

Comments to Blaine County Planning and Zoning Commission  
April 12, 2006  
Hailey, Idaho

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission:

My name is Nils Ribi.

I reside at 3 Bunchberry Lane in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening on the proposed Blaine County 2025 Ordinances.

It is obvious you have perhaps a once in a lifetime opportunity to steer the future development of Blaine County through your actions in the coming weeks and months.

I encourage you to take a few moments to reflect on how these proposed Ordinances will affect the future of our valley, and your commitment to stand strong for the values of the larger community.

Make sure the Ordinances are truly in step with the values the citizens of Blaine County have expressed over and over again during the public process this past year.

I encourage you to embrace the truly balanced and important national planning principles of Smart Growth, and in particular, these two:

1. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty and critical environmental areas;  
and
2. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities.

Take heed of these words. Make sure the Ordinances do apply these principles, and make sure they avoid sprawl at all cost.

It will be tempting to simply compromise on this.

The Ordinances will be successful if they allow the County to retain its rural character and let the cities be cities.

The cities can and must take the density, but at the same time the County must stay rural.

One way to test this is to be sure there is separation between our cities.

And please, by all means, as you evaluate the Ordinances make sure they do not allow the cities to grow completely together over time.

You can ensure that separation by making sure open space is preserved through careful, thoughtful, but firm planning, and be willing to pay for it if necessary.

Thank you for your public service.