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First name: Josie

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project

To whom it may concern,

Complex, old-growth forests are vital to the life and survival of many woodland species. The habitats of the Northshore have already been altered significantly with tourism, building, and industry. Old-growth forests are rare and unique in Minnesota and are vital to support the lives of owls, martin, lynx, bobcat, moose, and much, much more. Even thinning such woodland and removing the complexities of the forest would destroy the habitat of such animals and push them out.

As a northern Minnesotan (who lives in Orr, Minnesota) and who visits the north shore frequently, I refuse to accept such a proposal by Lusten Ski Hill. It is my perception that Lusten is so busy each time I am around that I can hardly find a parking spot and I am weaving through crowds as I head to the chalet. I do not believe their argument for expanding is valid.

Finally, I believe conservation of such old-growth forests speaks to the lifeblood of the people that live and inhabit the north shore and are wanting to preserve the fragile structure and habitat it has left.

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Thank you,

Josie Gable, MS4

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Candidate for the Class of 2022

(Last name is formerly Nistler)