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Comments: I am writing this letter in support of the Vail Mountain Snowmaking Project as a 35-year resident of Eagle County and as a business owner.

The expansion of the snowmaking systems on Vail Mountain is vital to the ongoing reliability of ski conditions and the stability of our resort community. Given the warmer temperatures and drought conditions of the last two years it has never been more apparent of the necessity to improve snowmaking to have more reliability for early winter ski conditions. The fact is that the entire economy of Eagle County is built around the resort industry of which skiing is the driving force. This is an investment that our community cannot afford to pass up especially given that Vail Resorts is footing the bill for the benefit of all. Our community relies on more predictable and reliable ski conditions to sustain ourselves even in years of drought.

I have reviewed the plan and believe that Vail Resorts is being sensitive to the environment as the vast majority of the expansion (if not all) is located on the front side of Vail Mountain and thus not impacting the more sensitive environmental areas of the resort. In addition, having snowmaking on the upper mountain is a much more efficient use of a limited resource (water) where temperatures tend to be lower and maintaining of man-made snow is more likely. We also understand that few, if any, trees will be removed to accommodate the expansion. Finally, there is a safety factor as snowmaking expansion allows the ski company to open more terrain earlier and maintain more reliable conditions later and reduce mountain congestion which is proven to increase the risk of injury when less ski runs are available.

On behalf of my company, our employees, and our community, we encourage you to grant final approval for this much-needed investment in our resort community.