

March 7, 2016

President Santa J. Ono, PhD  
University of Cincinnati  
Office of the President  
**2600 Clifton Avenue**  
PO Box 210063  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0041



Dear Dr. Ono:

We are the National Association of Royalty Owners; a 35 year old organization that works to educate and represent the interests of the estimated 8-12 million American citizens who own and get paid royalty income from producing oil and gas operations on their private property. About 70% of the lower 48 United States mineral estate is owned by private individuals. In 2012 it was estimated that about 81% of the natural gas and 77% of the oil produced in this country was produced on privately owned mineral property.


It has come to our attention that the University of Cincinnati (UC) Department of Geology has recently completed a scientific study of natural gas drilling and any associated groundwater contamination. We have watched a YouTube video where Dr. Amy Townsend-Small, a University of Cincinnati assistant professor of geology, announced the study results and that they had found no contamination or even communication between the drilling and completion process and the groundwater in the area. Professor Townsend-Small even states that the higher concentrations of methane occurred in wells farther away from the gas wells.

We have been told that at least part of the funding for the tools required to conduct this study was from a federal government source which would require the study results to be made available to the public through proper channels, such as publication in peer-reviewed journal, and online data repositories.

With little in the way of real scientific study results you can imagine our members across the country will be very interested in the final, published study as most of what we hear about drilling and production is wrapped with hearsay, innuendo and outright lies. To our knowledge, the only access to this study's finding is through the Carroll County Concerned Citizens website. Our nationwide members should not be forced to visit a bias website to obtain these results.

We therefore seek a copy of the published study results and/or a public announcement and release of a final report ASAP by the University of Cincinnati.

Thank you for your cooperation,



Jerry R. Simmons  
Executive Director