

April 4, 2016

Boise City Planning and Development Services
P.O. Box 500
Boise, Idaho 83701-0500
(208) 384-3830

Dear Boise City Planning and Development Services,

As a Boise City resident, I would like to voice a concern I have about the proposed residential development at 6781 E. Warm Springs Avenue in Boise, Idaho. My reluctance to support this development stems from two primary reasons: the potential environmental and recreational impact the development may inadvertently cause, and the desire to prevent a popular local business from leaving a key location for the residents of the immediate area and for those that enjoy a delicious meal after an action-filled day along the celebrated Boise Greenbelt.

As a native Idahoan, I embrace the exploration of the great outdoors and honor the natural wildlife habitats that have been established in our great state. I believe in the respectful use and conservation of those habitats while surrounding myself in their glory. The area near 6781 E. Warm Springs Avenue has always been a beautiful section of the greenbelt. I have personally spotted deer, osprey, bald eagles, blue heron, foxes, and a variety of small rodents along this particular stretch of the path. With access to the Boise Greenbelt, the Boise River, and the Lucky Peak Dam, the area is a haven for recreation. It serves as a pivotal location for recreationalists out to get their fix. I personally have used the greenbelt access point at this particular location many times when riding my bicycle and walking along the greenbelt in the Spring, Summer, and Fall. It is a healthy tradition I would like to keep alive. Many residents would agree that this little stretch of the land is a community jewel.

The Ben's Crow Inn restaurant satisfies an essential commercial need for the area as well. With its close proximity to Highway 21 and the lack of other nearby commercial plots, 6781 E. Warm Springs Avenue is a prime location to remain a commercial plot. Local residents of Boise and those from out of town can enjoy one last stop before heading out or returning home from nearby recreational adventures or even busy business trips. As avid recreationalists, my friends and I have on many occasions enjoyed the restaurant's buttery steamed clams and seasoned hot fries after a good day snowshoeing or cross-country skiing in the wilderness surrounding Idaho City. There is nothing better than keeping tradition alive while supporting local business. Boise needs to keep places like the Ben's Crow Inn in order to maintain its unique reputation as a town with eclectic heart and soul. When word of mouth is the main form of marketing for a local business, like Ben's Crow Inn, you know you have a treasure. There really is no other place in town like Ben's Crow Inn.

As a local 4th grade school teacher who teaches Idaho history, I believe it is important to preserve Idaho's wildlife and recreation for future generations; a legacy we can gladly pass on to deserving upcoming generations. It would be a shame to see this relatively small strip of commercial land become a residential development. The existing commercial plot imposes few disturbances to the wildlife of the area. You need only walk a few hundred feet before you see an informational board celebrating the diverse wildlife that currently flourishes in the area. I'm afraid that with a significant increase of residents in this particular area, which is sure to come with a residential proposal of this magnitude, the wildlife would be forced to find alternative habitats leaving the residents of Boise and those who enjoy the Boise Greenbelt a missed opportunity to enjoy the natural wildlife of this beautiful area. Please help provide for our future generations, protect the wildlife, maintain recreational access to the greenbelt, and promote tradition by keeping the commercial land at 6781 E. Warm Springs Avenue intact. We love our little gem right here in the Gem State!

Sincerely,



Susan Hayes, M.Ed.

4th Grade Dual Language Teacher

Whittier Elementary School

susan.hayes@boiseschools.org

(208) 890-9625