

August 21, 2020

To the Editor,

Welcome to our community nestled among towering pines; enjoy our pristine lakes, fresh air, sparkling mountain streams and varied wildlife. Begin your experience on the road once called the most scenic in America, the spectacular Rim of the World Highway, as it winds along the mountain rim affording distant views of the teaming flatlands below. Forget congestion, traffic lights, parking lots, cookie-cutter buildings, and foul air. Just beyond the tiny community of Rimforest, look to your left and savor the wooded hillside teaming with wild life, smell the pine-scented air. Welcome to our paradise.

Wait!! The enormous Church of the Woods project proposes to change this idyllic scene forever! The serene forest that inspires visitors and residents alike is about to be annihilated. The mountain top will be ground away, scraped and leveled killing all life on this land. The green glade where Little Bear Creek bubbles to the surface will be filled and paved. This forested mountain area will become a vast parking lot for over 300 vehicles, a church and more. The highway will choke with cars and traffic signals, just what we all come here to escape.

This is not a mountain project. Mountain people do not chop off scenic ridges and fill in a dell to make a parking lot!! To date, we have done a darn good job of tucking away from Rim of the World Highway the uglier side of today's life. Drive east just a bit. Hidden from the wooded roadway are ball fields and large school bus parking and facilities areas for our school district with no part visible from Rim of the World Highway. Our major mountain roadsides mostly hide from view what detracts from our picturesque scenery.

Not this project!

Stop this madness before it is too late! Once leveled and paved, the pristine forest and all life in it will vanish from our beloved mountain forever.

Tell your supervisors to vote NO on this terrible project.

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