

Lisa Enourato

From: eoutwater@cox.net
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 2:46 PM
To: Participate
Subject: Unnecessary Engine Braking within Ketchum city limits on Hwy 75

To whom it may concern:

I have lived in Bigwood on the southeast edge of the golf course about 1/4 mile north of Saddle Road since 2000, and am writing to bring to your attention a particularly annoying type of road-noise that I hear quite frequently coming from Hwy 75 between North Bigwood Road and Saddle Road. This stretch of Hwy 75 is (of course) completely residential and within the city limits of Ketchum with Northwood, Beaver Springs and Adams Gulch etc. on the west side and Bigwood on the east .

The road noise I'm referring to is ***extremely loud engine/exhaust noise*** caused by 16 wheel diesel tractor-trailers using their engines to assist in reducing the speed of their trucks before reaching the traffic signal at Saddle Road. This downshifting of the transmission to help reduce speed is commonly referred to as "***engine braking***" when applied to a 16 wheeler.

I live about as far to the east of 75 as is possible within Bigwood and the noise is quite loud even here. I assume, therefore, that it is as loud or louder for the homeowners on the west side of Bigwood, and also for those directly to the west of the bike-path on the other side of the highway.

This issue can occur with all 16 wheeler diesels, but my observation is that the worst offenders are fully-loaded logging trucks coming down from the north.

My earnest request is that the city put "**RESIDENTIAL AREA-NO ENGINE BRAKING PLEASE**" signs on this one short stretch of Highway 75 between North Bigwood Road and Saddle Road that is the northern approach to the City of Ketchum.

There is of course no engine-braking noise issue south of the Saddle Road because of the traffic signal located there, and because it is a commercial area with a lower speed limit. Therefore trucks are going slower and conventional braking is sufficient. The same is true, of course, with trucks approaching Ketchum from the south.

Having driven back and forth from Idaho many times through rural residential areas in both California and Nevada over the years, I can tell you these signs are quite common where highways are in close proximity to homes. Their obvious purpose is curtailing ***unnecessary*** road noise in residential areas.

I say ***unnecessary*** in this specific case because it is clearly possible for these southbound trucks to easily stop in time for the signal at Saddle Road with conventional braking only..... **if they are adhering to the speed limit.**

Therefore, installing these signs seems to me to be; a) a potential proactive safety step, b) a worthwhile quality of life improvement for nearby residents, and c) an "easy fix" for the City of Ketchum.

Thanks very much for your attention.

Edwin Outwater III