

Glenda Wiles

From: Jo Gibbons [jogibbons@cybernet1.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2012 12:47 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: Increasing size of billboards

To: Ravalli County Commissioners

Re: Increasing Billboard size

I read with dismay that you are considering allowing much larger billboards in Ravalli County. Having moved here from a state, Georgia, that had let the size and numbers of billboards destroy the scenic beauty along most highways, I know what a negative effect this can have on an area. It also is very difficult to undo if at a later date the county would want to go back to the sensible regulations we now have in place. Please do not take this action, that would only benefit a very few to the detriment of the majority of Ravalli County residents.

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JoAnne Gibbons
661 Bittersweet Way
Corvallis, MT 59828
961-5642

Glenda Wiles

From: Betsy and Jay [diamondback@cybernet1.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2012 12:44 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: Large sign ordinance

Dear commissioners:

As someone who travels the Eastside Highway and lives east of Stevensville, I sincerely hope you will NOT allow for a sign ordinance granting some business or promoter to put up huge (14' x 24' or larger)

signs. One of the many wonderful things about this valley is its rural nature, and putting up huge trashy signs is simply a very bad idea.

The billboards we have are certainly large enough and already detract from the scenic attractions of the Bitterroot Valley.

These bright LED signs and the possibility of huge ones are simply not necessary, and actually harm our valley's natural rural beauty. This is not Las Vegas, and the residents of this valley do not want it to become that way.

Since I am working I am unable to attend your meetings held during the day, and I have an evening class and unable to come to your Monday evening meeting. But I know many if not all of my neighbors are in sympathy with my views; please leave well enough alone and keep our existing sign ordinance.

Also - I would appreciate your reply - what is your motive for this ordinance change?

Also have you done any environmental assessments?

Could you please let the voters vote on this large of an issue, instead of slipping it through in one evening meeting?

Thanks for listening.

Elizabeth Ballard

Glenda Wiles

From: Mel Holloway [tromper@bitterroot.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2012 12:14 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: Highway Signage

Commissioners:

The current signage along US 93 does nothing to enhance the views of either the Bitterroots or the Sapphires. It is disheartening to hear of your proposal to allow even larger signs and to turn over regulation of such signage to the state. I can only echo the comments in several letters posted in the newspapers which I hope you have taken time to read and take to heart.

Please retain the current sign ordinance and keep it under control of the Ravalli County Commission.

Sincerely,

Mel Holloway
406.381.1334
737 Windsong DR
Corvallis, MT 59828

Glenda Wiles

From: Ken Leach [kenmleach@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2012 10:28 AM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: No increase in size of signs along Hwy 93

I am a cyclist who frequently rides my bike along Hwy 93 bike path from Florence to Hamilton. I already dislike the current number of signs blocking the beautiful view of the Bitterroot Mountains and absolutely oppose any increase in size of signs along Hwy 93.

Why would you even consider this increase unless it is to benefit politicians?

I don't understand how increasing the size from the current size would improve votes or sales.

It would make our valley less desirable and less beautiful for those of us who live here as well as for prospective tourists.

I oppose any change to the current sign ordinance that was citizen initiated in 2000.

Ken M. Leach
4403 Pony Rd.
Stevensville

Glenda Wiles

From: Thomas Sather [tpsather@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2012 10:05 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: sign ordinance

Please do NOT change the county sign ordinance to allow for bigger bill boards. We have a special view scape in the Bitterroot that we all should fight to protect.

Tom Sather
2775 Bell Pond Way
Stevensville MT 59870

Glenda Wiles

From: Bob W. [hawghaven@cybernet1.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2012 8:51 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: Website Email -

I cant help wonder what the Commission is thinking to even consider permitting larger signs on County roads. Why create conservation easements ,green space ,& wilderness areas & then promote a totally idiotic measure such as this. I am opposed to any changes in our current sign ordnance .

Robert Witt

Hamilton

Glenda Wiles

From: malcolmlowe@msn.com
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2012 8:46 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: Billboards

What are we thinking wanting to pollute our views with these monstrosities. Half the sign inventory on 93 is unsold as it is. Don't allow new sign regs.

Malcolm Lowe 164 Daly, Hamilton

Glenda Wiles

From: John Meakin [jmeakin@bitterroot.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2012 8:42 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: Press release on fighting the Commissioners attempt to change the sign ordinance

Glenda Wiles—

Per Mr. Maechling's request, I am forwarding his e-mail to you to include in the public comment for tomorrow's hearing on the Sign Ordinance. Thank you.

John Meakin

From: Philip Maechling [mailto:maechling@bigsky.net]
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2012 7:14 PM
To: John Meakin
Subject: Commissioners attempt to change the sign ordinance

John,

I cannot be there tomorrow. This proposal presents little benefit to business owners, and **WILL PRINCIPALLY BENEFIT SIGN COMPANIES AND BILLBOARD COMPANIES** who specialize in outdoor sign construction. They will have adverse impacts on our neighborhoods and visual resources. The visual impact of the proposed height and area are not consistent with our community-based values when it comes to our scenery and our heritage. This type of sign, as it currently stands, has limited visual impacts, and since the signs are relatively small, presents small risk of harm to the community. The risks are not just from driver distraction and obstruction of view from the road. If struck and dismantled by a damaging wind burst, if airborne, large signs can cause personal harm and property damage. The personal harm liability issue is serious, which is why only a few outdoor sign companies exist in Western Montana that produce these billboards, and I do not believe any of these companies are Ravalli County companies. MDT regulates their location and engineering. How will Ravalli County evaluate the necessary engineering? The proposed ordinance has no engineering standards.

For the record, I drafted Missoula County's off-premises sign regulations more than 15 years ago, and it was in response to a request from Republican County Commissioner Barbara Evans, who was concerned about visual impacts on Highway 93 and all other roads in Missoula County. It passed unanimously with no protest from the outdoor sign businesses. It works today, with no problems. Ravalli County's current ordinance appears to be based on the rules I drafted 15 years ago.

Please feel free to deliver this comment to the Board of Commissioners.

Best regards,

Philip Maechling
Florence

Glenda Wiles

From: montanaluisita@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2012 8:40 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: Second Reading of Sign Ordinance #36

To the commissioners of Ravalli County:

I am opposed to any changes in the current sign ordinance. I urge each of you to vote no on any changes to the current sign ordinance. Do not increase the allowable size of billboards anywhere in the county.

Respectfully,,
Luisita Loveridge
406.961.4654

Glenda Wiles

From: Homestead Organics Farm, Inc. [homesteadorganics@earthlink.net]
Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2012 8:38 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: no larger signs, please

I am writing to express my concern over the proposal to allow larger road side signs in Ravalli County. I do not feel this would be a good thing for our county and stands to damage our important tourism industry. Larger signs along the highway will detract from the natural beauty. Allowing for larger signs will not be serving the majority of people in Ravalli County.

As a voter and concerned citizen I say NO TO LARGER SIGNS!

Thank you for protecting our natural beauty by voting to keep smaller limits on signs in Ravalli County.

peace, Laura Garber

175 Skalkaho Hwy. Hamilton 59840