

Dear Supervisors,

Sherwood Firewise Communities has thousands of vacant properties with out-of-area, as well as local, landowners that are not keeping their properties fire safe. Past abatement efforts by the Brooktrails Fire Department have been largely unsuccessful as most of these vacant lot property owners are not paying property taxes, much less abatement costs. These properties have not been able to sell at auction either so they are basically "abandoned" and it is left to the community to deal with the risks of their non-compliance. The proposed ordinance should provide an additional tool to enforce compliance with vegetation management requirements and we support the effort being made by the Technical Advisory Group to bring this to fruition.

Keith Rutledge