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I COME BEFORE YOU TODAY " IN FAVOR" OF THIS BILL EVEN THOUGH IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE THAT ANYONE SHOULD HAVE TO TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT ANY FORM OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FROM " TAKING" ANY OR ALL OF ANY CITIZENS PRIVATELY OWNED PROPERTY VALUE WITHOUT FAIR MARKET COMPENSATION.

PART OF OUR FREEDOM IN THIS GREAT NATION IS THE BASIC UNDERSTANDING THAT WE HAVE A RIGHT TO OWN AND USE PROPERTY WE HAVE STRUGGLED, USUALLY MANY YEARS, TO PAY FOR AND A LARGE PART OF THAT USE IS IN THE VALUE THERE OF.

SOME FOLKS, USUALLY WORKING THROUGH WELL FUNDED ORGANIZED GROUPS SUCH AS THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE COALITION, SONORAN INSTITUTE AND THE SIERRA CLUB, THINK IT IS PERFECTLY OK TO TAKE YOUR PROPERTY FOR THEIR PERSONAL AGENDAS SUCH AS PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, WILDLIFE HABITAT, WILDLIFE CORRIDORS, VIEW SHEDS, NIGHT STAR GAZING, THE SPOTTED OWL, THE SNAIL DARTER AND A MYRID OF OTHER PERSONAL AND PUBLIC USES.

I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THESE USES, HOWEVER IF THAT IS WHAT A VOTING MAJORITY IN THAT JURISDICTION WANTS THEN THEY SHOULD BUY THAT PROPERTY AT FAIR MARKET VALUE, NEVER SHOULD A GROUP BE ALLOWED TO STEAL A LANDOWNERS PROPERTY VALUE THROUGH REGULATIONS. IF THEY ARE ALLOWED TO "TAKE" PROPERTY THEN IN EFFECT NO ONES PROPERTY IS SAFE FROM NOW ON, YOURS AND MINE ARE NEXT.

IT HAS BEEN SAID MANY TIMES THAT " THE COST OF FREEDOM IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE"

THIS COMPUTER DISC IS A COPY OF THE TESTIMONY GIVEN BY CITIZENS OF GALLATIN COUNTY AT A PUBLIC HEARING IN THE COURT

HOUSE IN DECEMBER 2004 REGARDING ZONING, TWO INDIVIDUALS TESTIFIED BASICALLY THAT ALL THE LAND BELONGS TO EVERYONE, THAT SOUNDS LIKE COMMUNAL COMMUNISM, AND SEEMS TO BE A GROWING ATTITUDE, ESPECIALLY AMONG THOSE THAT HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT WANT WHAT THEY CANNOT AFFORD AND ARE WILLING TO TAKE IT FROM OTHERS, USING LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND KEEP PAYING "YOUR" LAND TAXES THANK YOU AND BY THE WAY TAKE CARE OF "YOUR" WEEDS AND KEEP "YOUR" FENCES UP, YOU SEE THEY NORMALLY DO NOT "ACTUALLY" TAKE THE LAND, JUST THE ABILITY TO USE YOUR LAND JUST AS YOUR NEIGHBOR NOW USES THEIRS.

WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE OWNERS OF DEVELOPED LAND BEING IN JEPORDY, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE OWNERS OF UNDEVELOPED AGRICULTURE LAND, THAT IS ALMOST 100% OF THE ISSUE. IT DOES NOT MATTER THAT AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION PRICES HAVE NOT KEPT UP WITH INFLATION OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS, IT DOES NOT MATTER THAT A DROUGHT MEANS YOU NEED TO SELL A PARCEL TO STAY IN BUSINESS, MANY ARE BEING SUCKED UNWILLINGLY INTO ZONING DISTRICTS, WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT HELP, AND ZONED SO THEY CANNOT SELL PARCELS TO OBTAIN THEIR VALUE NEEDED TO SATISFY THE BANK, FUND THEIR RETIREMENT, FUND THEIR YOUNGSTERS COLLEGE EDUCATION, HEALTH BILLS OR WHATEVER.

I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT SUBVERTING "TRUE" PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES, THAT SHOULD NEVER BE DONE. BY THE WAY THESE SAME FOLKS THAT LIKE TO "TAKE" OTHER PEOPLES PROPERTY SAY THAT THEY DO NOT TRUST THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT QUALITY, TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, AS THEY KEEP TRYING TO "PROTECT" THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH ZONING. THIS SEEMS LIKE A DIRECT SLAP IN THE FACE OF THE LEGISLATURE AS THE DEQ IS A PART OF STATE GOVERNMENT UNDER THE LEGISLATURES CONTROL. OF COURSE THIS IS JUST ONE OF THEIR PLOYS TO PREVENT DEVELOPMENT, "IN THEIR BACK YARD" THEREBY "TAKING" OTHERS PROPERTY.

I WANT TO MAKE IT VERY CLEAR, I AM NOT OPPOSED TO ZONING, WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS ETC, MANY TIMES THE LAND VALUE IS INCREASED BECAUSE OF THE PREDICTABILITY OF WHAT YOU CAN DO. AND IN MOST CASES THIS IS THE NORM, BUT WHEN A GROUP GETS TOGETHER WITH THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF STOPPING DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR "BACK YARD", OTHERS ARE GOING TO LOOSE VALUE AND LOTS OF IT. ONE PARTY IS FACED WITH AN APPROXIMATE \$100,000 HIT, ANOTHER CLOSE TO \$500,000, AND THERE ARE OTHERS.

THESE ARE NOT JUST LOCAL AGENDAS, THERE IS ALSO THE OVERALL DRIVE TO MAKE A HUGE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR FULL LENGHT OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, MEXICO TO CANADA, WITH LOTS OF PRIVATE LAND INVOLVED, IS YOURS IN THE PATH? ALSO YOU HAVE PROBABLY HEARD OF THE "BIG OPEN", INVOLVING A LOT OF EASTERN MONTANA, IS YOUR LAND PART OF THIS? THERE SEEMS TO BE, IN SOME CASES, A COMBINATION OF "NIMBY'S" AND MULTISTATE ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TOGETHER LOCALY THEREBY ADDING LAND, LITTLE BY LITTLE, TO HUGE PLANS SUCH AS THE MEXICO TO CANADA CORRIDOR. BY ATTACKING A FEW LAND OWNWERS AT A TIME THEY USUALLY AVIOD ORGANIZED OPPOSITION, AND THE OWNERS SEEM TO HAVE NO RECOURSE.

I URGE YOU TO PASS THIS BILL.

OUR TROOPS ARE FIGHTING AND DYING IN IRAQ RIGHT NOW TO GIVE THOSE FOLKS FREEDOM, THE SAME FREEDOM THAT WE ARE LOOSING INCH BY INCH.