

**From:** [Kate Hesler](#)  
**To:** [DNCR: Mt Washington Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Writing in opposition of hotel development on Mt. Washington  
**Date:** Monday, August 29, 2022 1:02:07 PM

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Good afternoon,

My name is Kate Hesler. I have been lucky enough to grow up in the White Mountains and call it home for the last 21 years. I am an avid hiker and outdoor enthusiast, and I am reaching out in strong opposition to the proposed hotel development ("Lizzie Bourne Station") in the fragile ecosystem of the alpine zone.

We are at a pivotal moment in our history where we should all be reckoning with the challenge of climate change right in front of us. Mount Washington is a one-of-a-kind mountain and important ecosystem in the Eastern United States. Sadly, that ecosystem has already been significantly disrupted by the present-day cog railway, auto road and commercial developments on the summit. Why are we even considering more development on this great mountain in this day and age?

The alpine zone of Mount Washington is one of only two locations in the Eastern US where the rare bird, the American pipit, calls home and breeds in the warmer months. NH Fish and Game lists this bird as a "species of greatest conservation need" due to population numbers already declining.

In addition to wildlife, such as the American pipit, Mount Washington is home to a significant portion of alpine tundra in the Eastern US. For example, there are only 13 square miles of alpine tundra east of the Mississippi River, and Mount Washington is home to the largest portion of that. Alpine tundra is home to a wide diversity of rare plant life found nowhere else. Another strikingly important element that must be prioritized and protected.

Significant construction is required to build this proposed hotel, causing destruction, disruption and waste in and around the site. Mount Washington is one of the most well-known and highly regarded wilderness areas in the Eastern US and it is a major asset to NH tourism and state pride. The State of NH must stand up and protect this mountain from future development and destruction. The mountain and surrounding area are being exploited for its resources and for monetary gain - it has to stop.

Please take a look at this [Change.org](#) petition that has already achieved more than 30,000 signatures. 30,000 other people strongly stand in opposition of this project. <https://www.change.org/p/mount-washington-commission-stop-the-cog-railway-again-from-building-a-luxury-hotel-on-mount-washington>

We are demanding a thorough and independent ecological and climate-based assessment of the mountain from base to summit before this project moves forward another step. Independent, non-government based scientists must be involved in this process to ensure that the environment is being prioritized over private monetary gain. The project being proposed is huge, but in the long run, it will not drastically increase access or visitors to the mountain, but

the construction and the process will drastically affect the fragile ecosystem of Mount Washington. As another reminder, while the Presby's own the Cog Railway and the small buffer of land on either side, the land elsewhere on the mountain is NH public land - owned and utilized by NH residents, not private companies to exploit. Public land is an amazing natural resource across the US that must be protected for citizens and visitors for recreation and wilderness escape.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments. I urge that you seek knowledge and guidance from independent scientists before making any decisions. I urge you to protect this fragile ecosystem and prioritize the environment over commercial monetary gain. I urge you to reject this project and implement a complete moratorium over future development, expansion or new construction on the mountain.

Thank you,  
Kate Hesler