ has not investigated whether they obtained those other leases properly. They remain in good standing with the BLM, and may be planning to bid on upcoming lease sales.

Rural America is being devastated by the actions of companies like GEC and SGI. Farmers and ranchers and small towns are disappearing as a result of the unfair advantage of oil and gas companies. People like me, who have served this country, sought a quieter, simpler life away from the Beltway, will have nowhere else to go.

I look forward to your response and willingness to engage and find ways promote justice and to save these special places in our country.

Sincerely,

Elaine M. Brett

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