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First name: Nick

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Title: Assemblyman

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Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I have lived my whole life as a resident of Yakutat Alaska. I have seen the citizens of Yakutat suffer from lost revenue, major loss of subsistence area, loss of access to culturally important sites, and major loss of access to recreation areas as a direct result of the 2001 Roadless Rule. The viability of living in rural Alaska depends on using the resources available to us and the Roadless Rule has completely crippled our ability to access those resources that are on our doorstep. Our school enrollment is 1/3 of what it was just a decade ago because there are no jobs for families to support themselves. I have seen 2nd and 3rd generation citizens of Yakutat move out in the past decade due to lack of opportunities. What is left of our economy is, in large part, driven by tourism and we are not allowed to showcase the beauty of this area I call home. Access to fish, berries, moose and plants is limited to small areas and so the resources in these areas are exhausted quickly and prematurely. Vast historical subsistence harvest areas are no longer available due to lost access. It seems to me anyone in favor of the Roadless Rule doesn't live in an area affected by the Roadless Rule or doesn't have a livelihood that depends on an area affected by the Roadless Rule. The Roadless Rule encourages individuals to depend on government welfare programs instead of depending on the resources all around us. I urge everyone involved in the amendment of the 2001 Roadless rule to allow the city and borough of yakutat to have more control of the land and resources within our own borough. It is the citizens of yakutat who know what we need for local growth, economic sustainability, and continued success as a community, so please give us access to the tools to thrive.

I respectfully suggest that all areas around the community of Yakutat from the Russel Fjord to the Glacier Bay National Park be exempted from the Roadless Rule.

Sincerely Nick Holcomb,

Mayor pro tempore, Assemblyman for Yakutat city and borough