

Glenda Wiles

From: Earl Phillips <philips@montana.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2014 2:01 PM
To: dan@rpa-hln.com; Glenda Wiles
Subject: Attention Ravalli county Airport

To: Daniel M. Norderud, AICP
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Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
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From: Earl Phillips
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I was recently saw an article in the Ravalli Republic indicating that the Ravalli County Commissioners plan to approve a redesign of the Ravalli County Airport.

I do not support the new Airport plan that the commissioners presented at a meeting that had minimal public notice if any notice at all. I am sure that the airport community was kept well informed of the county commissioners agenda.

It is interesting that the signs placed around the county from the airport supporters use the words Respect, Jobs and Safety. It would be nice if the commissioners and the airport supporters showed respect for the homes in the valley. I was not shown respect a little over a year ago when a plane flew just above my barn (200 feet maximum) and frightened a horse that came very close to sending me to the hospital. When I called the airport and left a message identifying the plane, they did not even have the courtesy of calling me back. Safety and respect for me was not important.

When a compromise plan was reached for changes at the Airport, the county commissioners voted against the compromise plan. They even voided a resolution giving the public a right to vote on an airport plan and now they plan to approve a plan that the public did not support and they will not even let the public vote on this plan. They are planning to place regulations on the people that live in the airport affected area that they are defining while providing minimal communication to the people in this area. They even fail to provide an adequate opportunity for these people to respond to their plan. I guess that respect is limited to the airport and not the general public.

We place rules on car noise, and even tell students how loud their music can be played while they drive past our houses, and yet planes are often flying at legal minimum elevations or below over our house causing safety problems and the inability to even carry on a conversation on our back porches while planes fly over. The commissioners seem committed to changing a culture of the valley which encouraged people to move to this valley. Money speaks and people loose. We had a compromise plan that would have provided safety, but the commissioners threw it out. Safety is only seen through the eyes of the airport and not the general public.

Even if the wealthy benefactors of the airport come up with some of the funding for the new airport expansion plan, the end result will produce an expense to the public which does not seem to support the public view or provide them an opportunity to vote on the plan.