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Connie Cummins
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To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of, and to comment on, the Forest Service proposed Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion project.

I am a lifelong resident of Cook County, and I intend to continue to grow my roots in the community. This project will not only expand the ski area, it will help to stabilize the local economy that is heavily reliant on tourism.

I am supportive of the project and agree that this project will provide an opportunity for the ski area to expand its customer base. As is, the ski area has a shortage of both beginner and expert terrain. The expansion will address this by adding a variety of both beginner and expert level terrain. I think this project and the MDP are poised to transform the overall experience at Lutsen Mountains in a way that is environmentally and economically sustainable.

With summer being the strongest tourism season in the area, winters in the area can be very difficult to survive for local resorts. This expansion project will attract more downhill skiers, which in turn means more overnight guests at local resorts. I am certain that the resorts in the immediate area will benefit greatly in the winter months with the larger number of guests.

The western resorts are making capital improvements at a very impressive rate. To be able to survive, Lutsen Mountains will need to keep up with the western resorts. This project will make Lutsen a viable Midwest competitor to the resorts out west.

Sincerely,



John Kiel