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First name: Kevin

Last name: Kromarek

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

The proposed expansion of the Holland Lake Lodge, while on the surface may seem as innocuous compared to other options, is short sighted and is bad long term for this gateway to the Bob. The planned development is currently excessive, even if the developers claim otherwise. If the lodge isn't profitable enough for the owner in its current state, there's no one forcing him to remain in this business. He could've sold his shares of the lodge to a willing local who understands the value in keeping Montana the way it is.

However, my main issue isn't POWDR or the current owner's plans for the lodge, but the implications this will have for the future of the lake and the rest of the Swan Valley. Is POWDR going to be the sole proprietor of this place for eternity? And what happens in a few years when they decide that this development isn't profitable enough for them or their shareholders? Will they sell it to another developer who will further expand the lodge? Or will they backtrack on their promise and expand it themselves? Why should we trust them to protect our backyard for the long term?

They state that the annual visitations to Holland Lake will quadruple with their proposed addition. This is astounding considering that everyone in the area already knows the lake is often overcrowded. How will locals who want to day hike to the waterfalls, backpack to Upper Holland or Sapphire Lakes, or go on a pack trip to Big Salmon expect to find parking when Holland Lake sees 4x the visitors? I guess they'll have to bulldoze more and more habitat to accommodate this increased visitation, which will further destroy the character of this special area.

And what about the surrounding areas? When us locals get sick of the crowds, we disperse to other parts of the state to achieve the seclusion we're used to. How will this affect the currently lesser visited parts of the valley? When the new Montana residents follow us to other spots, will we have to build another lodge on Marshall Lake or any of the other gems that are back there?

The preamble of our state's constitution says, "We the people of Montana grateful to God for the quiet beauty of our state, the grandeur of our mountains, the vastness of our rolling plains, and desiring to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations do ordain and establish this constitution."

If you've lived here your whole life like I have, you know that with every luxury development, we stray further from these ideals. With every luxury development, we lose more habitat for rare species such as the Rubber Boa or the Agaricon Polypore mushroom. With every luxury development, the cost of living increases and more lower middle class locals are forced out of their homes, forced to exit communities they've been a part of their whole lives. Destroying the chance of future generations to enjoy the freedom we've been blessed with.

Please stop this development and set a standard for these types of projects. Montana is special not just because of what we have, but also what we lack. If someone needs a luxury outdoor experience, there's plenty of existing places to visit. We don't need to ruin anymore of our state's special character so a few people can make a lot of money.