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Organization:

Title:

Comments: This brief protesting letter, written to prevent the out-of-state corporation known as "POWDR" from developing further along the shore of Holland Lake, is written with the input of several Montana residents.

Montana has maintained unique character throughout its history, character that itself has been the draw to visitors from out-of-state. This character is a quiet, free and respectful way of life that so many of us love and wish to preserve. Such a way of life has no common interests shared with the operations of large for-profit companies that define prosperity as an increase in numbers. Bringing more people to the lake means several things for the area, and while an increase in traffic can result in a profit increase for local businesses, more people will also mean this:

1. An increase in accident likelihood, therefore meaning an increase in liability insurance. This means an increase in restrictions and regulations around the property. Where there once was freedom for all and consequence for the foolish, there remains no freedom at all. An increase in people will also require an increase in lighting, something that becomes an eyesore to campers who are looking to escape the lights.
2. More people consuming food and product means more wasted food, more plastics in the soil, more trash around the lake, and more destroyed vegetation that comes with a significant traffic increase. Many out-of-state visitors are on vacation, and so have handed off responsibility to things like cleaning up after themselves or respecting local warnings/requests.
3. An increase in social media exposure coming from lodge guests will build into a massive social media "crush," where visitors will flock and significantly increase use in the area because they saw it on Instagram or something similar. Such a "crush" results in abused parking areas, trash, noise pollution, light pollution, and overall misuse of areas due to visitors who are only stopping by to show that "they were there too." This and the previous point will pose a danger to the preservation of natural resources in the area.
4. An increase in visitors will further reduce "wilderness escapes" for those who are weary of the week and wish to get away. This may have an impact on their mental health and the mental health of the area.

Finally, it is in the best interest of the State of Montana and the people therein to reduce the impact of out-of-state organizations as much as possible. To preserve "what makes Montana 'Montana'" is to keep our small businesses where large companies may wish to stand instead. A state loses its unique cultural character when it becomes a simple reflection of generic American brands and ideas. I understand that the business owner in this case has already begun to strike deals with POWDR, and so we do not wish to stop that; we know we cannot and that remains his decision. Regardless, we wish to preserve as much of the unique character of Montana as possible, and that means reducing the impact of large companies whose sole interest is growth and profit rather than experience and preservation.

I humbly request that this letter be read and considered among your decision-makers. We wish to keep Montana as she was: a quiet, peaceful escape from the reaches of crowds and large corporate intentions.