



The Bitterroot Valley Board of REALTORS®, Inc.

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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January 15, 2014

Commissioner J.R. Iman
Ravalli County Administration Center
215 S. Fourth Street Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840

Dear J.R.,

The resignation of Lea Guthrie from the Department of Environment Quality affords a unique opportunity for the Ravalli County Commission to not only streamline services and save money but also to provide a higher level of service to the public.

The Bitterroot Board of Realtors® would like to strongly encourage the Commission to combine the Planning Department and the Environmental Health Department. We have five reasons.

First of all, combining the offices would provide the best service to the public. As you know, our industry deals with people who need the services of both departments. Wouldn't it be great if citizens could find out all information about their property or get information about future plans in one place?

Secondly, we feel that the combining of the offices would provide better access to information for Realtors® in their efforts to represent their clients and reduce liability.

The next reason has to do with providing an ease of getting information for you in the event of a citizen complaint. The Commission would only have one administrator to deal with. That would provide much clearer communication.

Combining the offices under one administrator makes much more sense in providing coordinated, forward-thinking planning and sanitation decisions. Of course you would still have planners planning and sanitarians handling the sanitation issues. But, you would have an administrator handling the administration of the offices. Having one administrator would also save the county money. You would be paying only one administrator salary.

Lastly, we feel that you have an excellent administrator in the Planning Department. Terry Nelson's private sector experience makes him the ideal choice. He brings the correct set of knowledge and skills. He understands both the governmental and the private sides of each issue. At this point, you are well acquainted with his administrative skills and should they meet with your approval in the Planning Department, we are sure that same skill set would work well in administering the Environmental Health Department.

It is not often that a government is given the chance to reduce spending, increase efficiency and create a more public-friendly system. Lea's retirement opens that door for you and we would certainly urge you to take advantage of the opportunity.

Cordially,

Teresa D. Polumsky, President Bitterroot Valley Board of Realtors®

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