Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/7/2021 11:24:05 PM
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Title:
Comments: [External Email]Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project

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Dear Ellen,

Please accept this letter of opposition to the proposed Lutsen expansion.

This issue is not merely the cutting of nearly 500 acres of forest, some of which contains old growth trees, but one of long-term sustainability issues involving infrastructure, housing for employee expansion, landscape erosion, expansion of fossil fuel-dependency and traffic congestion.

Additionally, the pavement and production toll of added artificial snow (which Lutsen refers to as "farming snow" in reference to the stockpiles they generate to ensure skiing long into April) on the thin, fragile soil structure is not being considered thoroughly.

Another issue is that this expansion becomes yet one more piece of human infrastructure prioritized in an increasingly fire-prone forest. We were all witness to the new reality of climate change in Cook County last summer.

This expansion is not simply wrong-headed; it is irreversibly harmful to a forest and ecosystem in desperate need of protection. The Tofte forest management plan is much more aligned with serving the needs of the local region than this localized, self-interested business venture being marketed as snake oil to the community.

Respectfully,
Beth Rausch