

Tess Johnson
2401 D Upper Traverse Way
Vail, CO 81657
May 10th, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Tess Johnson and I am a member of the US Freestyle Moguls Ski Team, 2018 US Olympic Team, and Ski and Snowboard Club Vail. I also am a senior at the Vail Ski and Snowboard Academy, and I am writing in support of the Golden Peak expansion project. I realize the controversy of this proposal, however, there are ample benefits to creating more training space on Vail Mountain for the athletes of Ski and Snowboard Club Vail.

Unfortunately, mogul skiing is dying, and any exposure we can find is extremely advantageous for the sport's development. If this project were to be approved, we would build a World Cup level mogul course on the front face of Gold Peak. Onlookers from the base of the mountain would be able to see the course and its skiers first hand, thus creating more awareness and excitement for moguls. Our current course is on Avanti Express where the lap is long and the crowds are large making for inefficient training. It takes 30-45 minutes just to ski to our venue. Plus, this course doesn't meet spec for World Cups which makes the transition from training at Vail to a competition difficult. Evidently, the freestyle program at Vail would greatly benefit from this expansion on multiple fronts.

More training space on Gold Peak would create a much safer environment for all parties involved. During the early season, the freestyle team gets a narrow line on the side of the fence to train, and the alpine skiers train no less than five feet next to us. It is incredibly dangerous having mogul skiers jumping directly beside downhill skiers. There have been collisions in the past, and if these conditions persist, there will be severe casualties. SSCV and Vail Resorts simply cannot support this type of training.

Finally, this expansion will grow our club and the culture of skiing in general. We will be able to coach more kids to their highest potential. To have a diverse disciplinary venue right in Vail will attract the best skiers from all over, and there is nothing more inspiring to a young athlete than skiing alongside an Olympian.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tess', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tess Johnson