

Debbie Evans

From: Tylor [tylor@prudentialmissoula.com]

Sent: Monday, November 12, 2007 11:10 AM

To: Debbie Evans

I would like to offer my full support of the proposed Bitterroot Resort. I have read the economic impact statement and I truly believe the resort would be an incredible. Long-term economic boost to the Missoula area.

Missoula has had such a devastating history from natural resource extractive industries in the past, and continues to suffer today. When Smurffit-Stone originally opened, people of this community were glad for the economic boost the mill brought to this community. Today, it is hard to justify this industry. Closing of a facility such as the mill was once thought to be so dramatic that our community would collapse. The thought process has been proven wrong and the closure of the Bonner mill has been a welcoming event. Missoula's economy has evolved to a recreation/tourism based community, and I feel the Bitterroot Resort is exactly the type of industry needed to keep the current boom of Missoula going strong.

I am a 5th generation Missoulian and my family and I have seen Missoula in stagnant economic states such as in the early 80s. To secure a strong future for our children, citizens of this area must realize Montana has been discovered by the wealthy out of state individuals and we, as a community, must capitalize with a smart growth policy aimed at clean industries. The Maclay family has been stewards of the land for several generations. I know first hand, for my family has owned and managed land in the Miller/Davis Creek area South of Missoula for over 60 years. Our property runs adjacent to the Maclay ranch, and I respect the management and appreciation of the Montana way of life passed on through the Maclay family. It is the families of the past that have held their lands together, preserving the Missoula area in the state it now rest, which has helped create today's recreation/tourism based economy we now all benefit from.

Yes, the Maclays stand to profit from this proposed resort, but why shouldn't they? Tom's sister Libby recently sold her land with conservation easements forever preserving vast amounts of land for the benefit to all citizens of the great State of Montana. If Tom is not allowed to proceed with a resort open to the public, he will for sure develop this area as an exclusive private resort, which will cater only to out-of-state wealthy individuals, forever locking out locals.

I urge all citizens of this great community to embrace the development of the Bitterroot Resort as a public destination for which we, and our children, all have a right to enjoy and appreciate as a community.

Tylor Trenary

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