



Vail Daily letter: Not a wise development

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I own a small food-service business located on a very busy intersection of Eby Creek Road and Chambers Avenue in Eagle. There is a ton of vehicular traffic here, yet I am still struggling to keep my business open in these hard times. For the life of me, I can't see how Eagle River Station will add any value to my business or to any one else's in this town, or this county, when they will have their own interchange located two miles away.

I read Paul Witt's letter in the Daily recently and shook my head at the thought that anyone would come to my establishment or any other off the beaten path from that interchange two miles away when they have shops and restaurants right there.

I know the developer has property rights, but we shouldn't have to be responsible for them making a bad business decision a few years ago and purchasing that land before having approvals. ERS, as sprawling as it is, is way out of scale for this town. The building heights are more like a city; there is too much surface parking, which will result in spill off into the nearby Eagle River. And five big-box stores? Who will support these stores when we have several big-box stores within a half hour's drive?

The biggest issue is that there is no connectivity to the existing town of Eagle or any other part of town and ERS is totally auto-dependent, which is something this town already has a problem with. Add to that, 250-plus more rental units in a market where people are already having issues with just renting out a room in their home. There is no market for any more housing and even if there was, four-story buildings just don't cut it.

I live in Eby Creek, so I know my voice doesn't count in voting matters. It should, though, because I pay taxes here, have an Eagle address and post office box, shop and dine at local businesses and add to the sales tax coffers with my business. I hope that our town leaders will listen to the ones that can vote and vote no on this poorly planned monstrosity. There was a public vote in 2010. That vote was a "no." Why are we even thinking of doing this project again? Nothing much has changed, except it's actually bigger. To me, this is a total waste of time, tax money and town resources, as we should be investing in existing businesses and luring in more locally owned businesses. We should be fixing what we already have: A real town.

Andrew Daigle

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