

Jerry Ladewig

You gentlemen have my comment form so I am just going to give you a couple of comments briefly from that. As Montanans we really value our open spaces and considering if we don't have a corridor limiting signs Livingston to Gardiner than it will look like South Dakota inviting you to go to wal-drug and showing you all these signs as you approach Sioux Falls. With today's portable devices it is so easy to search for your hotel or your restaurant without looking for billboards to tell you where to go. So I have safety and visual concerns about the valley, due to our traffic patterns. So from a safety and visual standpoint, managing signage via the proposed zone district. Creating a size, lighting, setback and location guideline is reasonable. I support the intention of the Park County Us Hwy 89 South/East River Rd/ Old Yellowstone Trail zoning district regulations as the purpose is to protect our valley for us now and into the future. We always need to think beyond our present time and beyond our personal interest. Thanks guys for all your work.

Candance Payne

I am not related to any of the other Paynes in this valley. I'm related to the Muersters who settled here in 1904. They built that little white house out there. That was my grandpa's farm and now it was my mother's. I believe you were a friend of my mothers, Virginia Cain. She died in 2004. However, I digress. I live in Helena but I pay a lot of taxes down here so this concerns me. I provided written comments via letter dated August 16, 2018 and my comments included concerns that this effort to prohibit billboards may not comply with State law. MCA 76-2-201 entitled County Zoning Authorized. For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, morals and general welfare, a Board of County Commissioners that has adopted a Growth Policy pursuant to Chapter 1 is authorized to adopt zoning regulations. What possible relevance due billboards have to public health, safety, morals or the general welfare of the citizens of Park County. I think the County Commissioners are being encouraged to kind of step over the line here. I had hoped in response to my comments that the people putting this on would come up with some comments on how this impacts public health, safety, morals, or the general welfare. Instead, they're just proposing to add language that says by coordinating the type, placement, and physical dimensions of signs within the zoning district. As if that provides a basis for promoting the public health, safety and welfare. It does not. As my father would say, "You can put a cat in the oven but that doesn't make it a biscuit." Right now the Montana Department of Transportation right-of-way Bureau has administrative rules entitled, outdoor advertising regulations. They require all premise's signs to be permitted and they have to comply with the existing rules on the right-of-way bureau. We have existing billboards on our land and we are grandfathered in and I appreciate that because that makes those signs that I use money to pay my taxes here. Those signs instead of renting out for a thousand dollars a year, they are going to be worth ten thousand dollars a year. This is a get rich quick scheme for me and my husband. Anyway, many businesses, and politicians. Whoop, I'm sorry outdoor advertising increases the sales of products and produces numerous direct and indirect benefits to the public.

Myron Kovach

I'd been in and around Livingston with the tourist related things for over fifty years between my family and me. For those of you that have never been in that business and don't realize how much billboards make a difference as far as the tourists and people that will find things. Ninety percent of the people that go to Yellowstone or come out of Yellowstone turn at the interstate and leave because they don't see and know anything what's in Livingston. They don't come in here. There is nothing that tells them what's here. There's nothing. Every business owner in town should be here screaming at you guys saying you can't do this. Besides you're taking away land owner's rights to be able to do that. You can't do that either. There's no way that that is legal for you guys to do it. I believe you guys as well as Mr. Inman are opening yourself for a big law suit or a class action law suit if you enact this law.

Chan Libby

I own Yellowstone's Ddge RV park in Paradise Valley and Yellowstone Storage. I was born and raised in Livingston and my wife and I have operated that RV Park and built it from scratch. This is our 25th year now. We strongly oppose to zoning the entire Paradise Valley under the plan to eliminate off premise billboards and unreasonably restrict on premise signage. Our off premise billboards generate a significant portion of our business. These signs direct travelers to our facilities day and night. Our billboards are an important marketing component coupled with our print and internet marketing. We advocate respecting the private property rights of those billboard owners and allow them to continue to provide this valuable media for business owners and the traveling public. Hidden in the proposed regulations are on premise signs. Yellowstone's Edge on premise sign identifies our turn off on 89 south. This sign is very important and provides notice to our guests traveling on highway 89 of the upcoming turn into Yellowstone's Edge RV Park. The sign's size and placement allows the driver time to signal and apply braking so traffic behind the RV can slow down and not pass. After dark this becomes even more important as the sign is lighted and clearly defines the exact location of the turn. Under the draft sign regulations there are to be no lighted or reflective stand alone on premise signs. This creates a hazard and a public safety issue for customers and other traffic. In our case, our customers are driving heavy vehicles; class A motor homes, pulling trailers or cars and trucks towing fifth wheels and travel trailers. These proposed on premise sign lighting, size and placement regulations seriously compromise the public safety premise they claim to target. I strongly encourage the Planning Board to include night sky friendly down lighting for on premise standalone signs and increase the allowable square footage to 128 square feet to allow travelers enough time to identify the turn off, activate a turn signal and begin braking. There is a reason that all of the highway directional signs and informational signs are reflective or lighted. The reason is the after dark traveler can read these signs. Why should a business and a tax payer have less options that the department of transportation in signage placement and design?

John Payne

I own a big portion of the Sleeping Giant Trade Center south of town. This is a zoning district. The issue within the zoning district right now is signage. So you are hiding the guiles of signage within a zoning district. Under the zoning district rules and new rules and new concerns can come up and be enacted under the zoning district from my understanding. So we need to be real careful about this. This is just a preoccupation with signs. Every sign, ninety percent of the sings from I-90 going south right now to

Geoffry Lane, which takes in the Sleeping Giant Trade Center, are going to be out of compliance. They all have night lighting. They are all bigger than fifty square feet and I have tenants that come and go every single time I have to get an approval and run up a fee. It's an overreaching and this goes, this is not about signage. This is about a zoning district. It is about controlling some land that you can't control it now without a zoning district. So I urge you to oppose this and knock this down. Because I am with Mrs. Payne, we are not related but we own across the street from one another. I will be joining forces with her. Thank you.

Elizabeth Laren

This is about as useless as can be. I own property about ten or eleven miles south of Livingston. I probably have the most signs on my property of anybody. They exist to give direction to tourists and to people here in Park County or in Montana. The structures belong to me, the signs are whoever owns it, and it's their business if they are advertising. They were erected ten to fifteen years ago by my husband. We have owned that property since the early sixties. I would like to make you aware if those signs have to come down that is taking of my property. I got into that with the County a number of years ago. A very short time. They wanted to take ten feet of my property. They had all kinds of things that they were going to make me do. I was going to have to take down a power pole which was going to cost my thirty thousand dollars. By the time they got through I had about twenty thousand dollars that I had to pay to CTA. I am not happy with the Commissioners, I will tell you that. Also I'm going to tell you, I don't like those signs either but they seem to be a necessary evil. The leasing of those business signs is part of my income. I feel that among other people that have a problem, this is taking of my property. Which is something that you should be talking to Tara Depuy about in Helena. Thank you.

David Finnigan

Good Evening. My wife Julie and I live at 45 Pool Creek Rd. just East of East River Rd. half a mile north of pine creek. Clearly we all recognize it's a tough spot. I don't necessarily know that there is a right answer other than this and that might be moderation. I and everybody here have seen plenty of disgustingly embarrassing scences. I can name some outside of outside in British Columbia. The approaches to some of these parks that are just stacked with signs. Very poor night light control, disrespect to the night skies. Difficult situation you got. I want to say thank you for providing a forum in which we can make these comments. Having been a small business man most of my life I understand and am very passionate about the struggles of creating jobs and providing a lifestyle that we all appreciate. So I think we need to focus on some moderation. If only Washington DC could understand a little moderation. Maybe we at a local level can do a better job. There needs to be some balance. There is appropriate signage, perhaps those that currently exist are grandfathered, and there is inappropriate signage. We all here need to come together with a compromise which can continue to protect the integrity of our beautiful Paradise Valley.

Jeff Wagner

I guess my concern, I have a bunch of them but I have to limit it to three minutes here. My concern is from the very onset of the process it seems to have an underlying premise that signs are necessarily bad. There was never any study done in terms of is there really any detriment to Paradise Valley based on roadside signage. The questions has never been do we need to regulate roadside signs, but how should they be regulated by the County. Is it in the best interest of the citizens of Park County roadside signs be regulated? We have no idea because too little to no effort has been expended on the issues to understand any negative correlation between roadside signs, general health, safety and general welfare of the community. There is certainly a lot of opinion from folks who don't want it to turn into 90 along Belgrade, but then again, we have no idea if that is where we are headed. Where is the trending data that signs have been increased over the last five, ten, fifteen, twenty years? Is this increase inconsistent with any other data in terms of population growth? Housing starts? Certainly the Park Service is seeing year to year increases in visitors so it is not negatively impacting the number of people coming through the valley. There is a lot of data that is out there that we just haven't availed ourselves too. Additionally, the notion that the impact on business, take an example like Knowles fly shop. If off site signs aren't allowed how does someone off the beaten track attract people to their location? Likewise, Emigrant Hall. They have a sign above there they use to generate income for the Hall. They aren't a business, they have to sell that to someone else. If they have to do that you are denying them an income revenue stream. Also it looks like the County is required to conduct some sort of a small business impact analysis required by statute MCA 2-4-111. Statute states that the County is required to prior to making a determination or enactment of that rule, if that rule will significantly impact small businesses. There is no evidence in any written record that this process to date has included any type of small business impact analysis. Also, even in the Growth Program, paragraph 16.3, they talk about coming up with different solutions to these issues. Community based approach, we've never tried a community based approach. There are all kinds of business coalitions, why not have them work together to come up with some sort of amicable agreement on signs so that everybody is happy with it. The notion that signs are dangerous; there are any number of studies out there that show there is no difference in the number of accidents in areas where there are road signs versus in areas where there aren't. Push people onto their mobile devices and guess what, that takes their eyes off the road and that's more dangerous than signs. We don't understand all those implications and yet we are making judgements on people's notions without knowing the facts so I think there's a lot more work that needs to be done before we can make a good decision on it.

Craig Harris

I grew up here. I just wanted to talk to you guys, I'm a sign owner and a land owner. Is the County prepared to purchase every one of these signs or move them back and rebuild them to your specs? If you do remove existing signs then what about the income? Is the County prepared to pay the income for these signs that people are going to lose? Also I just wanted to say if this is starting with the signs now, what's next? The center pivots? People don't want to look at the center pivots? People don't like the color of your barn? People don't like the looks of your house? Thanks guys.

Mark Basset

I'm going to speak very, very quickly because I am speaking for two different entities. The first one is my own company, big bear electric. I am in the Pine Creek area. Electrical contractor since 2003 but I have been an electrician in this County since 1995. I wire signs. I see the impacts that these signs have on the people who own these properties and put them up. Without those signs they lose that income. It is a major problem for some of these people. The other side of that equation is as an electrician, by not having these signs or by putting limitations on them they aren't going to allow me to continue my business on certain areas of my work. I disagree with the whole aspect of it. Primarily, because I saw the map and to me I saw the map, I saw the zoning district, it looked like someone went hog wild with a yellow sharpie. It didn't have any rhyme or reason to it. The baby was thrown out the bath water. That's personally on my big bear electric side. On the other side of the house I am the president of the Livingston Area Chamber of Commerce. We represent over four hundred businesses. Advertising is how these people make their money. In the city of Livingston especially. There are three primary entrances into the Park, we all know this. Three million plus visitors into the Park. We are losing a ton of those visitors to the other two entrances. As you go to the other two entrances, you approach them, there are signs for those gateway towns such as into Gardiner. If you take this stuff away people are not going to know where they are going to go. I'm sorry cell service in the Park to find your hotel is sketchy at best. Cell service to find a restaurant is sketchy at best. You could use your cell phone but if you don't know where you are going to go, I travel all over this County as an electrician, and I use my maps. I lose that map every time I get past Yankee Jim Canyon. Having said that it does affect the businesses of this community. Especially Livingston and southern Park County. I urge you to really consider is this the right means to do this or is it a better idea to take a look at the zoning, which is I think the fundamental issue behind the whole thing. I don't think it's the signs. Look at the zoning and identify why is this even something that we are talking about? What is the basis? What is the end basis? Why is this happening now?

Kathy Goodrich

Thank you all for being here. Landowner in Paradise Valley. I appreciate listening. I really appreciate this forum because hearing each other and figuring out how do we find a way forward with conflicting needs, opportunities and with an eye to the future is a tough job you all have. Thanks for running and taking such a big salary for a job that gets you a lot of complaints a lot of the time. Explosive growth is here to stay. It may not always be in the places we want it but it is a reality. I want to say thank you for taking a stab at recognizing that with explosive growth that has no regulations of any kind on it, we get ourselves in a mess that we can't extricate ourselves from ten, twenty, thirty years down the road. Number two, it's inevitable and essential if we look down the road that this is going to happen. It just is. Our kids are going to be sitting here if not ourselves a few years from now so I want to say to you all, be courageous, work on the compromises for the needs that are very legitimate from businesses and landowners but don't back away from the fact that something needs to have some amount of control. It's not an anything goes day for us or what people come here for they will no longer find. Work on those compromises and stay forward thinking but the devil is in the details. Work at those, but find the compromise to go ahead. It's a reality and a zoning district is what's going to have to happen if we want some regulations where and how but you keep talking about it. It may go through five drafts, I don't

know so thank you for these opportunities and I want to share a fun and prescient poem to close. Good old Ogden Nash, some of us are old enough to have had to have memorized him in school I think. Wrote a poem, I think that I should never see a billboard lovely as a tree, indeed unless the billboards fall I will never see a tree at all. A metropolitan area person speaking about our future. Thanks so much.

Rhada Rosier

I live in the doughnut area behind Albertsons. My family and I object to billboards along Montana's scenic highways and we consider all of our highways scenic because billboards are unsightly and distract from the state's greatest economic and aesthetic assets. The mountains, rivers, prairie, wildlife and the farms and ranches that contribute to the state's beauty. I grew up in Vermont and in 1968 they banned billboards. Alaska did it in 1959, Hawaii in 1927 and Maine in 1977. Those are all high tourist states and they have continued to keep their billboard ban in place because it has been economically feasible for them to do so. They recognized that their scenic beauty brought the visitors and their wallets. Not shopping opportunities. While there, visitors find places to spend their money. If they are looking for an RV for instance, they will find them online. Now with our smart phones and technology it is easier for businesses to market themselves and communities to highlight things to do and places to shop. I understand that, I also have been a business person and I understand those difficulties but I truly think that in the wrong run and for the greatest economic gain for the most people we need to consider restricting billboards in some way. I also notice that as a traveler, the city of Whitefish has wonderful signs that tell people, I believe it is a block before, I've only been there once, but it's a block before you need to turn where to turn for what businesses are on that place and we could study other places that do things with discreet signage that are lighted and visible and allow people to find businesses and not detract from our great scenery. Thank you.

Alan Redfield

Landowner in Paradise Valley. The sign thing is not the thing that bothers me. What bothers me is the formation of a zoning district and where it will lead. Problem is what I see is that somewhere down the road someone will decide they don't want to see trees cut. Well maybe to maintain the health of my forest I need to cut a tree or two or three or four hundred and I think that is an issue we need to look at. So when we do a zoning district, are you going to strictly limit it to signs? That is for one thing. I don't feel that you will. Who's coming after you? Maybe they will change that. So if you would like to have an ordinance, I'll carry you a bill next session

Dan Scratum

It's been said before I think this is just the camel getting its nose in the tent, enough on that. I think you fellas, commissioners, are in the process of taking private property rights without just compensation. Are you going to offer O'Haire money? Are you going to offer Rigler money for the possible right of their property in any way they see fit in the future? Another thing I wish you would consider is go study the

oath of office you did when you got into office and you are here to protect the people's rights. Thank you.

Chad Killorn

I live in Livingston. I am a sign guy. I read lots of sign laws. I can understand if no one wants billboards anymore down Paradise Valley. I guess how I feel about it is that it is a taking of property. Those are income to people. By the laws we grandfather but we really don't because once they change copy or change ownership of the advertisers, etc. the sign is gone. So I feel that is not right. I would encourage everybody that we do have regulations. They are from the state of Montana. They are to keep our roads beautiful. They do limit billboard sizes, they do limit that billboards have to be like five hundred feet from a commercial business. My question would be and I didn't look it up and I probably should have is how many billboards have we added on in the past ten years. Maybe that is a better question cause a lot of them are old ones out there. I know there are three new ones but I don't know how many new ones have went up out there. I'm not against regulation. I believe the draft that was submitted is, from other sign laws I have seen, is juvenile at best and is just targeting one group. I think we can be a little bit more responsible and look at other sign laws from a lot of different places and not just one side. That's it.

Marty Malone

106 Pray Rd. , which is rough by the way. I'm against the zoning proposal as written. I feel that a three minute comment period is inappropriate for a land grab such as this. I'm adamantly opposed to Commissioner initiated zoning. I feel the legislature did a great disservice by allowing three people to dictate how land owners should use their property. The purpose of commissioner initiated zoning is to allow zoning for for emergency situations. This is not one and there are two types of zoning, citizen initiated commissioner initiated. There is no such thing as County initiated. This is a Planning Board initiated, I reviewed the minutes and clearly this proposal comes from the Planning Board. It states in MCA code that all Commissioners should attend hearings to listen to the public. Commissioners were not at the hearing in Emigrant and there are only two Commissioners here tonight. It shows that the original proposal calls for billboard zoning at 89 south, then all of a sudden it becomes the entire paradise valley and all areas within the boundaries of the zone. Was there some sort of ex parte communication that caused this insertion of a motion that was not discussed in a prior meeting? Billboards were not mentioned in the purpose when the Planning Board wrote it up. Nor did the Planning Board recommend any changes to the purpose. It was clearly a power move by someone with a key sentence in the document that reads, partially to create a tool that will allow the County to respond to and address evolving land issues. That statement scares me. What is the purpose of that statement? The statement allows the County Commission to zone anything. This document does not promote the welfare of the County but negatively impacts a proven marketing tool that has been used for decades. The desires of the beautification department of Montana Department of Transportation must not dictate how land owners use their property nor how they market their business. I do not oppose the use of billboards, it's clearly a marketing decision and if they were not of any use they would go away because people would quit paying for them. There are many methods to improve the scenic resources of this County but billboards are an easy target. Finally if billboards are so bad in the Commission's eyes

why not the entire County? Why just Paradise Valley? Why are we grandfathering signs if they are so bad? Why not take them all down such as Gallatin County wanted to? Thank you.

Peter McKenzie

I am a resident in the used to be doughnut. The doughnut no longer exists because of a lot of shenanigans by the Commission back in the East Interchange Growth Policy program. I see this going down the same road. Mr. Inman has been a proponent screaming about zoning the entire Park County for the last 15 years that I have known him. This is an anti-business, whatever you are doing. You are just putting it right in the faces of every businessman and as a medium sized business man for thirty five, forty years I can tell you I had retail businesses and signs were the important thing. That's the ruse here which bothers me. You are using this signage thing to get zoning. Signs, billboard signs, a thousand bucks a month. You going to compensate everybody not only for the income but for the taking of the property? I don't think so, are you? I would regroup and think this over again. If you want to come at us property owners with district zoning do it right. It's not about the signs. Thank you.

Walt Weisman

I live in the Mill Creek drainage. I got here in a rather cliché way in the early nineties. I came up to learn to fly fish was here for five days. Next summer I came up to fish again, longer. Next summer, next summer and as the time went on the fly fishing was fine but I fell in love with the beauty here. The majesty. But at the same time, I was getting to meet the people here. That included ranchers, and retired firemen, and business men and school teachers, the writers and the artists. It was meeting the people here that caused me to actually move here. I know how complicated this is. We all know with the push from over the hill that we are going to have a lot of growth here and we aren't going to stop that. We do have a chance to shape it a little bit. I think that one of the things that we all value living here is that this is a rural place. That beauty haunts us and provides for a lot of us. Provides for the Country. It's also a place that because of that beauty it creates a lot of business and a lot of value. I would argue that beauty is worth a lot of money and if we don't shape the growth that occurs in our County, if we devalue that beauty it's going to actually hurt business and it's going to hurt our property values. I understand if you make money by having a sign on your property and you lose that, although you will be grandfathered in, but if you lose that opportunity to put that sign up I get it, there's a cost. But there is an offset to that. Because if our County is more beautiful your land is worth more. Businesses that are here are worth more. We will attract more people that will spend more money. People want to go and camp where it's beautiful. They want to dine where it's beautiful. They want to travel roads where it is beautiful. This beauty is shared by all of us and I believe it should be defended. I'm not worried about how this road looks now, but I am worries about how it's going to look in ten years from now. That is your challenge, to overlook some of these current objections and look forward enough to realize that all of us have something to lose if we don't shape this growth. Thank you.

Kim Arthur

I am concerned about the zoning. I understand that the study was done on a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to do the whole study but why, this signage now since you have updated, I've read the changes. Why can't you just change the zoning down to an $\frac{1}{8}$ th of a mile? It doesn't need to be $\frac{3}{4}$ s of a mile if it's just for signs. Also through the state of Montana, they regulate these signs. They are all supposed to be so many feet apart, you can't have them all stacked on top of each other. Legally you're not supposed to have more than one vendor per sign, things like that. I don't know all of them off the top of my head but they all are there and a lot of these people don't realize that as well. They can't be, they have to be so many feet apart, 300 feet, 600 feet I'm not sure and people should know that as well. You should present what's already in place and what you want to change upon that by the state. These signs are regulated and you have to have permits. You have to pay your permit fees for the future so I think you should do a little more homework and inform people about what's already in place and what it is you want to change against that. Secondly, I also think yes there is the income factor and people do collect income from these signs and that is very important. People have bought property specifically for rental income. So when they, again the draft is very vague, still very vague. What happens to existing sign owners? You need to spell this out. What happens if you sell the property? What happens if you change a vendor? There's these variances and we got to get a permit and all these things but is it just the vendor? What if we have to do a repair? You know those sorts of things. You're not very clear on this and that makes people scared. So bullet it out, it's not hard. Say exactly what you are going to do. Then there can be moderation. No we don't want billboards on top of billboards. No we don't want to light up the sky. Those things nobody I don't think here wants. Even people coming in that are from a different state who don't understand that, I don't think they are going to want that either. I think you need to be more specific to let the people know.

Jim Vernon

I live on Billman Lane. I have been driving up and down, well I grew up in Laurel and we have been driving up of course to go to Yellowstone for too long now, fifty five years or something like that. It's not getting any prettier. It's not getting any more beautiful, it's not getting any more attractive, and it's not getting any more appealing. It has always been the most beautiful spot in the world and it's going downhill not because the mountains are any uglier. It's the stuff along the road. The other thing is I built a cabin out in Washington on the coast and I go out there to work on it and enjoy it several times a year. I never use billboards. I have one of those little telephones and I always use that. According to the New York Times did a study that use of that tool is growing and the use of signs is dropping. It may not seem like it around here where I guess there are more signs, but the use of a google maps or something like that it shows you that thirty miles down the road you got to travel or something like that, well sixty miles down the road there is a place to eat, there is a place to stay and in fact as everybody knows, you can set in a course and follow it without even looking at one billboard.

Helen Longshore

I live on 89 South. Mr. Vernon just made a very interesting comment. Did yall catch it? Did ya catch it? I mean the A gust, indisputable New York Times said that signage is dropping because cell phone and GPS use is increasing. So what's all the fuss about? Let nature take its course, signage will go away or not increase and we don't have to worry about it in the first place.

Kim Kaiser

I moved here. I live down in Gardiner and have some property in the Paradise Valley. I come from Mississippi. I left Mississippi to avoid some of this zoning stuff that just reading about this here. The sign thing does not really bother me that bad. But zoning does. Cause I remember fifteen, twenty years ago, you watch that Bozeman area they had a little bit of zoning here, a little there. We are going to take care of it here, we'll do that. Now every day you read in the paper there is a fight are we going to do this? Are we going to do that? The zoning doesn't allow for this, we got to go get a variance. Where I come from in Mississippi we had something called the hysterical society. It was the historical society but you had the hystericals on it and you couldn't put a building up in downtown without maintaining a 1798 façade. Now that just costs a lot of money to redo a façade just to put in a 600 dollar a month rental. Before long when you start regulating you got to start making changes cause people come with variances. In my opinion it just stifles things. There's room for just some, but creating one creates another and then you got this next verse and then you got an industrial area and then you get a commercial, residential area and all the building codes change to effect all these things and if you don't address those things first off then it just becomes a big quagmire. Then people stop building, they stop looking in my opinion. It's just my opinion and I come from an area that's been around since 1770 something a city on the Mississippi River and its slowly worked itself out. Basically because of regulations and zoning issues. You got to be very careful how you deal with that stuff. I like it up here. I left there for a variety of reasons but I like it out here because it was somewhat free and open. I don't encroach or anything else but it gave me a chance to explore ideas of things I wanted to do as opposed to going to Bozeman and paying a fifteen thousand dollar impact fee before you can scratch the ground to build a house. You know you're on the hook for fifteen grand to build a house before you can even scratch the dirt. Those kind of things they just disturb me and I'd hate to see it go that way here cause I like it here. Thank you.

Jerry O'Haire

I guess that I'm going to have to apologize for the looks of the valley. I've lived here a long long time. My family settled in the valley and I have to apologize for the way it looks. I don't know what this is all about. I think it's more than signing. I went through your Growth Policy thing here and it says private property ownership is the foundation so on and so forth. A lot of gobly goop and no person shall be deprived of life, liberty and property without due compensation. What the hell is this all about? Honestly I don't understand. I guess I really do because I see the people who wrote this thing are people of the public trough. They've never met a payroll, they have never met their obligation. I'm really upset about this thing. I think this is a horrible document that's been written. Those that favor this thing, I am sorry that Paradise Valley looks like it does. I really am. There's a whole bunch of this thing when you go

through this Growth Policy. Believe me I was not in favor of this thing. I thought this was the most horrible written document that could have come before the County. Mike, thank you. On top of that, and I want to thank the County Commission for this also, all three of ya. This is absolutely something beyond belief. When you came up with this signing thing I thought, hmm I don't have many signs on my property, hardly any. But I can see that you're going to regulate. That I'm not going to be able to have a light on my pivot. I'm not going to be able to have Black Angus cows running along the road. Its unsightly. I can't believe what's going on here. This is absolutely beyond belief and it's against what you told us on the Growth Policy. You said this wasn't a zoning thing. That it wasn't a document that was, had a lawful being. It was just something that we were supposed to look at and file away. Believe me I did and then I had to dig it up and find out what in the world was in this thing. I'm really disappointed in you, as the planning board members and as the County Commissioners. This is not a document that should even be made public. I'm sorry. Thank you.

Frank Rigler

I live up the Yellowstone for 75 years. I've moved fifty five yards in my life. On the way down here tonight I wasn't going to come and I went to pull on the road and cars were going down there. Probably a few quarters of a mile of cars went by me. As I went down the road I thought why am I going to this meeting? Because people don't have their priorities set in this County. I don't have one way out of Gardiner basin. One road. If there are rocks in the road, people die. I came down and a gravel truck came along and I lost a new windshield again. Ya know. It never stops. All the trucks go up in the park. They used to have gravel pits up there for god sake. They would haul all the weeds up into Yellowstone. Then the weeds come down the Yellowstone. You look at the Forest Service. You start out at my place and I sprayed, my kids and I sprayed ten, twenty years ago. The Forest Service hasn't done a damn thing and nether has the County. This is going to the planning board. Spray some weeds. Take care of the ground. As landowners we got to take care of our property. The Fishing Game doesn't do anything, the Forest Service doesn't do anything neither does the damn Yellowstone Park. It's a disgrace. So think, set some priorities. Get some people spraying. Get half this planning board out of here. I'm tired of paying my taxes for nothing. Thank you.

Gwen Wagner

Livingston. I've been here for over fifty years and I know a lot of people who have spoken tonight and I know some of you. I would just say that as I've listened to the comments there are three things that come to mind. It seems to me there is an ethical, moral and legal situation that has been presented to us. I think that you all are charged with the responsibility of utilizing your position, which is one of power. I do agree with many of the comments that have been made tonight. That this is just the beginning of the camel's nose under the tent. I think it's a matter of control. I think it is sort of a test case. Maybe you're not even aware of that but I think you all are. I also am reminded of a little parable if you will bear with me. It was the chicken and the pig and they were visiting. The chicken said to the pig she said, you know this farmer has been so good to us. He is has provided housing for us, he has fed us and all these things. I think we should do something for him. The pig said, ok that's fine what do you have in mind. She said well, let's fix him breakfast. I'll furnish the eggs you furnish the bacon. He said

well you know, that is all fine and dandy but you see for you it's a contribution, for me it's a commitment. That's how I see this tonight. A lot of the people who have spoken tonight they have been here for decades. Many of the others have come as a result and I am delighted. I came from South Dakota actually and I didn't think it was that bad. I didn't see all that many signs, but I think that you all are overreaching. I think that there has not been great forethought into this and I think you need to step back. None of us want to see pollution. None of us want to see our valley desecrated. But you know what, a lot of people have put blood, sweat and tears. They have lost things, they have sacrificed things to keep that valley pristine and I have been here a long time. Longer than any of yall, I'm an old lady. I think that you need to take into consideration the moral, the ethical and the legal ramifications of what you all are ready to do because it will have ramifications. I can guarantee you. That is just the nature of the beast and that is all I have to say. Thank you.

Patritia Grabough

I live at 204 East Callender Street in Livingston. My grandfather arrived in Livingston in 1885. I know a lot of the ranchers here tonight and family that arrived that early. For example the O'Hair's would not have an irrigated Paradise Valley if it would not have been for Jerry's family. Anothony Bordane said this may be one of the most awesome places on Earth and I agree. I agree as a child, going out in Paradise Valley, sometimes I would almost lose my breath because I thought it was so beautiful and I was just a young child. So we have a legacy but that legacy came from the ranchers but if you look at Paradise Valley it is the ranchers that have kept that valley beautiful. They haven't developed, they have that large acreage on which the cattle graze. So my suggestion on this, I appreciate the fact. We had a thing called the SID study that says the source of income for Livingston and Park County is tourism and ranching. Those are the two sources of income. I think that tourism, I agree with a former speaker that tourism needs beauty. That's why people come to the Paradise Valley. I just watched the opening of the Sage and it really markets the beauty of that valley. We are lacking a tourism infrastructure which tells the visitors on highway 90 how beautiful their experience is going to be coming through Livingston at exit 337 going into Paradise Valley. So I think we need to beef up our tourism industry but at the same time there's the rub. We have to work with the ranchers period. We have to listen tonight to what they have to say. We have to limit somehow assure that this zoning is limited to this only. Nothing else because I hear everybody saying this may be a precursor of what could happen. So when you write this it is so important that you write it so there is harmony with the ranchers. So that you limit the width of what happens and that this is it and it's written into the document. Right now I don't think it is. Maybe we need three or four or five or six drafts. Whatever amount of drafts we need but those ranchers are key to the beauty of Paradise Valley frankly. They must be taken into consideration. Thank you.

Brice Shiber

Folks I've lived her my whole life and I think that everybody here that owns land has worked extremely hard to have it and they deserve to do with it what they see fit. I don't think anybody has the right to tell them that they can't put a sign up if they want to. Doing that opens up the door to doing things down the road like somebody else mentioned. The guys that come in office after you, or after that, or after that they can modify just a little bit and start taking away little bits at a time and pretty soon you are

telling people that you can't put up your archway. You can't put up your pivots. You can't put up a light or something else. You know I built a fence earlier today, I almost didn't make it because I was building horse fence. I was driving a four wheeler backwards cause it's busted so the fence is crooked and ugly and it was fast but these folks, things happen like that fast. Down the road if you do something like this, you can't do what you need to do. It's going to be its unsightly you can't have this kind of fence. It will be like a home owners association on everybody's land and it shouldn't be there. Just Paradise Valley is a start and it will just move out throughout the whole County. It isn't right to push on those rights for people. That's all I got to say.

Kevin Marx

4246 Hwy 89 South. Yes and I do have billboards. We purchased the land twelve years ago, the Marx family. The billboards were part of the reason but it is still a beautiful place. Billboards have been around this country since the 1700's. We used them to tell Americans that the British were coming. In the 1800s they were still being used and in the 1900s after the automobile got going they are on the rise as of today. People say here, oh everybody's using phones. I'm not. A lot of people aren't. If you want to go down the road using your phone go right ahead. I've lived out there for twelve years, I've never once seen one accident in front of my house. None from billboards. Yes they are a part of my income, they are going to be part of children's income and maybe my grandchildren if it goes well. I have people, I've been listening to these meetings the past couple of weeks. I've heard people say their opinion on some things. Meanwhile, they have their big mansions on Yellowstone River, in the mountains destroying whole areas in the mountains. But a couple billboards is not going to hurt Paradise Valley. If you go down Paradise Valley you will see hundreds of square miles going from Livingston to Gardiner. There is not even a couple hundred feet of billboards. There are some that are illegal. Yes I know that. The state has to step up their game on that. You know, should we regulate it, yes. People have asked me to put up lights, I won't do it. They've asked me to put in more billboards, I won't do it. That was there when I got there and I'm keeping it. You know, so that's it.

Erica Lightheiser

275 Convict Grade. You don't have to apologize at all for what you do in the valley Mr. O'Haire. You've definitely... I've learned a lot tonight. I really appreciate everyone showing up and providing their heartfelt opinions on this matter. Park County Environmental Council already submitted some supportive comments related to the zoning ordinance but because it came up here tonight related to the Montana regulations I just wanted to put those on the record. I looked them up when we were sitting here. I guess the maximum size of a billboard for the state of Montana is 672 square feet. It can be no larger than 48 feet wide and 14 feet high and it can't exceed 48 feet that was the width. I thought that was notable in that it was quite a large sign, but that is what's required by the state of Montana. Thanks again to everyone for coming out tonight. I'm learning a lot and I look forward to participating in this process.

John Payne

Mr. Payne, my name proceeds me. So this is just some closing thoughts for you. This is obviously in violation and a taking of private property rights. I think you can already see you're going to have a fight with that. What I am proposing under that is that, if you want to initiate some parts of the growth plan and do something about the signs then you're going to have to pay for them. If the County doesn't pay for them and the people of the County don't pay for them then all the stakeholders of the community. Meaning all the landowners and all the people it's important to that don't want to have signs that they pay for the rights to take away the landowners rights to put up the sign. That's the only way that this can go good for anybody. So if you're going to take these signs away, somebody is going to have to pay for them. Number two, the state does regulate these under title 60, so you can write this down, and they are already being regulated. So if there are changes you want to make with the state, cause they are going through a review process on signs, that's great. But again, what I thought earlier as well this effects my entire building. This isn't just about billboards and freestanding signs. This is about thousands of square feet of frontage on buildings that I have. That this also effects. I'm not going to allow this to happen, I can just tell you that. Thank you very much.

Frank Rigler

A few years ago a company was going to put a cellphone on my place. It was ready to go and the County museum wrote a fictitious report into SHIPO and stopped the cellphone tower. Outfit never came back otherwise we would have cellphones through the County, through Yankee Jim Canyon I mean, and the Gardiner area would be a heck of a lot better. But just because a few people and the museum and a few people from Yellowstone Park wrote derogatory articles on my cellphone tower, they don't have cellphone service up there like they should have. I'd try and get a cellphone tower up but I am not going to fight these kind of people, but there should be a cellphone tower. The amount of people that are on that road. You ask the sheriff and fire department, through Yankee Jim Canyon there are a lot of cellphones that don't work. Thank you.

Walt Weisman

Very briefly I want to respond to one comment that was made. There isn't a day that I drive up and down that valley that I am not thankful for the ranchers and the heritage that they have gifted to us decade after decade, generation after generation. I have so much respect for the work their families have put in and for the beauty they have left us. My goal is to see us preserve and protect some of that, not take it away. Specifically, Mr. O'Haire may not remember this but I have told him on several occasions how much I appreciate what his whole family has done for all of us here.

Jerry O'Haire

I'm wondering if this isn't an infringement on the freedom of speech. Think about it is this an infringement on the freedom of speech? This is just one of the little things that is happening along the

way and I think that you are infringing on the freedom of speech and believe me I think you are on bad waters.

Chan Libby

Something brief here but I didn't have the time before. Yellowstone's edge RV Park. I feel the proposed regulations mean spirited and antibusiness in nature. I'm perplexed that our guest service businesses are not being represented and fairly treated in this draft regulation document. I hope compromises can be made and a fair representation of business interests will be supported. Our County Commissioners and our Planning Board have a duty to represent all of our interests fairly and impartially. Thank you.

Alan Carter

Pine Creek, Rancher. I sat on the Planning Board with Mr. Inman for a number of years and it was a constant battle because he was always wanting to overreach, take, take, and take. To these regulations, I understand what the man is all about a lot of these people don't. You're going down a road here that you're going to regret because a lot of us aren't going to sit still for a taking of our property rights because I know him well enough to know, this is just the opening to the door. This is not the end of it. Thank you.