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May 28, 2020

Via Email

Connie Cummins
Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest
c/o Michael Jimenez, Project Leader
8901 Grand Avenue Place
Duluth, MN 55808

RE: Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Proposal

Dear Ms. Cummins:

I write to express my strong support for the Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project.

I see it as critical to Lutsen Mountain's operation and its ownership, and to the tourism economy of Northeastern Minnesota, specifically, Cook County. With the careful and systematic compliance with Forest Service Regulations the environmental impact will be *de minimis*. Positive economics combined with the low impact on the environment make it a great use, among other multiple uses, of the Forest.

While not currently involved in this expansion project, I am an attorney who has represented Lutsen Mountains and its ownership in a number of matters. That includes at least one meeting with you relating to this project two or three years ago.

My support of this expansion project is based on a number of things. This includes:

- On the wall in my home in Duluth is a picture of my father, deceased now for 50 years, in front of the Lutsen Resort, on the lake, at age 14, *circa* 1915. In short, my family is long steeped in the Lutsen area and the North Shore.
- Skiing is a premiere lifelong family sport and a wonderful source of exercise, fresh air and exposure to the beautiful North Shore and Superior National Forest.
- In the 1970's and 1980's, I had a heavy involvement with Spirit Mountain and its expansion in ski racing throughout the Midwest and also served as Chair of the Spirit Mountain Authority. I was later Chair of the Competition Committee of the U.S. Ski Association which brought me to many ski areas in both the east and west built around Forest Service leases. These leases are appropriately enforced and protect all of the public interest.

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- Lutsen Mountains is the premiere destination ski area in Minnesota and, perhaps, the Midwest. With the ski racing involvement of my child, now grown but my involvement continuing now with grandchildren, I know it is the best racing venue in the Midwest.
- Utilization of Superior National Forest Property for this private enterprise which will be an asset utilized by thousands of members of the public is very appropriate. It can be done with appropriate conditions from an environmental standpoint that will make it strictly a plus.

Lutsen Mountains is a critical piece of the Cook County economy particularly in the wintertime when visitation to the North Shore is much less than in summer and fall. The business relating to the ski area, local lodging establishments and restaurants is a very significant part of the winter economy in the County. Utilizing this small portion of the Superior National Forest (without modifying the restricted access that's so important to much of the Forest) is an opportunity that should not be passed by.

I'm writing this letter not as an attorney or a member of the law firm but as an individual providing the strongest possible written support for the project.

Very truly yours,



William M. Burns