1-13-09

Gallatin County Commission
C/O Tom Rogers
Gallatin County Planning Department
311 West Main Room 108
Bozeman, MT  59715

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for notifying us of the public hearing for Huttinga Gravel Pit on Tuesday January 27, 2009. We will try to attend, but in case we cannot we wish to have our comments made part of the record.

We want to express our appreciation of and support for Mr. Huttinga and his operation. He is an exemplary and considerate neighbor and his operation shows great concern for and effort toward conservation and preservation of the environment and appearance of the land.

As the crow flies (or in my case the eagle) and outside of their immediate neighbors on Little Bear Road, our home is probably the closest one to Mr. Huttinga’s operation. We have owned and occupied our home for five years and for the first two were unaware that there even was a commercial gravel pit nearby. It is very rare to hear any noise related to the pit and despite some pretty good winds from that direction, we have never experienced dust or smells from Huttinga’s pit.

In the winter there are often elk bedding between my house and the Huttinga pit and there are lots of coyote, deer and birds around that do not seem affected by the operation.
On a personal note Mr. Huttinga cuts hay with draft horses on our hill in the summer and plows the roads at considerable personal inconvenience in the winter. We admit to being occasional customers of the gravel pit, but only a few loads a year, (It is hard to pass up good gravel you know) and are not closely acquainted with Mr. Huttinga so we feel that these comments are not biased. Neither were they solicited.

In light of these observations, we have full confidence in Mr. Huttinga and believe that his plans for his gravel pit will be made with consideration of the area and that he will continue to be a valuable asset to this part of the county.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Paul & Brooke Trey