

Chris Taggart

From: Enrico Granata <granata.enrico@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 8:54 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Mountain Park Estates 16 lot Amendment

Hi,
I am writing in reference to the proposed 16-lot amendment to the Mountain Park Estates subdivision in Florence.
I am the homeowner at 520 Sweeney Creek Loop, an adjacent property to the subject matter subdivision.

I am sure you are well aware (pun intended) that Florence is a rural community not served by a municipal water supply, instead relying on private wells to supply water to its residents.
I am equally sure you are well aware of the harsh reality that climate change is here to stay and will impact all communities across America.

Current predictions highlight that major risks of climate change for Ravalli county include wildfires, loss of agricultural yield and major droughts:

<https://www.americancommunities.org/mapping-climate-risks-by-county-and-community/>
<https://projects.propublica.org/climate-migration/>

We are at risk for both having less available water and needing more water, surely an impossible conundrum! And yet there is an easy and obvious alternative: rejecting the proposed amendment and at least maintaining the status quo.

If this amendment is approved, it will only increase the risk of depleting the water supply that we all enjoy in the community. By the time it is discovered that the wells are running dry, and the (expensive) race to (dig to) the bottom begins, the profits will have long since been stashed away - to the benefit of the few and the detriment of the many.

Florence may not save the world, but we can play a role in not making a bad situation worse. So far, a lot of the costs of climate change have been unduly paid by the less fortunate. Montana is lucky to have escaped most of the madness in this regard, and doing our part to avoid growth and pressure on the ecosystem for the sake of it can be yet one more small step in making sure that these costs are spread out more fairly and more evenly.

It is no mystery that the last best place is attracting more and more people, drawn to its natural beauty, pristine nature and high quality of life. This amendment is nothing but an attempt at capitalizing on this demand while it's there, present profits be privatized, and future thirsts and losses be socialized.

I encourage the county to reject this amendment, and retain the already plentiful existing subdivision at 10 houses - quite a generous allotment in a community that doesn't reach a thousand inhabitants!

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- Enrico

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