

Chris Taggart

From: Urweg <urweg@urweg.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 5:08 AM
To: Jeff Burrows; Chris Taggart; Chris A. Hoffman; Greg Chilcott; Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: [EXTERNAL] [POSSIBLE SPAM] On the subject of Property Taxes

Importance: Low

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Good Day, Gentlemen! First of all, please let me thank you for standing up for our rights as citizens and not allowing us to become subjects of the state by allowing the state to supersede health and safety decisions that should be up to the individual and his / her health care provider(s). You have stood strong and tall for all of us and I thank you wholeheartedly for that. This pandemic is unfortunate for all of us, but it should not be the cause, by which we all become subjugated.

There is another way that I think we, the people of Ravalli County, should free ourselves from government overreach. As we have recently seen, Life can change rather drastically for any of us. Many of us here in Ravalli County own our own Homes and Property and we could squeak by with minimal funds, growing and raising our own food. However, all of us are enslaved twice annually to the government by having to pay property taxes. In case of an emergency such as a pandemic, this twice annual fee could become the reason many residents of Ravalli County could loose their property. We already have a huge problem with elderly people loosing their farms and ranches as they start to become less productive.

Without property taxes, these folks could simply enjoy their last years in the home on the ranch they worked all their lives. However, as it is right now they can not afford the taxes and they are forced to move.

Now, don't get me wrong. I know that many things in this county are financed by property taxes. Things that are important to many of us. I am not suggesting we simply cancel all of these things, even though we might take a closer look at what all is being done with our money in this county. Maybe there is some waste of funds and we might be able to streamline things and reduce costs. We really should cooperate more with each other and figure this out together.

There are numerous other counties that have made similar resolutions both within the US as well as abroad. There are plenty of examples for us to look at and draw inspiration from. It might not be as daunting a task as it first seems. There really are ingenious ideas out there that work for all involved parties. I would be more than happy to prepare another email or presentation on some of these options in detail, if you would be interested in that?! But for now, let's really take a look at our situation:

Any of us can find ourselves rather quickly in a no-money situation. And while we, as Montanans, are known for our ability to put food on the table, it would help all of us a lot, if we could keep our homes, even after we ran out of money. Just as it was in the great depression, being affluent or not is all of a sudden not necessarily a matter of choice anymore, but largely dictated by circumstance. If we roll through another depression with our high property taxes, the government will own most of the Bitterroot Valley afterwards. Let's protect ourselves, while we still can!

Assuming all of you are intricately familiar with our Constitution, I am sure that you have long ago realized the illegitimacy of property taxes.

Constitutionally, their collection is not allowed for a very good

reason: Once a person has paid of their property, they should own it free and clear. However, through these illegitimate taxes, the government continually repossesses privately owned property and infringes on our constitutional rights. We should really ward ourselves against this overreach, while we still can.

If we cooperate, use an open mind and look for alternatives, I am certain that we could finance everything we really need in Ravalli County while also abolishing property taxes for our residence homes in Montana. (This is NOT supposed to be a hide-out for the rich and wealthy, and should not be available to out of state investors, but truly save any and all of us from loosing our homes to the government, because of a temporary lack of funding that, as we have recently seen, could befall any of us rather suddenly and unpredictably.)

And just so you know, I have spoken about this with many residents of Ravalli County, all of whom seem to be in favor of looking for alternative methods of financing what we need in Ravalli County instead of property taxes. If it is necessary, we can collect signatures on a petition, whatever is needed. But I really think we should free ourselves and each other from this yoke while we still can. Who knows what the Future may hold for any of us, but many of us could make due in our own homes, farms and ranches.

Sincerely,

Birte Nellessen

A concerned citizens of Ravalli County

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