

Hannah Elliott



From: Colleen Holbrook <colleenholbrook1202@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 5:14 PM
To: Plan
Subject: Dollar General Comments

CROOK COUNTY
MAY 03 2024
PLANNING DEPT

Dear Planning Committee,

My husband and I have been residents of Juniper Canyon for 12.5 years. We came here to enjoy the quietness and beauty of this canyon and to get away from town. We wish to state in the strongest possible terms that we oppose the building of Dollar General or any other chain store in the canyon--at the location currently being considered or anywhere else. There are many reasons they are not a good fit for our community:

1. The company is known to pay lower wages than regular grocery stores and has been cited for poor labor practices.
2. The proposed location is ludicrous--in the middle of "no-where", several miles from town, where there are no other comparable stores or buildings.
3. We have a Dollar Tree store in town that serves the purpose just fine.
4. Juniper Canyon is a quiet, rural neighborhood. The extra traffic, noise and lights it will bring are simply incompatible with our lifestyle.
5. The traffic is a MAJOR concern! We already DO NOT HAVE ADEQUATE FIRE EGRESS in Juniper Canyon! This has been a point of discussion and contention for decades, as I understand it. No responsible county entity should even consider allowing a business like this anywhere in Juniper Canyon until there are adequate roads built to accommodate the folks who already live here. I'm aware this is a multi-million dollar proposition and we don't have the money.
6. Speaking of not having other stores like it in Juniper Canyon, building a Dollar General will only be the beginning. "If you build it, they will come". We DO NOT want or need a mall, or conglomerate of chain stores popping up out here. It will be an eyesore and an attractant of questionable activity. We are the "bedroom community" of Prineville, not a retail district.
7. Dollar General in particular has a habit of moving into new areas and destroying small town, home-grown businesses. They have enough resources to take a loss for as long as it takes to put the mom-and-pops out of business. Adding this particular store to the mix of what's available to Crook County residents will put current small businesses out of business.
8. Dollar stores create food deserts by putting full-service grocery stores out of business. It may take a few years but that's the usual outcome in small communities. Many people don't realize how narrow the margin of profit is for grocery stores. Dollar General does not sell fresh, healthy food. It's all processed, pre-packaged food. If even one of our grocers goes out of business because of them it will reduce the availability of the foods people actually need to have good nutrition.

Thank you for your time. I trust our commission will do the right thing and not approve this request.

Colleen and Ray Holbrook
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