# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

IN RE:	§	
	§	Chapter 11
	§	-
RAAM GLOBAL ENERGY COMPANY,	§	Case No. 15-35615
ET AL.	§	
	§	
Debtors.	§	Jointly Administered
	§	•

LIMITED OBJECTION OF HARRIS COUNTY, JASPER COUNTY, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, AND ORANGE COUNTY TO DEBORS' SECOND AMENDED JOINT PLAN OF LIQUIDATION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 110F THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

(Docket #263)

To the Honorable Marvin Isgur, United States Bankruptcy Judge:

**NOW COME**, Harris County, Jasper County, Montgomery County and Orange County (the "Taxing Authorities"), secured creditors in the above-numbered and styled bankruptcy case, and files this limited objection to *Debtors' Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code* (the "Plan"), and respectfully represent:

- 1. The Taxing Authorities are political subdivisions of the State of Texas.
- 2. The Taxing Authorities hold pre-petition claims in the amount of \$440,098.34 for tax year 2015 on Debtors' property located in the respective counties. The property taxes were duly assessed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and constitute valid, liquidated, secured claims against the Debtors' property entitled to priority over other secured claims.
- 3. The laws of the State of Texas, Property Tax Code §32.05(b), give the tax liens securing the property superiority over any other claim or lien against the property.

The Taxing Authorities' claims are for ad valorem taxes assessed against the Debtors on January 1 of each year pursuant to Texas Property Tax Code §§ 32.01 and 32.07. The taxes are secured by first priority liens on the property of the Debtors pursuant to Tex. Prop. Tax Code §32.05. The Taxing Authorities' liens take priority over the claim of any holder of a lien on property encumbered by the tax lien, whether or not the debt or lien existed before the attachment of the tax lien. See Texas Property Tax Code § 32.05 (b); See also Central Appraisal District of Taylor County v. Dixie-Rose Jewels, Inc., 894 S.W. 2d 841 (Tex. App. 1995) (bank's foreclosure of its purchase money lien on personal property did not defeat or destroy the taxing unit's statutory tax lien). The tax lien arises on January 1 of each tax year and "floats" to after acquired property. See City of Dallas v. Cornerstone Bank, 879 S.W. 2d 264 (Tex. App. - Dallas 1994). The tax lien is a lien in solido and is a lien on all property of the Debtors. See In re Universal Seismic, 288 F.3d 205 (5th Cir. 2002). The tax lien is also unavoidable. See In re: Winns, 177 B.R. 253 The tax claims are entitled to priority as secured claims, (Bankr. W.D. Tex. 1995). senior to other secured claims, according to the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §506. Stanford v. Butler, 826 F.2d 353 (5th Cir. 1987).

- 4. The Taxing Authorities object to the treatment under the Plan for the reasons set forth below:
- a. The Plan fails to provide for the retention of the Taxing Authorities' preand post-petition liens on their collateral. The Plan should not be confirmed unless and until it specifically provides for the Taxing Authorities' pre- and post-petition liens to remain on their collateral until the claims, including interest thereon, if applicable, are paid in full.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Taxing Authorities respectfully request the Court deny confirmation of the Plan unless and until all issues raised herein

are resolved, and grant the Taxing Authorities such other and further relief, at law or in equity, as is just.

Dated: January 12, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP

/s/ John P. Dillman
JOHN P. DILLMAN
Texas State Bar No. 05874400
TARA L. GRUNDEMEIER
Texas State Bar No. 24036691
Post Office Box 3064
Houston, Texas 77253-3064
(713) 844-3478 Telephone
(713) 844-3503 Facsimile

Counsel for Harris County, Jasper County, Montgomery County and Orange County

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned does hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served upon the entities listed below by either electronic court filing or by placing same, in the United States mail, first class, postage fully prepaid on January 12, 2016:

#### Debtor

**RAAM Global Energy Company** 1537 Bull Lea Road, Suite 200 Lexington, KY 40511

## Counsel for Debtor

**Bradley Roland Foxman** Vinson Elkins 2001 Ross Avenue, Suite 3700 Dallas, TX 75201

#### Reese Andrew O'Connor

Vinson Elkins LLP 1001 Fannin Street, Suite 2500 Houston, TX 77002

## Office of the United State Trustee

**Nancy Lynne Holley** U S Trustee 515 Rusk Street, Suite 3516 Houston, TX 77002

Counsel for the Official Joint Committee of Unsecured Creditors Vincent P Slusher DLA Piper (US) LLP 1717 Main, Suite 4600 Dallas, TX 75201

> /s/ Tara L. Grundemeier Tara L. Grundemeier