

Chris Taggart

From: Greg Chilcott
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 8:37 AM
To: Chris Taggart
Subject: FW: Floodplain regulations

Please include this email in the public comment/correspondence file for the floodplain regulation revision.

-----Original Message-----

From: Karen and Van [mailto:skarenvan@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 9:59 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: Floodplain regulations

This is our public comment for Monday's meeting which we won't be able to attend. Please make it part of the public record.

There has been abundant testimony provided to the commissioners, by experts and longtime locals, as to the changeable floodplain of the Bitterroot River. If public safety is your primary concern for making your decision on changing our regulations, then what safety improvement is to be gained by allowing development in the flood fringe? The commission has been warned by the same experts and locals that allowing homes to be built in the fringe is putting people's safety and lives at risk. If the river changes course during spring floods, leading to dangerous flooding in the fringe, then families will be at risk, and it'll be your imprudent decision to loosen development regulations that caused it. The commission has been provided reasonable compromise solutions that won't put families' safety and welfare at risk. The near unanimous public input has been to keep development out of the fringe. If the commission can't or won't consider environmental or economic fallout from gutting existing regulations, then you must consider the overarching public danger by letting homes be built in the fringe. By capriciously putting people's safety at risk, you're also exposing all of us taxpayers to liability. This is not a smart conservative solution to this issue.

Commissioners: Listen to the experts and the vast majority of your constituents. There is a compromise at hand that preserves economic, environmental, AND public safety. Maintaining current development restrictions preserves public safety; loosening restrictions does not improve safety--it threatens safety. Sincerely,

Van P. Keele
Karen Savory