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First name: Linda

Last name: McGavin

Organization: Northwest Ski Club Council

Title: Director of Communications

Comments: I am the Director of Communications for the Northwest Ski Club Council ("NWSCC"), an organization representing 29 ski and ski/snowboard clubs, 15 in Oregon, 13 in the state of Washington, as well as one in Hawaii. We represent approximately 10,000 snowsports enthusiasts, including alpine and cross-country skiers, as well as snowboarders. In this letter when I refer to "skiers," I really mean to include all varieties of "snow riders" who enjoy developed ski areas. Many of our member skiers and snowboarders also hike, bike and mountain bike in the summertime, including using trails on public lands. It is a natural extension of an active lifestyle of people who enjoy all aspects of the outdoors.

I write this letter on behalf of our member skiers and snowboarders, who are typically part of the "silent majority," and would rather ski/board than concern themselves with writing letters. I have been involved with NWSCC since its inception as the Portland Area Ski Club Council in 1979, and since that time have had input into practically every ski area master plan proposal on Mt. Hood in Oregon and for other ski areas in the Pacific Northwest, as well as Department of Transportation plans for highway development and improvement. I am very pleased to have this opportunity to have input on behalf of Mt. Hood Meadows, and am excited by the proposed replacement of the Mt. Hood Express Quad Chairlift with a "Six Pack" chairlift. Overall, our clubs from the Portland area all have members who ski at Mt. Hood Meadows, and many of the Washington clubs make special trips to ski at Meadows.

I write in support of the proposed replacement of the Mt. Hood Express Chair.

I have skied at Mt. Hood Meadows since the early '70s when I moved to Portland from the East Coast. We started out just having the Blue double chairlift out of the base area - with long lift lines. When the Mt. Hood Express ("MHX") quad chairlift was built in 1994, it was an amazing upgrade. But skiing (and snowboarding) keeps becoming more popular, and for many years there have been long lines on MHX, especially this past year with Covid restrictions spreading out the lines and making them even longer. The MHX chairlift is nearing the end of its useful life, and the proposed upgrade to a "Six Pack" chair will enhance the experience for all Mt. Hood Meadows guests.

The proposed Six Pack will be heavier and stronger than the existing quad chair, and will be able to operate in the type of inclement conditions that have shut down MHX in the past. It will run along the same alignment as the current chair, meaning minimal additional ground disturbance (only 3 acres). With a capacity of an additional 1,000 persons per hour, it will cut down on base area congestion and help disburse skiers out of the base area to less congested areas of the mountain.

I have had input into Mt. Hood Meadows' master plan several times in the past on behalf of the Northwest Ski Club Council and its club members, but this project is a Category Exclusion because it is replacing and upgrading an existing lift.

Conclusion

The Northwest Ski Club Council wholeheartedly supports the proposed replacement of the Mt. Hood Meadows chairlift. Skiing and snowboarding continue to grow in popularity, and the proposed lift will make a big difference to the everyone's enjoyment of this wonderful sport.

Thank you for your consideration.