

## Glenda Wiles

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**From:** Jeff Burrows  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 12:23 PM  
**To:** 'Russ Lawrence'; Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
**Subject:** RE: Official response

Russ,

If an accusation of possible racism on a phrase that in no way could be construed as such is your attempt at civil discourse, I think you should consider re-evaluating.

If your letter would have remained somewhat in the bounds of civil discourse and about your opposition to a natural resource policy, I would have accepted your criticism with an open mind. The even slight implication that the "boy from Illinois" comment was racist was inappropriate and I expect more from you based on past thoughtful discussions and debates.

The email you received was from me and not my colleagues or the Board of Commissioners, please do not paint them with your broad brush.

Jeff

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**From:** Russ Lawrence <russworks@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019 11:35 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office <commissioners@rc.mt.gov>  
**Subject:** Official response

Commissioners:

I watched an hour and a half of video of a meeting that I couldn't attend in person, paying attention to every comment. I spent time thinking about it over a period of weeks, considering what I'd heard, and then spent a significant amount of time composing a response. My letter was serious in tone, and respectful throughout, dealing with philosophical issues relevant to the management of Ravalli County.

I was curious to find out how our new board of county commissioners would engage with the public they serve (and which pays their salaries). Their official reply:

"Wrong on so many levels it does not warrant a response . . . Jeff"

So now I guess I know what level of civil discourse and intellectual engagement to expect.

If any sitting commissioners are still wondering why there have been billboards and yard signs politely urging Ravalli County Commissioners to respect the public they serve, they might ponder this.

No further response is necessary.

Yours,

Russ Lawrence  
600 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St.

