

# TOWN OF STEVENSVILLE

## PROCLAMATION

*WHEREAS*, the Town of Stevensville has long encouraged retail and commercial development in our historic downtown and surrounding retail area on a scale that preserves our historic qualities and supports the local community and employment ; and

*WHEREAS*, the Stevensville Trade Area includes the valley floor and foothills east and west of the Highway 93 corridor, from Florence to just south of Victor; and

*WHEREAS*, a large-scale retail facility is defined as a retail facility having equal to or greater than 60,000 square feet; and

*WHEREAS*, unemployment and low wages are a chronic problem in Ravalli County; and

*WHEREAS*, large-scale retail facilities often result in reduced employment, lower wages, and increases poverty; and

*WHEREAS*, the Town of Stevensville may expect to see decreased property tax valuations as a result of commercial vacancies due to a large-scale retail facility; and

*WHEREAS*, Stevensville's unique character is largely defined by a network of locally-owned independent businesses and local non-profits; and

*WHEREAS*, areas dominated by large-scale retail facilities tend to lose their unique qualities, and see diminished charitable contributions, social capital, and civic participation; and

*WHEREAS*, largescale retail facilities cause sprawl, light pollution, noise pollution, increased traffic, and increased demands on emergency services; and

*WHEREAS*, prices at chain stores are not always better than at local independent retailers; and

*WHEREAS*, the Town of Stevensville wishes to preserve opportunities for entrepreneurship and to avoid retail hegemony.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, the Town of Stevensville Town Council declares its official statement that to ensure the health, safety, and general welfare of its citizens, the Town Council signs this proclamation on November 13th, 2014 opposing the construction of large-scale retail facilities in Ravalli County.

*Absent*

Bill Perrin, Council President

*Jim Crews*  
Jim Crews, Ward 2

*Robin Holcomb*  
Robin Holcomb, Ward 1

*Tim Hunter*  
Tim Hunter, Ward 1