

Ms. Connie Cummins
Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest
8901 Grand Avenue Place
Duluth, MN 55808

Project: Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project, Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Cummins,

I write to you today as a born-and-raised Cook County local, outdoors enthusiast, and prior national-level competitive skier. I grew up skiing at Lutsen Mountains, where I learned to ski at 18 months old. Some of my favorite memories were the winter weekends skiing with friends and family and the summer adventures picking wild berries and exploring the Poplar river. More terrain, additional amenities, and a generally updated feel will ensure that we as a community are able to share the beauty and joy of our mountain resort. In the end, people are looking for an experience to remember; the expansion of Lutsen Mountains will greatly impact visitors wanting to come back and share with their loved ones.

Through the years I spent working in Silicon Valley and now as I pursue my MBA at Columbia Business School, Lutsen Mountains has become an important part of my identity. As I think about entrepreneurship and family business, I have come to realize the importance of small businesses to the local community and overall economy. Around 50% of the US GDP comes from small businesses. In Cook County, small businesses are critical, and most are dependent on tourism. As such, it is imperative that we support the growth and development of Lutsen Mountains, as it is key to local tourism. The ski industry has been dominated by large conglomerates, but that will not be good for our small community. Lutsen Mountains has been a part of Cook County for generations, and thus has a unique understanding of the local community. This cannot be replaced with a large corporation. We need to support the growth of Lutsen Mountains to protect our local economy and promote the overall improvement of community.

Lastly, as society is rapidly expanding, it is highly imperative that we support businesses that are kind to our planet. Skiing as a sport reminds people of the beauty of the outdoors, and why it's important to keep caring about. The expansion of Lutsen Mountains demonstrates the commitment to the protection of our environment and wildlife.

After reading through the plans and researching the potential impacts, I am in full support of the expansion. It is an opportunity that our community cannot afford to let pass. The Lutsen Mountains Expansion Project will protect the legacy and ensure the future health of the Cook County community.

Sincerely,

Charlotte M. Skinner

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