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Comments: Decommission of the Overmountain Shelter's will leave a significant hole in the Appalachian trail experience and further reinforce the wall that has formed between the ATC and those who seek fellowship with the wilderness. I know the purpose of the ATC is not to cater to hiker's emotions, however, something should give. Recent actions by the ATC have indicated a departure from a focus on hiker's needs first and veered more toward a "money first" focus.

Growing up, my father took me to Overmountain Shelter for several spring break hiking trips. The destination serves as a core memory from my childhood that I hoped to one day share with my wife, children, and grandchildren. In our changing and globalized world today, it seems like nature is the only constant that we can count on. Now that natural Appalachia seems to change just as fast as the rest of the world saddens me and makes me miss what used to be a constant in my life that I felt was always there for me to seek refuge in.

Please don't do this. I know the expense to reinforce this shelter and bring it up to current codes is experiential, but it is worth it. Make cuts elsewhere, no here.