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First name: Eric

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project

Connie Cummins

Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest

c/o Michael Jimenez, Project Leader

8901 Grand Avenue Place

Duluth, MN 55808

I wish to express my support for the Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project from the position of how this expansion will increase access to outdoor recreation opportunities for people with disabilities. I write to you as a representative of Courage Kenny Ski and Snowboard which on an annual basis trains and coordinates 450 volunteer ski instructors that teach weekly adaptive ski and snowboard lessons to over 200 unique individuals across six ski areas in MN and WI.

For several years Courage Kenny Ski and Snowboard has partnered with Lutsen Mountains to offer a single weekend 'learn to ski' experience for people with disabilities. I envision additional adaptive programming becoming a reality if this development were to address accessibility from parking areas, modernization of lifts that serve beginner terrain and enhanced accessible buildings. We would be grateful for a further expansion, keeping in mind the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Additional trails, enhanced snowmaking and modern lifts will only enhance what is possible for individuals with disabilities that wish to ski at Lutsen Mountains and allow many more people to access the beauty of the Northshore.

Not everyone can go for a hike in the woods, but many individuals with disabilities can still ski in an adaptive ski program like ours. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Larson

To protect the health and safety of our participants, volunteers, and staff, we have suspended all in-person Sports & Rec activities until further notice. Learn more about coronavirus (COVID-19).

Eric Larson, C.T.R.S.

Supervisor, Sports and Recreation Department

Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute Northland, part of Allina Health

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