

Ravalli County Commissioners Office

From: Doug Soehren <dsoehren@bresnan.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2015 3:15 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: Flood plain regulation changes

Proposed changes will lower the standards and legal protections of The Bitterroot River for present property owners, future property owners, water quality and the health and safety of property owners and other river users. It will also negatively impact important local economic activities like tourism, fishing, boating and recreation.

Your proposed changes show disrespect for your many constituents including myself who have repeatedly pleaded with you to honor and strengthen the environmental protections written into law by previous generations of Bitterrooters who really cared about the health and well being of our community and the legacy we leave our children.

The restrictions were put into the regulations years ago because our community leaders then respected and included the knowledge of the environmental sciences. We have known for a long time what the consequences are of ignoring them. If you adopt the changes that allow building in previously restricted zones you will be leading our community backwards. It will not benefit the economy or the environment.

FEMA and Montana State officials have already told you that changes to restricted zones are unnecessary. Are you still blaming them for the changes? If you do not come up with a better excuse than that we will all conclude that you are doing this solely for the money you hope to make developing the vulnerable floodplain fringes while doing so at the expense and in total disregard for the health and safety of our community and the wishes of the majority of those you are supposed to be representing.

Sincerely,
Doug Soehren