



October 20th, 2025

Dear Mr. Kaputa,

The Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association (PNSAA) is a non-profit trade association representing ski areas and allied businesses across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, Montana, and Northern California. Over 40 member ski areas collectively support thousands of jobs and form a vital part of the regional outdoor recreation economy.

From 1995 to 2025, skier visits in the Pacific Northwest increased from roughly 3 million to 4.7 million—an increase of more than 50%. This growth far outpaces population increases in the region and underscores a substantial long-term rise in outdoor recreation participation. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the outdoor recreation economy in Washington alone contributes \$22.4 billion in economic contribution, supports over 121,000 jobs, accounting for 2.3 percent of the state's employees. These figures demonstrate both the scale and importance of investments that sustain recreation infrastructure in the state.

Mission Ridge's proposed improvements will help meet this demand by dispersing visitation, reducing congestion, and improving access to diverse terrain. The expansion will strengthen the local economy through construction and operations employment, increased tourism spending, and more stable year-round business for surrounding communities.

The project's design demonstrates a commitment to environmental stewardship and operational safety. Its planning process includes careful consideration of access, fire mitigation, and ecosystem management. Many successful resorts around the world operate safely with single-access roadways under similar conditions; Mission Ridge's planning reflects an established standard of diligence.

As the state and central Washington region continue to grow, maintaining and improving access to outdoor recreation becomes increasingly important. The Mission Ridge Expansion project aligns with both local and regional priorities for sustainable recreation, economic resilience, and community benefit.

For these reasons, PNSAA supports approval of the Mission Ridge Expansion project. It represents a sound investment in the long-term vitality of the Pacific Northwest's recreation economy and the continued legacy of Washington's mountain communities.

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Jordan Elliott

President, Pacific Northwest Ski Areas' Association