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Organization:

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Comments: Mr. Steele,

We are fortunate to live in a wild and special place that many people want to come and visit, and it makes sense that corporations want to come in and capitalize on that desire. But as we have seen over and over again in Montana, the privatization and commodification of our natural spaces results in massive environmental damage, wildlife conflict, and regular Montana residents being priced out of being able to enjoy the natural resources available to them. We jokingly refer to the situation as "scenery tax," but the very real reality is that many people have chosen to live here at the cost of higher salaries and opportunities available elsewhere. My family and I regularly hike around Holland Lake and spend time recreating in the water, and I'm opposed to the redevelopment plans as they stand.

Despite POWDR's pretty words about new jobs added and tourist accommodation, these development plans add a significant burden to both the environment and to the existing Montana residents who love and use this area to recreate regularly and responsibly. I can't help but think of the Gallatin River, which has recently been in the news because it has been polluted by sewage from overdevelopment in the area (even after multiple residents raised objections to that development). This redevelopment at Holland Lake Lodge changes the character of the area, overburdens it with additional people, and again, will have massive impacts on the surrounding environment and wildlife.

These plans need to be massively scaled back to fit in with the current character and use of the Lodge. Repairing and upgrading existing facilities is one thing. But the expansion proposed is quite another. POWDR needs to go back to the drawing board and come up with a new plan that actually respects Montanan integrity and helps us care of our wild spaces, rather than just profiting off of them.

Respectfully,
Dakota Nyght