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Comments: I wanted to write in support of the proposed expansion of Golden Peak. The reality is that our Valley has grown tremendously in the 30 years I have been here. With the growth comes the need for everything from new schools, more soccer fields, and expanded training facilities for our local youth ski racers and freestyle athletes. While much has been said about expanded opportunities for events, the expansion is really, at the basic level, providing increased safety for the kids and the general public using Gold Peak. The expansion alleviates congestion issues at the base of chair 6 with the addition of the surface lift, precluding the need for athletes to travel to the bottom of chair 6.

Ski Club Vail is truly one of our communities' valuable assets. The program instills great character and values in our youth. Ski Club Vail not only provides opportunities for our youth, but also adults in the senior program by providing programs for kids from 5 to 80. It is anything but a private program but rather one that is open to anyone wishing to participate.

As a business owner in Vail I also see the benefit to the local economy at the times when the Town needs it most. Out of town racers utilize the training facility in late October and November, months when there is little destination business. It fills a need time in the Valley and therefore creates no impact on existing infrastructure and parking while bringing revenue to restaurants and hotels at a period when they need increased business most.

I am also involved in coaching Vail Mountain School middle school race program. I have witnessed first hand how the increased growth of the local participant in the sport locally has increased pressure on the existing facilities. This expansion is necessary for the safety of our kids while improving the overall traffic flow of skiers on the mountain. It is a win win for everyone.