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Comments: I am writing to voice my support for the proposed improvements on Aspen Mountain.

The expansion of terrain and snowmaking is desperately needed to improve the snow sports experience on the mountain. These improvements are long overdue and address the two most important factors, snow quality and terrain variety.

The lack of snowmaking infrastructure to the top of the mountain is a major issue in low snow years and leaves the mountain broken with inadequate snow cover on the mountain's most popular terrain. In addition the expanded terrain will offer an enticing alternative to the overcrowded terrain served by AJAX Express Lift 3.

Lastly in articles in the local newspapers about this project over the past year the Aspen Skiing Company has wavered on whether the Pandora chair will be detachable or fixed grip. The proposal submitted to the Forest Service states the proposed lift will be detachable, but I want to strongly urge the ASC to only install detachable lifts on most future projects.

Fixed grip lifts are rejected by a majority of your customers. Terrain served by inadequate lifts is under utilized and fails to accomplish your goal of spreading the participants out across the mountain. Gents Ridge Lift 7 on Aspen and Campground Lift 5 on Snowmass are two examples. This expansion, while it has some similarities, is very different from Temerity at Aspen Highlands, since it includes a sizeable amount of intermediate terrain.

Please don't make this mistake with Pandora, by building a lift that doesn't meet the expectations of your clientele.

Eric Gieszl

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