

## Chris Taggart

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**From:** Jenna Hagle <jenna.hagle@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 3, 2023 5:30 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
**Cc:** Chris Taggart  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sapphire Heights subdivision

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Good evening Commissioners,

My name is Jenna Spencer. I am Ray and Shawn Hagle's daughter, living on our family ranch with my husband and son, and I am writing to you regarding the Sapphire Heights subdevelopment that is being proposed. I wish I could attend tonight's meeting, however, because I have a two and a half year old, a full time job, and assist my husband in running our small local business, I am unable. Nonetheless, I hope you take into consideration what I have to say, along with all of my neighbors, parents, and friends.

We wholeheartedly oppose this subdivision, for many reasons. The first is the negative ecological impact that this subdivision will have on my family's ranch, along with other ranches in the area, as well as Calf Creek Wildlife Management Area, which borders my family's ranch. Calf Creek, as you know, is the place that the elk go to overwinter and is closed during the winter months for this exact reason. If a subdivision of any sort is placed where it's proposed, the elk will be pressured to move out of the area. While elk can be a nuisance for ranchers due to them breaking down fencing and trampling fields, they are so beneficial for our ecology and economy.

The second reason we oppose this subdivision is because of water. If you're from Montana, you know how important water is to the ranchers. Water is how we water our fields. Our fields are what provide us with hay for our livestock and additional income in years where we aren't in drought. Ranchers are not rich, and often times we just break even - and that is okay with us. It's okay with us because we live on our family ranches for the *lifestyle*. For the peace and quiet. For the large fields that our children, their children, and their children will work, play in, and feed their livestock and families from. Water is the only thing that allows our family ranches to continue being functional! If a subdivision *of any size* is placed in this area, we will have no water past June or mid July if we are lucky. We usually end up using half of our water rights at the end of summer, or shutting off our water completely for days at a time, due to folks below us not having good water for their fields. Once we get to August, the water pressure in my house drops to a point where I can't run the washing machine and the sprinkler at the same time, or the shower and the dishwasher at the same time. If other homes tap into the water in this area, it will be devastating for our fields, our livestock, the creek, and our homes.

The third reason we oppose is because we feel that a subdivision will disrupt the way of life in our area. This is not Missoula. We live here for a reason - peace and quiet as mentioned above. We absolutely love our next door neighbors, Brett & Dori Tintzman, and we think the world of them, but we keep to ourselves and they to themselves. We always wave as we pass each other, and we have called Brett to help us a couple of times when we were in a pinch with our cows, but we love that they keep to themselves and let us keep to ourselves! I can't imagine the noise, the people, the roads, etc. that will end up encroaching on our peace.

Lastly, I would like to point out that today, May 3rd, is the first that I have heard of this subdivision. It feels like the planning of this has mostly flown under the radar (for obvious reasons) which I find very saddening. When we first applied for water rights for our ranch, a notice was sent out to all other water rights owners in our area to give them a chance to protest it. Why weren't we given a chance to even protest? I do not know the families that are planning this subdivision, but it certainly feels like they tried to hide this.

My hope is that you all listen to us: myself, my husband Trevor, my son Greyson, and our future generations, the Tintzman family, the Bass family, the Maki family, and all other ranchers and homeowners who oppose this subdivision. I truly hope that you assist us in preserving the lifestyle that is true to this valley. I hope you help us in preserving our ability to raise livestock with our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. I hope you listen and understand the repercussions when it comes to the amount of water that will be used by a subdivision. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Jenna Spencer

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