

Rob Ecklund
State Representative

District 3A
Koochiching, Lake, Cook,
and St. Louis Counties



Minnesota House of Representatives

Connie Cummins
Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest
c/o Michael Jimenez, Project Leader
8901 Grand Avenue Place
Duluth, MN 55808
comments-eastern-superior@usda.gov.

Subject: Comments on the Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project

Dear Connie,

I am writing to provide my comments on the Forest Service proposed Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion project. Lutsen Mountains is an important economic asset to Cook County. I am supportive of the expansion project. This project, and the master development plan (MDP), are well designed and will transform the downhill skiing experience at Lutsen Mountains in a way that is environmentally and economically sustainable.

Regarding the Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion project, I am particularly supportive of the economic stability that this project will bring to Cook County by growing recreation opportunities in our area. The economy of Cook County is largely dependent on visits from vacation homeowners and tourists. This has been highlighted by the job losses following the recent COVID-19 stay at home order and many of our small businesses are struggling significantly. Because of the several consolidations within the ski industry, the proposed expansion by Lutsen Mountains is not only crucial to the ski area's longevity, but also to the economic well-being of Cook County. I believe that this project will help our community, in both short and long term, with the socio-economic benefits of increased recreation and tax base, as well as a stable winter economy providing year around employment for residents.

I would like to reiterate my support for the Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion project and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Ecklund".

Rob Ecklund
State Representative