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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project

Dear Constance Cummins,

I am writing to comment on the proposed Special Use Permit submitted by Lutsen Mountain Ski Resort. I would like you to consider the following concerns, when conducting your Environmental Impact Study.

I am writing as a resident and community member of Lutsen, Minnesota. I work in downtown Lutsen as a coffee roaster at Fika Coffee and my family and I look forward to many years ahead of life and livelihood in this area. While I have come to know the importance of tourism for the economy of our county, I have also come to question the necessity of furthering our economic intentions in line with even greater infrastructure to service predominantly tourism.

While a National Forest is a resource available to all Americans, I believe it is principally a forest, and only after that a resource for exploration and enlivenment of people. If we forget that the vitality and integrity of the forest has to be primary to the intended direction of use and human application, the forest could quickly become compromised. Then the forest is no longer relevant, rather a space which has been compromised by some form of human development.

I am not implying that this will be the inevitable outcome of the Lutsen Mountain project. But I am also not denying that it could be the outcome. I am simply expressing my concern in regards to a large scale project happening within our pristine wilderness by the hands of a business which seems to be questionable for their long term viability to begin with.

Directly, in regards to the Lutsen Mountain project, I would like to ask that the comment period be postponed until a later date. To sometime after social life has returned to some normalcy. There are many voices that deserve to be heard during this time and in regards to this massive project. Unfortunately if the project moves ahead so quickly, and at such a socially tumultuous time, much of the communities concerns could be missed.

This project is one that will effect the life and livelihood of many Cook County residents for decades and perhaps centuries afterwards. Not to mention all the plant and animal life that will be impacted if this project were to move forward. I believe it is imperative that this investigative process happen slowly and with a due order which upholds the integrity of the communities wishes at large. Please reconsider moving forward so quickly with the comment period.

Feel free to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

Colin Treiber

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