

Glenda Wiles

From: Michael and Jane Hoefler <awakenings@cybernet1.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 2:11 AM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Ravalli county airport expansion near Hamilton

Dear Ms Wiles,

This is a copy of the letter that I sent to Mr Daniel Norderud at the FAA. I wanted you to see it.

Thank you for your attention,

Michael Hoefler

Dear Mr Norderud,

I am writing you about the proposed expansion of the Ravalli County airport near Hamilton, Montana. I am very concerned about this expansion. This looks like a huge mess in the making that has no happy ending for anyone - especially not for the people of Ravalli County.

The homeowners living near to this airport will undoubtedly suffer a loss in their property values as a result of the increasing noise, increased pollution for the large jets embarking and dis-embarking at this airport. Also their quality of life is going to deteriorate. In 1995 to 1997 (before moving to Montana in 1997) my wife and I lived in an apartment in the city of Portland, Oregon close to the airport. We got used to the noise and seeing the airplanes coming in and taking off. However - we did not own property there and knew that our stay in that apartment was not going to be very long. Had we wanted to purchase property - we would not have located our purchase that close to the airport.

I can see many lawsuits being filed by the property owners who live near the Ravalli County airport near Hamilton in the event of an expansion - and subsequent drop in their property values. The county already has several lawsuits that they are paying on already. How will they find the money to pay for any more?

Also where is the money coming from for the expansion? At least part of it will have to come from county funds - which means taxpayer funds. There is a \$650,000.00 lawsuit won by the Big Sky Devopment Co against Ravalli County. This has not been paid as of today. Where is the money coming from? Don't tell me that it will come from the people who want to invest in this area. That is pie in the sky dreaming - and we have had enough of that from the present County Commissioners. They need to be business managers - not dreamers - especially when it is with taxpayers money!

This area of Montana is a special place because it does not remind me of a city with lots of pavement and concrete. It has wildlife & beautiful views of the mountains. It is pristine with the only real pollution coming in the summer with the advent of forest fires. In 2000 - we suffered through most of the month of August with the grey skies and an orange sun because of the fires in the Bitterroot mountains. Still this area is a pristine place to live and to visit. As one of my sister-in-laws told me when I mentioned that I wanted to visit more of Montana: "Why? You live in the best place in Montana. Why do you want to see the rest?" If we expand the airport - that is the first step to making this just like any other growing-into-a-big-city place. Plus - expanding the local airport to handle large planes including large jet planes - then puts this county into competition with the Missoula airport - and who wants that???

We have some very irresponsible County Commissioners. Of the 5 present Commissioners - 3 stood for reelection and of those 3 - 2 of them were defeated. I wish all 3 of them had been defeated. These 3 were the ones who voted in an incompetent County Treasurer (3-2) simply because she "interviewed well". I would like those 2 - Suzy Foss and Ron Stoltz - to resign and clean out their desks asap. I know that that won't happen. However - I want the amount of damage that they have done and could potentially do while in office - to this county minimized.

Putting this expansion issue into a measure on the November ballot is the best way to avoid any more disasters than what we have been subjected to. Let the people of Ravalli County decide what they want to do.

Thank you for your attention,

Michael Hoefler
2150 Red Crow Rd Bx 517
Victor Montana 59875