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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I write today regarding the proposal from POWDR corporation on dramatic and damaging changes to Holland Lake. I understand they intend to tear down historic buildings and build 32 new ones including a very large lodge and accompanying parking lots along the shores of the lake. The mere consideration of this proposal by an out-of-state corporation is devastating and should be wholeheartedly rejected. We cannot afford to lose access to this special place to the wealthy elite--the working class not only deserves and continuously earns the right to recreate in beautiful places without being further marginalized and pushed out by groups who do not contribute to preserving these places.

Montana's struggle to retain and create affordable access to both housing and recreation is ever-increasing. Proposals such as the one for Holland Lake will only feed the destructive nature of this cycle. We have a very short window of opportunity to reject the bloodthirsty, profit-above-all-else mindset and instead value sustainable and responsible preservation and access for the majority--not just the wealthy elite, who have already helped themselves to Montana's land.

We've seen what unfettered + poorly-planned growth has done to outdoor spaces, communities, and infrastructure all over the country. Though we see the ramifications of it time and time again, it continues to happen. Montana is in a growth phase, and we have the opportunity to do it correctly and sustainably rather than having financial tunnel-vision (the profits don't even benefit the local communities, either). The damage done by an egregious lack of "urban" planning and support for locals can already be seen in Bozeman. When the people who made the place what it is and work to ensure our communities function can't afford to live and recreate there that is a huge issue--not only economically but ethically.

Furthermore, the potential threat to the wildlife--including loons who visit Holland Lake on their migrations--should be carefully considered. A project of this caliber, in a remote place like this, will be costly and time intensive--which means access to the lake as well as the entire Missoula to Seeley corridor will be diminished for a significant length of time.

No matter how insistent these corporations are that they won't hike prices until it displaces access for anyone who can currently enjoy Holland Lake--that is a promise made through clenched teeth and never upheld. Make no mistake--their goal is to make money; this project will inevitably cost more in construction and time than they anticipated and thus they will claim they had no choice but to force prices up so they can please their stakeholders. Corporations are not beholden to locals; they are beholden to boardrooms that have little to no context of the reality and ramifications of these projects.

Please reject this proposal. The wealthy out-of-staters have plenty of options to recreate and enjoy Montana, in places the majority of us will never step foot on due to planned exclusivity. We don't need more exclusivity; we need to value access and local communities.

Let Montana be the example of how to protect Public Land and be mindful of growth and expansion and how it impacts communities and places holistically rather than only through the dollar amount.

Sincerely,

Kate