

## Chris Taggart

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**From:** Greg Chilcott  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2015 3:42 PM  
**To:** Chris Taggart  
**Subject:** FW: Floodplain Restrictions should NOT be changed

This comment came in today while we were in the Public Hearing...

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**From:** Karen Harvey [mailto:kdharvey8691@att.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2015 2:59 PM  
**To:** Ray Hawk; Greg Chilcott; J.R. Iman; Doug Schallenberger; Jeff Burrows  
**Subject:** Floodplain Restrictions should NOT be changed

Commissioners –

My name is Karen Harvey and I am a resident of the Victor area. I own my home and 70 acres of land and contribute property taxes every year to sustain County programs and to provide for good, knowledgeable management of public resources within the County. Since 1980, I have always been impressed with the value that people of this County placed on the high quality of the natural resources that exist here and the importance they placed on being dedicated stewards to maintain a healthy natural landscape with abundant wildlife. This is the primary reason I built my home and bought my land in Ravalli County and I would suspect that a majority of the current residents have chosen to live here for similar reasons.

I want you to know that I have the utmost respect for the offices you hold. To me, the role of your office is to be a public servant for ALL the citizens of the county (not just the development/ real estate interests). As that public servant, you are charged with an obligation to work conscientiously and diligently to obtain the best expert knowledge and advice available and to give that information serious weight when making decisions. And, when decisions entail changed directions in County management, your offices are honor bound to demonstrate why the original rationale for the management need is no longer valid and to show why past history and long-term experience is not accurate before granting a reversal in that management direction.

Because of this perspective of what the role of your office should be, I have been very confused and disappointed by your continual ignoring of the expert knowledge and advice given on the floodplain issue before you, as well as not factoring in the past history or long-term experience on how the river changes over time. I do not feel that this is responsible representation of me and the fellow citizens of Ravalli County. We expect a better job and sound reasoning when this body is decision-making on this issue.

From the expert knowledge and advice you've been given and the credible accounts of how the river can quickly change over time (often in unexpected ways), a decision by your body to allow residential development within the floodplain fringe areas would be very detrimental to the proper functioning of the river hydrology and would be fool hardy in terms of potential losses to investments made under a policy change. I strongly urge you to do the right thing for treasured, public natural resources and the citizens of this county - - leave the restrictions on residential development in the floodplain as they currently exist. A change in management direction is not warranted.

Thank you for your time.