

Mr. William H. Stallings
Chief, Transportation, Energy and Agriculture Section
Antitrust Division
United States Department of Justice
450 Fifth Street, NW - Suite 8000
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Violations of Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act

Dear Mr. Stallings:

On December 19, 2008, Tim DeChristopher participated as a bidder in the auction of 116 parcels of public land. He believed the land belonged to the people and that the auction was illegal and immoral. The auction was indeed later found to be illegal. On July 26, 2011, he was sentenced to two years in prison, and a \$10,000 fine.

On February 15, 2012, the Department of Justice reached a settlement with Gunnison Energy and SG Interests to the tune of \$550,000 for violating Section 1 of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. In committing a blatant act of illegal backroom dealing, the two corporations agreed not to bid against one another in order to keep the price of the land cheap. Each company is expected to pay \$275,000. For companies that make billions of dollars a year, this is like giving a pre-schooler a timeout (less, actually, as a pre-schooler will understand and feel shame for their actions, while the same cannot be said for the two corporations). Even more outrageous—they were allowed to keep their oil and gas leases.

Even setting aside the motivations of both parties, DeChristopher and the companies, it is fair to say that both committed acts that are illegal. And yet, one party is incarcerated for two years, a punishment that is meant to deter and scare, and the other party receives what for them is just barely a slap on the wrist. Taking into account the motivations renders these punishments even more outrageous. DeChristopher committed an act of civil disobedience in an effort to protect the lands from illegitimate acquisition. Gunnison and SG acted out of pure self-interest and greed, cheating the American public out of millions of dollars.

Since Gunnison and SG were convicted of civil crimes not punishable with jail time, I ask that you fine them with an amount that is proportional to Tim DeChristopher's fine. Based on that, Gunnison and SG should be fined roughly 400 million dollars (based on 2006 reported profits, \$275,000 is only about 0.017% of their profits). This would make an actual difference in their pockets and send the message that what they did was deplorable, immoral and intolerable to the American people.

Sincerely,

Mary Woo

