

## Glenda Wiles

---

**From:** Chris H <hockman\_cw@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 7, 2014 11:48 AM  
**To:** Commissioners; Glenda Wiles  
**Subject:** Discussion and possible decision on merger of Environmental Health and Planning Department

Dear Commissioners,

Please include this email in the public comment section of today's meeting titled Discussion and possible decision on merger of Environmental Health and Planning Department.

Regrettably I am unable to attend prior to comment. I read the letter in public correspondence from the Bitterroot Realtors Assn. advocating for this consolidation. I found the reasons listed in that letter unconvincing and shortsighted. To begin, having a particularly good individual in a single position at a particular time is not sound basis for restructuring government. Furthermore, I depend on the Environmental Health Office (EHO) to perform a protective function that protects individual land owners/buyers but more importantly endeavors to protect our valley's air and water quality for all present and future residents, not just the subset of home buyers. I expect the planning department to ensure that legal requirements are met to prevent development interests from initiating litigation against the our county.

Ultimately, combining the two offices for the sake of customer convenience and administrative oversight savings invites conflict of interests and missions that does not serve the citizens of Ravalli County as a whole and would not represent an improvement in governance on your watch.

Employ good judgment and choose to leave the departmental structure as those before you have chosen.

Sincerely,  
Chris Hockman  
Hamilton

For 11<sup>th</sup>

