To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed expansion of Grand Targhee Resort. Specifically, I support *Alternative 2.* As an employee at GTR, I am pleased with the thoughtful, forward-thinking and sustainable development plans that this alternative takes into careful consideration. It prioritizes our guest experience, addresses safety issues in South Bowl and most certainly takes into consideration potential impacts to not only the resort but the local community, state of Idaho and destination guests now and well into the future.

In my opinion, there is currently a lot of discussion as to how this will impact the community, forest, economy, and wildlife now. However, this DEIS proposal addresses these issues specifically not only in the short term but well into the next 10-20 years and beyond. Also, it provides accurate data that shows how GTR has contributed to the local economy for years. Critics will often cite how GTR’s actions, IE the expansion of Colter lift negatively affects the local housing market. The DEIS states that GTR has made a limited impact on the housing market in TCI and has in fact already contributed $8 million to developing employee housing and plans to contribute another $6 million in the future. Also, the state of ID has seen a 162% increase in housing demand since 2015 which reflects home buying data at large, particularly in Western states.

Additionally, critics often overlook the positive track record that GTR has concerning environmental impacts. We were one of the first resorts to engage in the Protect our Winters (POW) organization and are currently working to become a White Bark Pine certified ski area. As a member of the local community, I recreate all year at GTR, and I would certainly not support any expansion proposal that may negatively impact on the environment.

Furthermore, I have worked in the outdoor industry for over 20 years. Grand Targhee may be the only mid-to-large resort that does not offer facilities on the mountain. Providing our guests with these services will disperse traffic, enhance their overall experience and help to ensure that they return to TCI. Undoubtedly, this will also contribute to the local economy through ancillary revenue. Similarly, expansion into the south bowl will aid in guest satisfaction and safety as skiers frequently enter this area without the necessary skills and equipment to safely explore this amazing terrain. Our ski patrol will control this area through avalanche mitigation, reducing the risk to their safety when they’re required to perform rescue services which unfortunately are routinely done every winter. Also, the DEIS clearly points out that there will be no summer operations by GTR in this area as critics often cite negative impacts on potential use by wildlife in South Bowl during the summer/winter months.

In conclusion, this proposal is about ensuring that everyone can access what makes GTR a truly special place to experience the mountain environment all year. It will preserve this area for many years to come in a positive, responsible, and community-based way. The DEIS outlines this commitment. We have the chance to play a role in how to positively move forward while learning from other areas that have expanded in the past without this level of careful planning. I fully support its vision and urge decision-makers and community members both locally and beyond to do the same.