Opposition to the proposed Holland Lake expansion project. 9/20/22

To whom it may concern,

My wife and I, along with some friends, recently purchased property in the Swan Valley. We are in the process of placing homes on the property with the intent to cause the least impact on the local flora and fauna. One of us lived here and introduced the others to the wonderful community and absolutely amazing and precious natural resources present in this pristine region. We have rapidly become connected with many prominent and long term community leaders. We have already been in contact with a local naturalist and have learned much about this region and the treasure that it is in its current state.

We are UTTERLY DISMAYED at the proposed project at Holland Lake Lodge. We have visited Holland Lake multiple times and love the simplicity of the facility and environs. Approval of this project will irreversibly and irreparably harm this Montana state treasure. PLEASE REJECT THIS PROPOSAL.

Admittedly, the area could use some modernizing and aesthetic improvements. Considering this and the fact that there has been massive community resistance, a better option would be for the local community to plan and execute a development plan. This would take into consideration the local residents and the unique history of Holland Lake and its lodge. Also, it would prevent the inevitable compromises that would happen by handing it over to an out of state corporation.

Some questions that come to mind:

1. **Are there other proposals that should be considered that would not have the negative environmental and local impact that this project would have?**
2. The scale and scope of this project seem at variance with what the US Forest Service typically has embraced and allowed in the past. This fact along with the lack of transparency leading up to this naturally raises questions of possible impropriety. **Was this opaque and obscured process intended to hide this project from the local community?**  It would seem so. The sequence of events has not engendered support from the locals and only raised the ire of its opponents.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE reject this proposal,

Respectfully and sincerely,

R. J. Conner, M.D.