

THOMAS M. BAKK

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Senate
State of Minnesota

May 21, 2020

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

I am writing today 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, which is why 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.

As the state senator representing the area, I know first hand how the economy of Cook County depends on visits from vacation homeowners and tourists, particularly during the summer months. The recent COVID-19 stay at home order has made this dynamic all the more obvious with many job losses and many of our small businesses on the verge of not surviving. That is why creating increased winter visitation is vital to a strong and stable economy by providing year-round employment, tax revenue, and business in general. Now more than ever, we will be relying on winter outdoor recreation opportunities to compliment the summer recreation that is historically very prevalent in northern Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Bakk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas M. Bakk
Minnesota Senate, District 03