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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing you today in strong opposition of the Holland Lake Lodge expansion. My father built our home 5 miles to the south of the lodge in 1983. He chose this location for our family because it was a "hidden gem", still pristine, unscathed from the negative impacts of suburban expansion. People who occupied the valley loved it for the same reasons, and weren't in need of any additional conveniences and certainly not any grandiose resort tourist accommodations. I moved out of state, went to college, did well for myself, even started a real estate business on the East coast. When I moved back here 10 years ago I moved into the home my father built in 1983, I have had every opportunity to buy or build new, to move my real estate endeavor to this valley and chose not to. I made a promise to myself I would never add to the human expansion of this valley or even MT. Can there be nothing left as is, must everything be developed to cater to the elite? It is a slap in the face to those of us who occupy this valley that you would allow such an expansion without an environmental impact study, they aren't simply adding a barn. Creating jobs is a poor argument on their part, nearly every place in the valley is hiring, our restaurants are still serving on a limited basis due to lack of help. Hwy 83 cannot handle any additional summer or tourist traffic, it is already overflowing with trucks pulling campers, boats, and snowmobiles. I'm sure you believe making it 4 lanes would be the next answer. Real estate prices have sky rocketed due to out of staters relocating. The valley is already turning into an environment of overpriced second homes. This type of shift serves only to price out or drive out those of us who are here for the right reasons, who are passionate about the area we LIVE in, not visit. The Holland Lake expansion will only aggravate this trend, attracting a quality of people who wish to buy up and build up the valley, in nothing more than vacation homes and more conveniences they believe they can't live without. How long until we get a Starbucks? I can't help but feel our efforts are futile and the mighty dollar will win the debate, despite the overwhelming opposition to this expansion. Please remember, there infinite resort locations and options of this nature around the world for these people who desire that type of accommodation, there are very few "Swan Valleys" left. I beg of you please help to preserve the Swan Valley, in the manner those of us who live here love it for.

Sincerely,

Ben Blase