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First name: Mark

Last name: Cassidy

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

My wife and I currently have our daughter who is 14 enrolled at VSSA. She started racing at Buck Hill in Minnesota and last year attended Burke Mountain Academy before transferring here to Colorado to join the alpine team at SSCV.

From a competitive standpoint I can tell you that Burke Mountain Academy is so successful in large part do to their training venue. They have pretty much a dedicated training hill for their alpine athletes and a surface lift to get them back up the hill. Many will tell you that this is a huge part of the equation in producing the best racers. There is no better expert on this than Kirk Dwyer of SSCV and formerly of Burke Mountain Academy. Furthermore, local Michaela Shiffrin trained at BMA for this very reason. Even Buck Hill, although on an obviously much smaller scale goes by this standard. This expansion would be a huge benefit to local VSSA kids as well as others from around the country to use lane space on this venue to train while at the same time increasing revenue for SSCV in the renting of lane space.

The cost to put a child in alpine ski racing is outrageously expensive. Some wonder if the sport will be able to sustain itself. I can tell you that my wife and I who were lifelong recreational skiers rarely ski anymore as a way to save money so that we can support our daughters training. This expansion would significantly lower our cost as the training season on Vail mountain would be much longer due to this expansion at a higher elevation. Rather than traveling to Loveland, A Basin, Copper and Winter Park she could train right here at Vail. Additionally, we could forego the expense of a 3 week camp at Mt. Bachelor if she were able to train on this new expansion. At the same time this will bolster the local economy with keeping local kids local to train as well as bringing in other teams from around the country and the world. I believe this expansion would also open up opportunities for local recreational skiers and snowboarders.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter. I hope you see the benefits of this expansion.

Sincerely,

The Cassidy family

Mark, Dianne and Carissa