

**Marcia McCleary**

to me



10:43 AM



Dear Mr. Sweet,

Most of our neighbors have been allowed to remove all of the trees, scotch broom, and blackberries from their property, including very recently. That leaves our property as one of the very few remaining thickets of these plants for individuals to occupy who want to do illegal activities such as drug use and have public sex. They could use flames to ignite drugs or cigarettes and to start a campfire that could spread all over while being invisible to us. We are installing a modern sewerage system and have planned to use this opportunity to also remove the before mentioned plants. We have been informed by the City that we will not be allowed to do what most of our neighbors have been allowed to do. We feel that just because we waited to do the brush removal at the same time as the sewerage modernization we are being penalized and worse yet put in a dangerous situation. The City regularly sends out notice to property owners they are required to remove the scotch broom and other invasive species growing on their property and now suddenly just the opposite is true.

I say dangerous to us, our visitors and our homes for several reasons. First the scotch broom and dead pine debris are very prone to intense and rapidly spreading fires during the dry season. A wind blown fire in the thicket on our property could be easily spread to nearby homes including our home of sixty seven years. who would be liable for the damage done? the City? We are not being allowed to limit our liability for a fire started on our property by people who have not been given permission to be on our property.

Similarly by not allowing the removal of brush on private land the City is creating the possibility of outlaws using the brush as cover to harass or attack us as we walk on our property to access the beach. We know the City is aware of criminal activities that occur within the brush covered areas of the dunes. We are a multi-generational family with older women and young children who enjoy walking and playing on our property. With the City's recent decision to ban removal of brush we won't feel safe when using our many decades old path to the beach or even to maintain it. We are helpless against any outlaw who wants to commit his crimes upon us or in front of us while we are on our own family property. It is simply not fair for the City to suddenly now decide that those that property owners who have not yet removed the brush are forever doomed to be the keepers of the "bad lands" for the benefit of the criminals intent on doing us and the general public harm.

In a similar but substantially different vein, the brush would also allow the elk herd now living in Gearhart to hide within the now limited brush areas. These are very large animals who can be very aggressive during the summer months when the calves are young. It is very dangerous to walk close to these animals during this time of mother calf dependency. Once surprised by the sudden appearance of a person there is no telling what physical and mental damage these large wild animals might inflict upon our family's older women and young children. With the brush removed the animals are more visible to us and we are more visible to them which eliminates the surprise

factor which often causes them to attack people. This is a very real threat to life and limb that the City is now exposing us to every time we use our property.

It is our very strong belief that the City should rethink their thoughts on what is important to protect our residents in the best way possible.

Marcia McCleary  
Trustee

Melody Hatch  
Co-Owner