



**Minority Leader
C. Allison Russo**

November 14, 2023

The Honorable Dave Yost
Office of the Attorney General
30 E. Broad St., 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Follow-up letter regarding alleged fraudulent use of people's identity in the Oil and Gas Land Management Commission (OGLMC) public comment process

Dear Attorney General Yost:

As a follow-up to my September 11, 2023 letter, I am requesting you and your office prudently and swiftly update the public concerning the investigation regarding the alleged criminal misconduct perpetrated on dozens of Ohioans who say their names were used without their permission on letters sent to the [Oil and Gas Land Management Commission \(OGLMC\)](#), urging oil and gas exploration in Ohio's state parks.

A thorough investigation is imperative, so Ohioans have confidence that any state process meant to include public input is, in fact, functioning to reflect public opinion and not another conduit for public corruption. Allowing the OGLMC approval process to be overrun by potential fraud is unacceptable, and the Attorney General's Office, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and the commission should not passively continue to stand by and await more individuals to discover their names and other personal information were used to author fake public comments.

We have a series of questions covering your investigation we would like to see answered as soon as possible:

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- How many subpoenas have been delivered thus far in your investigation?
- Has your investigation uncovered additional Ohioans who have had their names used without their permission on letters sent to OGLMC?
- Has your investigation uncovered additional unethical or illegal methods to persuade the OGLMC approval process?
- Has your investigation uncovered additional unethical or illegal methods to persuade any other OGLMC or ODNR approval process?
- Has your investigation uncovered additional unethical or illegal methods to persuade any other state agencies' approval process?

It's prudent that the public have the answers to these questions immediately as the OGLMC is set to meet tomorrow, Wednesday, November 15th, to make a decision on whether to open thousands of acres of Ohio state parks and other state lands for oil and gas exploration.

We all should continue to seek to improve public confidence in our state agencies and ensure criminal activity does not permeate our state approval processes.

I look forward to your timely response to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



C. Allison Russo
Minority Leader
Ohio House District 7