

## Glenda Wiles

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**From:** CYNTHIA FLEMING [cynthiar77@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 14, 2012 9:57 PM  
**To:** commissioner@rc.mt.gov  
**Cc:** Glenda Wiles  
**Subject:** bigger is not better

Cynthia Fleming  
323 S 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
October 14, 2012

Ravalli County Commissioners  
215 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hamilton, MT 59840

Dear Commissioners:

I am a long-time residents of Ravalli County. I am writing to express my opinion about the pending changes being discussed concerning the current citizen based Ravalli County sign ordinance. I believe that allowing billboards along Highway 93 to be up to 336 square feet in size sends a very old and out of date message...that bigger is better. The best way to market and expand the appeal of businesses and the Bitterroot Valley is to let people see for themselves what makes us special. Driving through the scenic Bitterroot Valley people don't want huge billboards blocking the view. Bigger is not better, it is visual pollution.

It is a huge leap to move from 32 square feet to 336 square feet. I find it hard to understand why the Commissioners would entertain changing the sign ordinance size restrictions in such a drastic way.

I agree with Commissioner Foss that Ravalli County needs to protect our view shed. I encourage you to support the current citizen's based sign ordinance that allows for reasonable sized signs.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Fleming

## Glenda Wiles

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**From:** Melanie Miller [montanagal@q.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 14, 2012 5:28 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Billboards

There are already too many obnoxious billboards blighting the view on Highway 93. And now you would like to make them bigger? Do you really think this is worth the risk of turning off tourists, and potential future residents? People come to Ravalli County for the beauty. People retire here for the beauty and recreational opportunity. 672 square foot bill boards don't fit with this ideal.

And of course there is the safety issue of people reading billboards instead of paying attention to the road. Perhaps you think that this is okay because the four lane road is now safer to drive. I believe that bigger billboards may lead to more accidents. I wonder how the county would feel if sued by the family of a distracted driver who had an accident?

Please let the current regulations stand.

Thank you.

Melanie Miller

P.S. I vote in every election.

Melanie Miller  
P. O. Box 835  
2200 Pleasant View  
Victor, MT 59875

406-642-9062  
[montanagal@q.com](mailto:montanagal@q.com)

**Glenda Wiles**

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**From:** Marc Cooke [mcooke@wildblue.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 14, 2012 5:15 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Sign Regulations

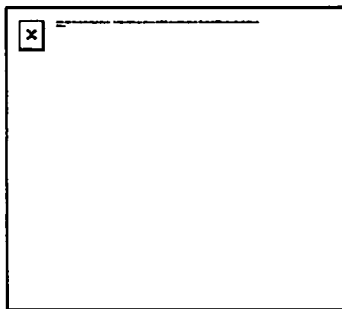


Commissioners.

This attempt to change the current sign regulations is against the will of myself, my family and my friends. We live in a beautiful valley where I enjoy looking out and seeing the hills & mountains. The last thing I would like to see is a huge billboard with an advertisement attached. I strongly encourage you to no support this change!

Very Truly Yours, Marc & Lorenza Cooke

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**Glenda Wiles**

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**From:** Stephanie Smith [ssmith625@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 14, 2012 4:56 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** sign changes

Ravalli County Commissioners,

Please do not change the sign ordinance to allow larger signs. I moved to the Bitterroot 42 years ago and have seen the highway corridors change from lovely pastoral view sheds to unsightly messes from Missoula to Darby. We should be working to clean the valley up, not allowing it to become worse. Thank your for your consideration in improving the valley vs degrading it.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Smith



## Glenda Wiles

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**From:** Bill/Deb Goslin [goslin@dishmail.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 14, 2012 4:00 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Proposed new sign ordinance

Dear Commissioners:

I am against the new proposal for more billboard signs! There is often un-rented space on the current signs. People live here and visit here for the scenic beauty! Having more and bigger signs would obviously detract from the beauty and devalue this precious valley, possibly even turning away visitors!

Deborah Goslin  
1436 Middle Burnt Fork Road  
Stevensville, MT 59870  
777-5239

## Glenda Wiles

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**From:** Katherine Smith [qsmith@bresnan.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 14, 2012 3:51 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Regarding the Sign Ordinance – PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE

Dear BCC Members and Glenda Wiles;

I am writing to express my concerns about the BCC's decision to change the Ravalli County sign ordinance. In 2000 the citizens of this county came together with the BCC to pass an ordinance that would protect our valley from the intrusiveness of huge, unsightly signage. Then as now, the citizenry recognized the importance to our valley of our tourist industry. This continues to be a leading economic factor here. While the commissioners say they are pro tourism, why would they endeavor to reverse an ordinance that protects the scenic beauty of this valley that is so vital to this growing economic driver? Not to mention the folks that live and work here that would have to look at these oversized signs instead of the beautiful scenery we now enjoy along with our visitors.

But that is just one reason I question the logic of this movement by the BCC, I also wonder who would actually benefit from this change? I spoke with Commissioner Stolz about this matter and he told me that small business people were "up in arms" about not being able to have giant offsite signs. I have conducted my own independent survey and have heard nothing of that sort.

Most small business people these days find much more effective drivers through more updated modes of advertisement. This seems to be supported by the number of empty billboards we see all up and down the highway. A sign posted at their business location points people to their door, otherwise most see that billboard advertising is not an effective way to reach customers.

So who will actually benefit from these sign ordinance changes, perhaps big out-of-state billboard manufacturers? Who knows – we as concerned citizens do not. All I can imagine is that the sign manufactures (is there one in Ravalli County? Montana?) would benefit, but our local businesses – especially the ones involved with tourism; the guides and outfitters, the main street retailers, the restaurants etc. would be negatively effected because the tourists would no longer find this a special, beautiful place to visit.

Just as our water and air can be polluted so can our view shed. I wholly urge you to reconsider this step in the wrong direction and to look forward to new and innovative ways to market when thinking about how to help small business people in Ravalli County.

Sincerely,

Katherine Smith  
Hamilton

**Glenda Wiles**

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**From:** kimosan\_rob39@q.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 14, 2012 3:00 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** No to proposed sign limits

Margaret & Harvey Sharp

266 Rose Lane

Hamilton MT 59840

October 11, 2012

Ravalli County Commissioners:

We strongly oppose having the county sign ordinance changed to allow larger signs. We chose to live here for the beauty and the outdoors. The tourists also come for the beauty and outdoor recreation that we have here. In 2000 it was decided that no larger signs were needed or wanted. We have a beautiful place to live and want to keep it that way. Who is benefiting from larger signs? It is certainly not the majority of the people who live in the Bitterroot Valley.

Sincerely,

**Margaret Sharp**

**Harvey Sharp**

**cc: Ravalli Republic, Stevensville Star**

**Glenda Wiles**

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**From:** Alice Mariana [mariana.alicea@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 14, 2012 2:58 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Ravalli County sign ordinance

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed change to our county's sign ordinance. Larger signs not only will adversely affect the beauty of our valley views for those who live and travel our roadways daily, but it will also adversely affect the image of our valley to the tourists who spend their travel dollars here due to our beautiful destination.

Please don't bow to a greedy corporate interests at the expense of all who live here.

Thank you,  
Alice Mariana

**Glenda Wiles**

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**From:** Barbara Ellis [bigskyoverbarbara@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 14, 2012 2:11 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Opposed to changing sign regulations

Dear Commissioners,

I recall the pre-very-large billboard days when most highway signs were a reasonable size to draw customers into a small business. I took it for granted until the advent of the existing monster signs. They are an insult to the beauty of the valley, but the idea of making it legal to have even larger ones is repulsive. I am adamantly opposed.

Barbara Ellis

## Glenda Wiles

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**From:** Karen Philips [kphilips@montana.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 14, 2012 1:30 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Changing sign ordinance

To the Ravalli County Commissioners,  
I am writing to protest your efforts to change our current county sign ordinance. Suzy, you say you would be willing to form a citizen committee to discuss this issue. Well, in 2000 a group of citizens already did that. They and the commissioners worked together (a foreign concept to you five commissioners, apparently) to adopt the current sign ordinance WHICH HAS WORKED JUST FINE FOR 12 YEARS! What in the heck are you commissioners up to? Changing the sign ordinance the way you want to will hurt Ravalli County businesses that depend on tourist money. Apparently you are fiscal conservatives and "business-friendly" only when it suits your ideologies. Otherwise, you do whacky things like this.

And this latest fiasco reinforces to me, once again, that we should change from five commissioners to three. You five obviously have way too much time on your hands if you can take on changing ordinances that are working perfectly fine as they are. Out with all of you, and let's start over with three new commissioners!

Karen Philips  
725 Mihara Lane, Corvallis, MT 59828  
406-961-0101 (h) or 406-369-0725 (cell)  
[kphilips@montana.com](mailto:kphilips@montana.com)