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First name: Hans

Last name: Krengel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Lutsen Minnesota Ski Area Expansion

Hello and Good Day,

My name is Hans Krengel. I am writing you to give my FULL SUPPORT of the proposed ski area expansion in Lutsen Minnesota.

I support it as a lifelong skier and snowboarder who grew up in Iowa, went to college in Colorado for the skiing and snowboarding, graduated from Western State College in Gunnison, worked for Crested Butte Ski Resort, and for a mainstreet-family owned-business on mainstreet in Crested Butte.

I also support it as a business owner in Tofte, MN. Tofte is located 8 miles to the south along highway 61 from Lutsen. I purchased a retail business here and took over operation in February of 2018.

I have seen the entire spectrum of the ski areas from traveling to Summit County Colorado annually as a child, ski bumming through college, working for a resort, working for a business that relies on the resort, and owning a retail store where winter business is crucial and driven by the ski resort.

I also understand the divide an expansion plan can put on a community. (SNODGRASS EXPANSION IN CRESTED BUTTE! IM SURE YOU HAVE HEARD OF IT).

After engulfing myself in the Crested Butte Valley for 6 years, and now living in northern Minnesota for 3 years operating a store front, I would say support here for proposed expansion at Lutsen is somewhere around 85%-90% compared to 40-50% for Snodgrass. I understand this is not a scientific study, but I have lived it and felt it.

The ski industry is going to be interesting after nearly every resort missed their window to make money this year. As things are in flux, there is no better time to position ourselves above our competitors. We could position ourselves to draw more and more people from the midwest going into the 2020's. In the current atmosphere, some bright light at the end of the tunnel we are currently in, in the way of ski area expansion and the economic positivity would make a mountain of difference up here.

Thanks for your time and consideration in this process,
I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Hans Krengel,

Owner

Watersedge Trading Company

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