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Comments: I am writing to formally voice my support of the proposed expansion at Golden Peak. Since originally moving to the Valley in 1986, I have seen Vail, and the skiing industry, change in various ways. Through different stages of development, the Vail Valley continues to strive toward excellence, both on and off the hill. The addition of the racing facilities at Golden Peak would be very much in keeping with the original founders' vision, and would help Vail maintain its position among the most highly regarded ski destinations, world-wide.

Beyond assuring that Vail remains an industry leader, the racing community and related businesses likely would also benefit from improved facilities. The ability to host training beyond traditional winter months provides additional marketing opportunities, valley wide. Training facilities at Mt. Bachelor, Mt. Hood and Whistler (among others) provide an example of how the Vail Valley may be able to increase market share during months that would otherwise be considered fiscally limited. Even an incremental increase in skier numbers is something to be carefully considered, as it has been generally accepted that fewer new skiers are gravitating toward the sport. Currently, approximately 4% of the US population skis. Assuring we are providing outstanding facilities to the racing population attracts this demographic, and helps the Vail Valley maintain maximum visibility among skiers in general.

Finally, my last point is personal, but does provide some anecdotal support of the expansion. After relocating to Arizona in the 90's, my husband and I made the decision to move back the Vail Valley in early 2012. The primary driver behind our decision was simple. We have two sons (currently 8 and 9-years-old) and could think of no better place to raise our children. Both currently participate in the age class program at SSCV. My support of the expansion has much more to do with my long term support of the Valley, as the facilities will far outlive my sons tenure at SSCV. That said, I do believe expanded facilities add yet another reason for families like ours to consider the Valley as a place to settle full-time.

As a person who has long been passionate about the Vail Valley, I believe it is our responsibility as residents to assure we are making decisions that will help serve the Valley well, long term. The expansion of the Golden Peak racing facilities is one of these decisions.

Kind regards,

Stacey Boltz

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