

Mrs. Ommen's Class  
Third Grade Gifted and Talented Education  
Spring Creek Elementary School  
Laramie, WY  
2-22-2021

Dear Laramie City Council Members,

We are very thankful for your service and we all feel that living and growing up in Laramie is a privilege and a gift. We have a concern that we would like you to consider that would make our community even better. We strongly feel that the trash in the East part of Laramie (near Laramie High School and especially near the Walmart) should be contained and removed more consistently. We feel this is important for several reasons and we have suggestions.

We feel that the trash near the East part of town has gotten out of control and that is detrimental to our community for many reasons. First, the trash should be removed near the Walmart for three reasons. One, if it isn't contained, it is blown by the wind directly into the Pilot Hill natural area. This causes plastic litter to contaminate a beautiful area that many citizens enjoy. Second, it could lead to microplastics that could contaminate the ecosystem, including our watershed. Third, that area is the first part of town many people see who are driving in on Grand Avenue, and all the trash makes a horrible first impression. Many people are visiting Laramie in order to go to the high school. The trash that is currently littering that area of town is giving a bad impression of our community that doesn't accurately reflect our pride and love for nature.

We have some suggestions that we would like you to consider. We hope that fencing could be improved to catch the trash that is blown from the Walmart area. A volunteer or business-led group could help monitor and periodically gather up that litter. We suggest signage in the Walmart parking area to increase awareness of littering. As a group, we will be advocating ideas with the Walmart directly to incentivize broader use of reusable bags. Also, as a group, we will be organizing a volunteer trash pick-up day to jump start the pickup of litter in this area. We will collect all the trash we can on Earth Day, 2021.

Again, thank you for your service and we look forward to working together to improve this area of our community.

Sincerely,

Third Grade GATE at Spring Creek Elementary

*Lily Ommen*  
*Prayer*  
*Herbert*  
*Andrew Carlino*  
*Calvin Hulley*  
*William Howard*  
*Emery Johnson*  
*Alma Ommen*  
*Aryaan Geister*  
*Henry Aldridge*  
*Giana Blaney*  
*Samuel Huntington*  
*Ricky*  
*Annemarie Bushman*  
*Muanza*  
*Andrew Parling*  
*Jack Randall*  
*Ansel Decker*  
*Yelen Gelwicks*  
*Liam Kelly*  
*Marshall White*  
*Noelle*  
*Isaiah Flores*  
*Margaret Smith*  
*Lanaea Urschel*  
*Timothy Eastman*  
*Calvin Hulley*  
*Cadence Gose*  
*James Dreier*  
*Mike's Steegen*  
*Peter McSorley*