

1854 Treaty Authority

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Re: Support for Bois Forte Band and Grand Portage Band Opposition to the Proposed Special Use Permit for Lutsen Mountain Ski Resort Expansion

Honorable Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Newland and Deputy Under Secretary Harrell:

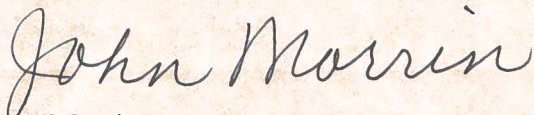
The 1854 Treaty Authority is an inter-tribal natural resource management agency governed by the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The organization is charged to preserve, protect, and enhance treaty rights and related resources in the 1854 Ceded Territory. This Ceded Territory encompasses present-day northeastern Minnesota including most of the Superior National Forest.

The proposed Lutsen Mountain Ski Resort Expansion project seeks a special use permit on U.S. Forest Service land entirely within the 1854 Ceded Territory. Tribes have retained usufructuary rights in this territory and continue to exercise these rights today. The project would further restrict reserved property rights. The loss (or lost use) of federal and public lands within the Ceded Territory has caused significant adverse economic and cultural impacts to Tribes. The federal government has a trust responsibility to maintain treaty resources and consult with tribes

on a government-to-government basis. Tribes are co-managers and stewards of these lands and have a legal interest in protecting natural resources for present and future generations. The proposed expansion of the project onto Superior National Forest lands conflicts with principles of co-management and compromises treaty rights.

The 1854 Treaty Authority supports the Bois Forte Band and Grand Portage Band in their submitted comments and opposition to the proposed expansion of the Lutsen Mountain Ski Resort.

Sincerely,



John Morrin
1854 Treaty Authority Board of Directors Chairman

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