

Friends of Park County

P.O. Box 23, Pray, Montana 59065

Promoting thoughtfully planned growth in order to protect and enhance Park County's vibrant communities, sustainable working lands, and healthy natural resources.

Governor Greg Gianforte
Senate President Mark Blasdel
House Speaker Wylie Galt
Senator John Esp
Representative Marty Malone
Representative Laurie Bishop

RE: Safeguarding Local Control over Planning Matters in Park County

March 17, 2021

Sirs & Madam

We are writing to you about introduced and prospective legislation curbing the ability of Montana's local officials to respond to their constituents' concerns about the impacts of growth and development and conservation.

Park County's economy relies heavily on ranching, farming and tourism. Those industries depend on the land, natural resources and beauty of Park County.

Those lands and resources are also the basis for our quality of life, something that poor, working families and the affluent share.

A large number of bills have been introduced to radically rewrite or repeal significant parts of our land use laws and hamstringing our ability of manage the growth and protect our economy and quality of life.

Those bills include SB 44, SB 161, SB 135, SB 174, SB 211, SB 259, SB 294, HB 259, HB 395, HB 470, HB 528 and HB 529.

Some of those bills have been tabled but others are proceeding through the legislative process.

We ask you to respect our local knowledge and the decades of effort by us and our fellow residents to develop our own, local, plans and land use regulations that reflect the way we would like to achieve a balance between growth and conservation.

They also allow us to reconcile the competing and sometimes conflicting property interests of our landowners. Locally-crafted and adapted land use regulations can avoid or minimize major controversies and contribute to friendly and respectful relationships that are essential to a successful and resilient community.

Respectfully,

Frank Schroeder, Chair

E-Copies: Park County Commissioners
 Park County Planning Board
 Park County Planning Staff
 Livingston City Commissioners
 Livingston Planning Board
 Livingston Planning Staff
 Natural Resources Policy Advisor to Governor Gianforte, Michael Freeman

Addresses:

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Senate President Mark Blasdel PO BOX 1493. KALISPELL, MT 59903.

House Speaker Wylie Galt 106 71 RANCH RD MARTINSDALE, MT 59053

State Senator John Esp PO BOX 1024. BIG TIMBER, MT 59011

State Representative Marty Malone PO BOX 152. Pray, MT 59065-0152.

State Representative Laurie Bishop 211 S YELLOWSTONE ST LIVINGSTON, MT 59047.

You should probably send the letter by email to the legislators' key staff.