From:	Chris Dickey | Purple Orange
To:	County Commissioners
Cc:	GREG EPSTEIN
Subject:	Say no to the zip-lines on Snow King
Date:	Thursday, November 17, 2016 2:24:02 PM

Dear County Commission:

I writing to express both my support and concern for the new plans on Snow King Mountain.

I am a year-round resident neighbor of the hill and while I generally support the mountain's gentrification (new ticket center, ropes course, restaurants, etc.) and attempts to generate more revenue, I am very concerned about losing what makes this mountain so special to our community: its allure for human powered recreation. Jackson Hole is world renowned destination not because we offer thrill-seekers amusement-park rides and opportunities to jump off cliffs, but because people can come here and quickly escape into an amazing and accessible front country experience. This experience is important to multiple user groups: cyclists, hikers, runners, and horseback riders. For all 50+ years of its existence, Snow King has offered the best and most accessible front country access in downtown Jackson Hole.

With the introduction of the mountain coaster, we cemented a loud, unsightly and uncharacteristic attraction to our town hill. From my home I can hear the coaster running all summer long, with shrieking riders and whooshing coasters. The other nine months of the year the attraction remains unused and unproductive. And in 30 years I suspect the next generation of JH leaders will have to expensively reclaim that footprint (unless our town finds itself fully transitioned from offering authentic wildness experiences to Gatlinburg-style amusement rides).

What I vigorously protest is the addition of top-to-bottom zip lines across the belly of Snow King. As a daily user of those trail systems, I can't extol how important these trails are to myself and the local residents of downtown Jackson. An enormous part of that experience is the relative quiet and the reward of scenery as you climb the mountain. Zip lines will not only provide visual distraction, but are very noisy (human screaming aside). Zip lines themselves generate an incredible amount of noise; the longer the line, the more vibration in the system.

These zip lines won't serve locals; they'll serve tourists looking to get a cheap thrill on their vacation. I can't imagine that Snow King's revenue's would be compromised without these lines in place.

I am okay the addition of a gondola and restaurant at the top of the mountain. Although I personally will miss the relative quiet at the top of the mountain, I can compromise on these points.

But no zip lines, please.

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