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April 17, 2012

William H. Stallings, Chief, Transportation, Energy and Agriculture Section  
Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice  
450 Fifth Street, N.W., Suite 8000  
Washington, DC 20530

RE: Civil Action No. No. 12-cv-00395-RPM-MEH

Dear Sir:

When a former vice president of Gunnison Energy named Anthony Gale filed a whistleblower lawsuit, the US Department of Justice (DOJ) entered the lawsuit on anti-trust grounds and has offered a settlement under which the two firms pay fines of \$275,000 each and keep the four gas leases. These leases presumably will someday be drilled and fracked in Colorado's beautiful Ragged Mountain Basin.

We are asking the Department of Justice to set aside this settlement and seek a harsher judgment. There are many reasons to do so:

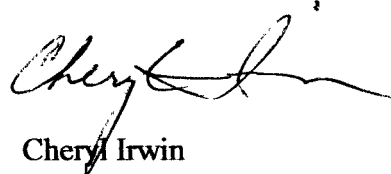
1. The companies continue to maintain their innocence, saying that they settled only to save on legal fees. Therefore, the settlement has not served to deter further actions of this kind by them.
2. In Utah, where a man named Tim DeChristopher disrupted a BLM gas lease sale as a protest and not for monetary gain, the DOJ asked for and got a hefty fine and jail time. Mr. DeChristopher is serving two years in federal prison. The unequal application of justice by the same two federal agencies undermines respect for the law.
3. It is not fair that the two gas companies should violate the law and then get to keep the leases.
4. The two companies own many leases in the area and so far as I can tell, 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.

Please do not let moneyed gas and oil companies get away with antitrust actions and environmental degradation.

Sincerely



Lawrence Ribnick



Cheryl Irwin