

23 May 2006

TO : Blaine City Council members
FAX 332-8330

RE : Fussy concrete ruling shouldn't be a City ordinance !

This is just one more reason why people cannot afford a house, why people are driven out of Blaine because of the high cost of property. Council members need to know that the price of a 450-ft. walkway has been increased by a \$1000.00 concrete-testing requirement—without adding any value. There is not even an economic benefit; nothing of value except more cost for the developer, for the eventual property owners—and no consideration for affordable housing ! Now each load of concrete costs an additional \$200.00 for a double calcium check.

Where is the limit ? *It has to stop !* This is senseless !

Blaine City Council can do something. Ask Public Works Director, Steve Banham why this ordinance was crafted ? Why not just ask developers to request of the concrete supplier an extra percentage of calcium ? There would be no cost incurred for this stipulation. Slump doesn't matter, but the weather does ! The concrete that has been installed usually bonded in most cases (We note that the City installed concrete by Boblett Street last year, but do not know if this was applied to it).

It is plain to see WHY government has lost its accountability in running our lives. It can administer, it can tax and spend, it can make bad rules, but it can't produce an affordable product—in terms of efficiency and benefits that encourage people, rather than hinder them. An extra \$1000.00 on a two-owner new home translates into \$1500.00 each on principal over the life of a 30-year mortgage. This, in addition to dozens of other mandated work practices (e.g., stop-work orders), adds thousands and thousands of dollars to the price of a new home !

Thank you.

Joel Douglas 

