

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/8/2021 1:07:41 PM

First name: Kathleen

Last name: Viton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the United States Forest Service,

I take this opportunity to oppose the permit request for Lutsen Mountain Ski Expansion.

I have been a resident of Cook County for 40 years. During this time I have witnessed expansion on the North Shore.

The concerns that I have for the ski hill are the following:

Developing public land for financial private gain. The land belongs to all Americans but only the wealthy will be able to afford to use it.

Once the land is developed, it will never return to its wilderness state. We will have lost a natural resource that could have negative impacts on wildlife and humans. Clean air, clean water and light pollution are just a few.

Cook County does not have enough workers to supply the current businesses. Lutsen Mountain expansion will require additional staffing needs which would put an additional hardship on the current job market. The county has struggled with affordable housing. This is also a concern of where these new employees will live.

The Superior Hiking Trail is a national gem that brings people from all over our country to hike. The expansion would have a visual and physical impact to those using this trail.

We are living in a world where we are rapidly losing our natural resources. That is why it is critical that the United States Forest Service think carefully of the impact this decision will have on future generations.

Thank you for allowing public comment on this important decision.