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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my support for Lutsen Mountains' expansion request. My family consists of myself, my husband, and our two middle school-aged children, we are the families that everyone in Cook County talks about needing to stay, and my employment at Lutsen Mountains offers us the stability to do so. Lutsen Mountains offers a full benefits package to full-time employees including health and dental insurance, HSA, 401K, and other onsite perks. I point this out as within the community many of these benefits are not available for jobs that are not city or county-based jobs. With an expansion, Lutsen Mountains would be able to grow their offerings in full-time/year-round positions that offer these benefits, important benefits that young families are desperately seeking but are in limited availability in this region.

In addition to what Lutsen Mountains contributes to the labor market, the economic benefits of an expansion are also desirable. Local residents will state that we do not need additional visitors, however, Cook County is a tourist destination and has been so since I moved here in 1990, and I am sure even longer. I can remember times as a teen when our economy here seemed to be at rock bottom. Businesses couldn't afford to be open, streets were bare, and there were minimal services. Cook County is now a thriving tourist destination, and this is what we need as a community to survive and be successful. To keep people living and moving to the area, to keep employers able to offer more benefits and higher wages to staff, to keep this area alive and well. Cook County is not a metro area, nor a mining area, we are a tourist-based community and need to grow to ensure a healthy future for our children and this place we call home.