

To the Commissioners

10-11-12

I was at the forum last week and was very glad to hear of your support for tourism and maintaining the beauty of our valley. That was very encouraging. I also heard about the great ideas that you heard from tourism consultants regarding encouraging economic growth by keeping the valley a special and physically beautiful place.

I know that you have heard from many valley residents who were very concerned when they finally heard about the changes that you are proposing to the sign ordinance. I also know that there are many more who are planning to contact you. I know I wondered aloud when I was nearly the only one at your meetings whether or not anyone else cared. And lo and behold, as soon as people found out about it, they are showing you that they care.

In 2000, this was an ordinance that was created from the bottom up. It was designed by the people and accepted by the commissioners. It seems like you may not have been around to know that. So that is why it is so important to involve those people now. This ordinance cannot and should not be changed from the top, by the government, which is you. I know how you hate to be told what to do by the government that is above you, the federal government. Well, we feel the same way. Our county government should not be able to take away what we the people spent so much time in crafting.

And yes, the original ordinance included Highway 93. The signs north of Kootenai Creek Road on the highway were the ones that got the people up in arms. The people said that they did not want these huge billboards on their highway. They got together and with the commissioners, they said no to the large billboard companies. That is why we have not had more huge billboards erected on Highway 93. We said no.

Please respect this. As you yourselves said, tourism is important. Large billboards on our highway will be detrimental to tourism. For our economic development, we need to remain a special place. Do the right thing here. There is no reason to change this ordinance. It was well done and reflects the will of the people. Do not throw out our hard work and say that you can't include Highway 93, which is the most important stretch of road that our tourists drive to get here. Highway 93 is already included in our existing ordinance and it is allowed by state law as noted on page one. You know this. I brought up our right to have more restrictive ordinances than state statute at every meeting and Terry agreed with me. Greg, you read the statute. And do not raise the size to 336 sf on our other county roads. You yourselves said that that is huge.

Basically, you are taking away all regulation by making the limits so large that they will never be met. Yet you are collecting fees for permission to do that.

Ask yourselves who benefits from 336 sf and 672 sf signs. It clearly isn't our local business. But you can find a Missoula plumber, a Missoula adult shop and a trailer dealer in Three Forks. Don't hide behind the guise of doing something for the economy because it simply is not true. Please do the right thing and leave our ordinance as is. There is no reason to change it. Thank you. Sarah Roubik, 961-5212

Sarah Roubik

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Vintage
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Still vacant - Westside



North of Kootenai Ln



North of Kootenai Creek Road
These billboards were the instigation



Westside
for our citizen initiated ordinance. Still vacant!

We have our own plumbers - this does not help them

Missoula plumber ↴



Missoula Business ↴

