

From: [Davis, Amy L -FS](#) on behalf of [FS-Webmaster](#)
To: [FS-AK Roadless Rule](#)
Subject: FW: US Forest Service Contact Us Submission Notification
Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2018 11:30:44 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: fswwwadmin@fs.fed.us [<mailto:fswwwadmin@fs.fed.us>] On Behalf Of US Forest Service
Sent: Tuesday, October 9, 2018 1:43 PM
To: FS-Webmaster <webmaster@fs.fed.us>
Subject: US Forest Service Contact Us Submission Notification

A new Contact Us submission was received:

Name: kate

Email: kategdesign@gmail.com

Subject: Tongass National Forest

Comment/Questions: Please do not allow roads to be built through the Tongass National Forest, or logging activities to be located there. The centuries-old trees and habitat need to remain untouched. If you remove the protections afforded this land, you will cause irreparable harm to many species of animals and plants. There is only one earth, and only one Tongass National Forest. So much has already been destroyed. Please allow this pristine, untouched and important area to stay protected. We depend on you to defend what is right. Thank you.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/node/3888/submission/17309>

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 9/21/2018 6:18:14 AM

First name: R

Last name: .

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 2221 V St

Address2:

City: Sacramento

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 95818

Country: United States

Email: wageslave76@hotmail.com

Phone: 9167391516

Comments:

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was adopted with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including the Tongass National Forest. Rolling back the Roadless Rule in Alaska would ignore overwhelming public support, put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, and threaten access to safe drinking water. It would be a step away from sustainable development and would run counter to the interests of Alaskans and taxpayers. I urge the Forest Service to maintain the Roadless Rule in Alaska and put the public interest above timber industry profits.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/15/2018 2:43:46 AM

First name: Alexandra

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 86 Iroquois Rd

Address2:

City: Stamford

State: CT

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 07902

Country: United States

Email: Alexandrasequoia@gmsil.com

Phone:

Comments:

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please protect the rare and beautiful Tongass from the timber and mining industries! At this point we should, and desperately need, to be coming up with alternative, sustainable forms of energy and protecting our few remaining wild places. A shift in mentality needs to start happening now, wherein we, as a civilization, decide to stop pillaging the planet for limited short term gain. Alaska's greatest resource is found in its wildness, to chip away at this is to destroy it forever. Please practice long range thinking now, and realize that protecting the Tongass from the incredibly destructive, irresponsible, and untrustworthy timber and mining industries. It is not the forest services job to be in collusion with them, it is your job to responsibly steward and protect this land. Please, do that now.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 9/10/2018 4:00:00 PM

First name: brendajones@allstate.com

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

I travel to Alaska every year. Tongass is a magical place. Bear, salmon, a million shades of green. This is a major world forest system and is important to the health of Alaska and the continent. It is home to one of the rare biomes of the earth: temperate rainforest. I completely oppose ANY changes to the current 2001 roadless management and, as the regulation was set then, want to keep the forests and waters clean and pristine. Do not make any changes to the current management.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/9/2018 4:00:00 PM

First name: Chcasipit1960@gmail.com

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

Under no circumstances should the decisions in the TLMP revisions as of 2016 pertaining to roadless areas should be changed. No LUD II area boundaries, nor Standards and Guides regarding their management should be reduced unless for specific purposes in support of ANILCA Title VIII.

It is insane to pursue a timber industry here like it was back in the 1980s and 90s. The Industry was only viable by huge taxpayer subsidies. Case in point the Couverden Timber sale near my community, taxpayers paid for over a million dollars worth of roads and infrastructure, in return the taxpayers got \$100,000 in timber receipts, acres of reduced deer and moose winter range, damaged watersheds, and a public road system that can't be used, because there is no longer a dock there at the old LTF.

The Secretary of Agriculture has misplaced his priorities in pursuing this action. Instead of using his authority in pushing a dinosaur industry, he should pursue his rule making authority in providing a true priority for subsistence use of timber and non-timber forest vegetation.

There is no coherent policy or procedure that has undergone the appropriate rulemaking to provide for the meaningful preference for the use of timber for Shelter as required in ANILCA Title VIII. THE SECRETARY NEEDS TO GET ON WITH THIS JOB OF IMPLEMENTING ANILCA TITLE VIII.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 9/21/2018 4:00:00 PM

First name: ckeithstump@hotmail.com

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

I am a third generation Alaskan, born in Ketchikan, Territory of Alaska, in 1949, and have lived most of my life in Alaska. My father's grand-parents moved to Alaska in the late 1800's and my father returned to Alaska after college when he settled in Ketchikan in 1933. I grew up fishing, hiking, hunting and boating in and around Ketchikan, and as my father, returned home after college in the Lower 48. In the 60's and 70's I was actively involved in the Forest Service's RARE I and II, and the Tongass Land Use Management Plan public comment activities. I was incensed when, after literally years of U.S.F.S. public input from Southeast Alaska's residents, fishermen, loggers, and wildlife, forestry and fisheries expert biologists, as well as input from people and hearings outside the state, the Forest Service selected a recommended action that was the clear consensus compromise position. Unfortunately, the political decision made in Washington D.C. under the influence of the powerful "environmentalist" lobby was to reject the U.S.F.S. recommendation and implement the plan that was remarkably like the Sierra Club proposal. Any change that can provide more control to Alaska and Alaskans, and reduce the influence and control of lower 48 special interest environmental lobbyists is a welcome change. It's an ironic shame that D.C. treats Alaska worse than the British treated the Colonies over two centuries ago.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/9/2018 11:19:28 AM

First name: David

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City: Juneau

State:

Province/Region: 99802

Zip/Postal Code: 99802

Country: United States

Email: dbcarrot@hotmail.com

Phone:

Comments:

Alaska does not need a stand alone roadless rule. The current rule protects our salmon resource which is the economic driver for our forest areas. Any change will result in more damage to salmon habitat.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/10/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: deborahwoodard326@gmail.com

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

Public Comment Roadless Area Tongass

[Letter content below extracted from attachment]

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Allowing the State of Alaska's petition for regulatory exemption from the roadless rule flies directly in the face of the will the American people expressed in their overwhelming support of the initiative in 1999. Of 1.6 comments rendered, 95% supported the rule.

By the forest service's own reckoning, the sale of timber in the Tongass, with its additional infrastructure and administration, would proceed at a loss. Yet another example of the agency's sad history of subsidizing private enterprise at the taxpayer's expense on our public lands.[1]

The Tongass, as elsewhere on public lands in the State, already hosts a vast array of roads in dire need of maintenance. The taxpayer dollars to be spent at a loss providing for new infrastructure to allow timber sales might be better applied to the repair and maintenance issues on already existing roads, clear-cuts and riparian areas.

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics cited a decrease in timber employment in Southeast Alaska (as elsewhere) due in large measure to automation. The sector represents but 1% of jobs. A robust fishing industry, by contrast, employs 4,300 or 9% of the workforce. Fisherman stand to lose significantly with the decreased water quality associated with logging in the Tongass.[2]

It is notable that the focus of employment in the Tongass and other natural areas within the State of Alaska is changing from extraction to tourism. The Tongass is noted for being the last stronghold of vast old growth forest, a significant draw for those looking to appreciate its natural beauty and wildlife.

I don't believe it is always possible to quantify value in economic terms. Though there are certainly dollar signs to represent the travesty of our failure to protect the last remaining truly wild places for all future life, it would be a mistake and gross negligence to fail to see the deeper significance of these losses.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Respectfully,

Deborah Woodard

[1]<https://www.taxpayer.net/energy-natural-resources/cutting-tongass-timber-plan-down-to-size/>

[2]<https://www.taxpayer.net/energy-natural-resources/cutting-tongass-timber-plan-down-to-size/>

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It is notable that the focus of employment in the Tongass and other natural areas within the State of Alaska is changing from extraction to tourism. The Tongass is noted for being the last stronghold of vast old growth forest, a significant draw for those looking to appreciate its natural beauty and wildlife.

I don't believe it is always possible to quantify value in economic terms. Though there are certainly dollar signs to represent the travesty of our failure to protect the last remaining truly wild places for all future life, it would be a mistake and gross negligence to fail to see the deeper significance of these losses.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Respectfully,

Deborah Woodard

¹ <https://www.taxpayer.net/energy-natural-resources/cutting-tongass-timber-plan-down-to-size/>

² <https://www.taxpayer.net/energy-natural-resources/cutting-tongass-timber-plan-down-to-size/>

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/14/2018 1:20:23 PM

First name: Eileen

Last name: Anon

Organization: Save Wolves Now Network

Title: Founder, COO

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 1214 W Hood Ave

Address2: 1st

City: Chicago

State: IL

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 60660

Country: United States

Email: Seaspiriteileen@gmail.com

Phone:

Comments:

This is a gorgeous temperate rainforest, the largest this last of its kind. These are federal lands and are for everyone. To desecrate them is unconscionable . Please do not destroy this forest. This is also the habitats of the rare Prince Of Wales wolves and other indigenous wildlife. Please continue Roadless Rule Protection of our old growth forest. Thank you.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/3/2018 4:00:00 PM

First name: eilishpalmer@yahoo.com

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

I strongly object to allowing more roads to be built in the Tongass National Forest. The roadless rule is good conservation as it keeps many areas of old growth forests from being logged. As a united states citizen, I am an owner of and stakeholder in all public lands, national parks and national forests. My taxes pay for the agencies that manage these lands and I want to see them protected for future generations and not used for a quick buck now. So I say NO to any exemptions to the Roadless Rule of 2011.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/7/2018 4:00:00 PM

First name: etbeilfuss@gmail.com

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2: NA

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass contains the last remaining old-growth temperate rainforest in North America, and its value in providing clean water and fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the national Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for roadless areas in Alaska.

The Roadless Rule is one of the smartest and most popular land management policies the federal government has ever adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but it also saves untold millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize money-losing timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly important in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require unconscionable taxpayer subsidies.

It is vital that the Forest Service disclose the economics of timber harvest on the Tongass, the cost of associated road-building, and the loss to taxpayers in the environmental analysis for this proposal. If you continue to go down this path of creating an Alaska Roadless Rule, you must ensure that all current roadless areas in the state remain protected.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 9/9/2018 4:00:00 PM

First name: flavia@winningmark.com

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

Tes Test

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/12/2018 4:00:00 PM

First name: heidiminick@yahoo.com

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2: NA

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

I am not going to list all the environmental facts and statistics in support of my OPPOSITION to this proposed action, because WHAT GOOD WOULD THAT DO?? DO YOU EVEN CARE ABOUT FACTS ANYWAY?? I'll keep it SIMPLE: STOP ANY AND ALL ACTIVITY THAT THREATENS OUR PUBLIC LANDS. STOP ADVOCATING FOR MINERAL EXTRACTION AND OTHER DESTRUCTION TO OUR NATIONAL PARKS. WHAT IS LEFT OF ROADLESS AREAS, FORESTS, WATERWAYS AND WILDLIFE MUST BE PROTECTED AT ALL COSTS. NOT ALL AMERICANS SEE NATURE IN TERMS OF HOW MUCH MONEY CAN BE MADE FROM IT, THE EXPENSE TO THE LAND AND ANIMAL HABITATS IS FAR TOO GREAT, SO... MOST AMERICANS THINK THAT LEAVING A LEGACY OF GREED AND SHORTSIGHTED DESTRUCTIVE ACTIONS BEHIND IS IRRESPONSIBLE AND UNACCEPTABLE. IF YOU DON'T DO IT FOR YOUR OWN CHILDREN'S FUTURE, THEN DO IT FOR MINE!! HASN'T ENOUGH OF OUR COUNTRY BEEN MINED AND STRIPPED BARE? HAVEN'T WE THREATENED OR WIPED OUT ENOUGH SPECIES? ISN'T THERE ENOUGH CONTAMINATION AND POLLUTION?? THIS ADMINISTRATION'S ASSAULT ON NATURE HAS GOT TO END. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF AND TO CARE FOR THE LAND, THE WATER AND THE ANIMALS OF THIS PLANET - OUR SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON IT!!!!

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 9/21/2018 4:00:00 PM

First name: janspirit@gvec.net

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

Roadless Area Conservation: National Forest System Lands in AlaskaFS=2018-0059-0001

I am AGAINST any changes of the ROADLESS RULE in Alaska! Keep the national Roadless Rule of the TONGASS National Forest in tact at current protections of the Roadless areas in Alaska. Destroying roadless areas by development is not worth the possible profits gained. Doing this will destroy areas of pristine habitat...now protected. Let Alaskans use the rest of their state to develop for their economic benefit. But leave the public lands in tact..free from exploitation!!!

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 9/10/2018 4:00:00 PM

First name: jimjones@allstate.com

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

I am completely opposed to any changes to the forest management and rules set forth in the roadless rules of 2001. This forest is at least 800 years old and, at 17 million acres represents a major portion of America's wilderness and wildlife habitat. It is a national treasure. There are adequate managed forests for logging and resources. Do not make any changes to the current management structure established in 2001. Tongass is only 4.75% of Alaska's 375 million acres. This treasure was protected and needs to remain protected.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/13/2018 5:58:20 PM

First name: Jonas

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State: AK

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

Please protect our forests and keep the roadless rule. Roadless forests are needed to protect endangered sasquatch, which are protected in the endangered species act. The Forest Service needs to analyze and disclose the impact to sasquatch since they live in roadless areas and you are going to open them up to logging and destruction. Also, roadless areas on the Kenai Peninsula should be changed so I can drive along the rivers for subsistence hunting and fishing and hunting. The Forest Service should open up the brown bear hunting since they are the main competitors to sasquatches for food. Without increasing the brown bear hunt, the forest service is infringing on my constitutional rights to live on the land without interference and killing sasquatches through federal over reach. Leave our forests and roadless areas alone! Leave Alaskans alone! Stop federal over reach and keep the roadless rule except along my rivers, which should be open for my use and rights for subsistence. Make America Great Again!

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/9/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: Katie

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email: kategdesign@gmail.com

Phone:

Comments:

Subject: Tongass National Forest

Comment/Questions: Please do not allow roads to be built through the Tongass National Forest, or logging activities to be located there. The centuries-old trees and habitat need to remain untouched. If you remove the protections afforded this land, you will cause irreparable harm to many species of animals and plants. There is only one earth, and only one Tongass National Forest. So much has already been destroyed. Please allow this pristine, untouched and important area to stay protected. We depend on you to defend what is right. Thank you.

[Contents of letter duplicated in attachment]

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/3/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: kmk128@humboldt.edu

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

Public Comment on the Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska

My name is Keary Kennedy and I am currently working towards my Bachelor's in Environmental Science Management with an emphasis in Natural Resources, and Parks and Planning at Humboldt State University in Northern California. I am someone who is deeply concerned with the protection of roadless wilderness land, and wilderness parks due to the long lasting natural resources that our National Forests have left, preserving them for future generations, and the ecological needs that the native endangered species need to thrive in. I truly believe that timber harvesting, mining, energy production, and road access will have a very negative impact upon the Tongass National Forest. I am very against the exemption of the 2001 Roadless Rule for the state of Alaska in the Tongass National Forest, 83 FR 44252 (08/30/2018).

The proposal seeks to exempt Alaska from the 2001 Roadless Rule Law as well as to evaluate other management solutions that would allow industries to come in to harvest timber, mine, or create infrastructure in the Tongass National Forest. These uses of the National Forest land can result in negative effects to the watershed, air quality, and the crucial habitats of the many diverse species that live there. Timber harvesting and mining would have a definite negative effect on the pristine 17,000 miles of clean undamed creek systems that the Tongass National Forest provides, and for the rare species of animals that thrive there such as salmon, and the grizzly bear (USFS 2018). These findings within the NEPA process would violate the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C) and the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C.).

Another reason Alaska wants to be exempt from the 2001 Roadless Rule Law is to improve the communities economic well being in the South-Western Alaska region. However, most of the people in this area are heavily reliant on the tourism economy that the our country's biggest National Forest attracts (Hananel, Sam 2018). Sam Hananel wrote in the Center For American Progress, "The timber industry accounts for less than 1 percent [dash]less than 400[dash]of southeast Alaska's jobs, the brief says. More profitable industries, on the other hand, such as tourism and commercial fishing, together generate more than \$2 billion in revenue annually and employ more than 10,000 people in the region". This to me seems like a way for big industries to come in to make a quick profit off the natural resources our public lands have to offer. As we have seen in the past this could result in corruption, exploitation of scarce resources, and a possible environmental disaster in the Tongass area.

If the United States Forest Service is to exempt Alaska from the 2001 Roadless Rule then this could result in failure to protect the biggest untouched National Park America has to offer. It is the USFS duty to help preserve these nation treasures for our future generations, not to sell it to big business. We need to look towards newer cleaner ways of obtain natural resources, and of creating power. I believe we should keep the Tongass National Forest roadless for future generations to have, and to help the tourism economy that the majority of the local communities thrive off of.

References

Hananel, Sam. RELEASE: Opening Tongass National Forest to Logging Will Waste Taxpayer Funds, CAP Brief Says. Center of American Progress. 2018

Accessed on 10/30/2018 https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r10/about-region/overview/?cid=fsbdev2_038671

[Contents of letter duplicated in attachment]

Public Comment on the Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska

My name is Keary Kennedy and I am currently working towards my Bachelor's in Environmental Science Management with an emphasis in Natural Resources, and Parks and Planning at Humboldt State University in Northern California. I am someone who is deeply concerned with the protection of roadless wilderness land, and wilderness parks due to the long lasting natural resources that our National Forests have left, preserving them for future generations, and the ecological needs that the native endangered species need to thrive in. I truly believe that timber harvesting, mining, energy production, and road access will have a very negative impact upon the Tongass National Forest. I am very against the exemption of the 2001 Roadless Rule for the state of Alaska in the Tongass National Forest, 83 FR 44252 (08/30/2018).

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References

Hananel, Sam. RELEASE: Opening Tongass National Forest to Logging Will Waste Taxpayer Funds, CAP Brief Says. Center of American Progress. 2018

Accessed on 10/30/2018 https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r10/about-region/overview/?cid=fsbdev2_038671

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/1/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: lambar@clarkson.edu

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

As a PhD student studying the impacts of roads on biodiversity, I recommend that you take the [ldquo]No-Action Amendment[rdquo] route to the Roadless Area Conservation Rule petition for lawmaking, 36 CFR Part 294. I would request that we protect the little remaining old growth forests within Tongass National Forest[rsquo]s 16 million acres. This temperate rainforest is an incredibly unique and diverse ecosystem, and is home to a host of threatened and endangered species, including vertebrates, invertebrates, fungi, and plants, that are endemic to the forest. Approximately half of the large, old-growth trees have already been cut from this forest and these trees are in the most productive areas of the forest with the largest amount of biodiversity that needs preserving. This controversy has been going on for six decades and more than 700 square miles have already been cleared (roughly twice the size of NYC). When will the destruction end?

Constructing roads would not only allow for continued destructive logging of a precious ecosystem and virgin forests that would take centuries to recover, but it opens up opportunities for a whole host of human encroachments. For example, the Alaska wolf, and subspecies of it (example: Alexander Archipelago wolf) are a major conservation concern even though they are repeatedly denied protection under the Endangered Species Act. It is still actively trapped, sometimes beyond the annual limit, despite not having a sustainable population size. Roads could allow access for illegal trapping of the wolves (or other animals) and / or hunting of their main food source, the sitka black-tailed deer, which also has a decreasing population. Logging could also reduce their preferred habitat because they seldomly use land with trees less than 30 years old. Also, roads cause fragmentation of habitats, road mortalities (wolves frequently use roads during winter months), and general habitat degradation such as edge effects.

While I would describe myself as a conservation biologist, and therefore generally lean toward the environmental side of disputes, I would oppose this amendment regardless. Building more roads, encouraging more logging and milling, and simply trying to keep the timber business alive in this region is an incredible economic mistake and taxpayers would suffer severely for it. It is estimated to cost tax payers \$30 million annually to build new roads on top of the already \$900 million needed to maintain and repair already existing roads that run through these protected areas (this estimate was in 2007, and is likely higher in present day).

I understand that there are rural communities throughout the forest, and many of them make a living from the timber industry. However, instead of cutting virgin forests, there are secondary tree stands that could be harvested with the aid of the Tongass Transition Collaborative. There is fear that the young growth stands are not ready yet and timber businesses claim that if they can[rsquo]t continue cutting virgin forests, the whole industry will die before they can make the transition. However, conservation biologists suggest that the young trees are ready for harvesting in a quarter of the time that timber harvesters are estimating (5 years versus 20 years), especially because Native Alaskan timber companies are already harvesting young stands of trees. Perhaps the timber industry is using this claim as a method to continue logging the more valuable trees.

Claims that the roadless rule prevents the development and extraction of resources are incorrect and there are already exceptions to the rule. As of January 2018, the Forest Service had approved 55 projects in roadless areas which included 36 mining and 10 hydro projects. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the state-specific roadless rule (Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan, 2016), are flexible on issues that benefit the economy, especially for rural communities, as long as the projects are sustainable. It seems unfair to ask for more, and if NEPA allows for lawmaking to continue, the state-level management plan will also be more vulnerable to amendments. Commissioner Andrew Mack and Senator Murkowski are already writing to make amendments in favor of timber exploitation and more roads.

Perhaps I am naïve on the complexity of the issue, but rural communities should seek jobs in the fishing or tourism industry where there are more jobs and a higher income than the timber industry. There are only a few hundred timber employees left in Southeast Alaska. It is no surprise that the timber demand has decreased: the areas are isolated, it is very costly to extract and export the timber, and it is often cheaper to mill in Asia. On the contrary, there were nearly 8,000 tourism jobs in Southern Alaska in 2016, and that number is continuing to climb at a ~5% annual increase. Tourism supports 17 [ndash] 19 percent of all jobs in Southeast Alaska, and the seafood industry, especially salmon, accounts for another ten percent of the jobs. Timber was 13th on the 2016 Southeast Alaska Employment Earnings. Fishing and the visitor industry were second and third on the list (outranked only by government positions, including the Coast Guard).

Approximately 25 percent of all the wild salmon caught on the entire west coast is harvested in Tongass and more than 50 different species feed on these salmon, including Alaska wolves when deer are scarce. Despite the importance of Alaskan Salmon to the environment and people alike, permanent roads cross migratory salmon habitat 920 times and resident salmon streams 1700 times in Tongass National Forest alone. This doesn't even include the temporary roads that get built during projects and then abandoned.

Instead of wasting money on the dying timber industry, we should continue protecting the forest and not amend the Roadless Rule. Instead of building new roads, the government should focus on maintaining sustainable and healthy salmon populations and increasing tourism (even though Tongass already sees more than 1 million tourists a year). Additionally, logging could actually decrease the number of visitors and hurt the tourism industry. Let's provide options for the future instead of extracting everything for the present. Clear cutting is a sign of the past; it is time to move forward into more profitable industries that can utilize and protect both the intrinsic and extrinsic values of the largest remaining intact temperate rainforest in the world.

~Alicia Lamb

[Contents of letter duplicated in attachment]

As a PhD student studying the impacts of roads on biodiversity, I recommend that you take the “No-Action Amendment” route to the Roadless Area Conservation Rule petition for lawmaking, 36 CFR Part 294. I would request that we protect the little remaining old growth forests within Tongass National Forest’s 16 million acres. This temperate rainforest is an incredibly unique and diverse ecosystem, and is home to a host of threatened and endangered species, including vertebrates, invertebrates, fungi, and plants, that are endemic to the forest. Approximately half of the large, old-growth trees have already been cut from this forest and these trees are in the most productive areas of the forest with the largest amount of biodiversity that needs preserving¹. This controversy has been going on for six decades and more than 700 square miles have already been cleared (roughly twice the size of NYC)². When will the destruction end?

Constructing roads would not only allow for continued destructive logging of a precious ecosystem and virgin forests that would take centuries to recover, but it opens up opportunities for a whole host of human encroachments. For example, the Alaska wolf, and subspecies of it (example: Alexander Archipelago wolf) are a major conservation concern even though they are repeatedly denied protection under the Endangered Species Act³. It is still actively trapped, sometimes beyond the annual limit, despite not having a sustainable population size. Roads could allow access for illegal trapping of the wolves (or other animals) and / or hunting of their main food source, the sitka black-tailed deer, which also has a decreasing population³. Logging could also reduce their preferred habitat because they seldomly use land with trees less than 30 years old.⁴ Also, roads cause fragmentation of habitats, road mortalities (wolves frequently use roads during winter months³), and general habitat degradation such as edge effects.

While I would describe myself as a conservation biologist, and therefore generally lean toward the environmental side of disputes, I would oppose this amendment regardless. Building more roads, encouraging more logging and milling, and simply trying to keep the timber business alive in this region is an incredible economic mistake and taxpayers would suffer severely for it. It is estimated to cost tax payers \$30 million annually to build new roads on top of the already \$900 million needed to maintain and repair already existing roads that run through these protected areas (this estimate was in 2007, and is likely higher in present day)⁵.

I understand that there are rural communities throughout the forest, and many of them make a living from the timber industry. However, instead of cutting virgin forests, there are secondary tree stands that could be harvested with the aid of the Tongass Transition Collaborative⁶. There is fear that the young growth stands are not ready yet and timber businesses claim that if they can’t continue cutting virgin forests, the whole industry will die before they can make the transition. However, conservation biologists suggest that the young trees are ready for harvesting in a quarter of the time that timber harvesters are estimating (5 years versus 20 years), especially because Native Alaskan timber companies are already harvesting young stands of trees.² Perhaps the timber industry is using this claim as a method to continue logging the more valuable trees.

Claims that the roadless law prevents the development and extraction of resources are incorrect and there are already exceptions to the rule. As of January 2018, the Forest Service had approved 55 projects in roadless areas which included 36 mining and 10 hydro projects.⁷ The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the state-specific roadless rule (Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan, 2016), are flexible on issues that benefit the economy, especially for rural communities, as long as the projects are sustainable.⁸ It seems unfair to ask for more, and if NEPA allows for lawmaking to continue, the state-level management plan will also be more vulnerable to amendments. Commissioner Andrew Mack and Senator Murkowski are already writing to make amendments in favor of timber exploitation and more roads^{7,8}.

Perhaps I am naïve on the complexity of the issue, but rural communities should seek jobs in the fishing or tourism industry where there are more jobs and a higher income than the timber industry. There are only a few hundred timber employees left in Southeast Alaska. It is no surprise that the timber demand has decreased: the areas are isolated, it is very costly to extract and export the timber, and it is often cheaper to mill in Asia². On the contrary, there were nearly 8,000 tourism jobs in Southern Alaska in 2016, and that number is continuing to climb at a ~5% annual increase⁸. Tourism supports 17 – 19 percent of all jobs in Southeast Alaska, and the seafood industry, especially salmon, accounts for another ten percent on the jobs. Timber was 13th on the 2016 Southeast Alaska Employment Earnings. Fishing and the visitor industry were second and third on the list (outranked only by government positions, including the Coast Guard)⁹.

Approximately 25 percent of all the wild salmon caught on the entire west coast is harvested in Tongass and more than 50 different species feed on these salmon, including Alaska wolves when deer are scarce^{4,10}. Despite the importance of Alaskan Salmon to the environment and people alike, permanent roads cross migratory salmon habitat 920 times and resident salmon streams 1700 times in Tongass National Forest alone¹¹. This doesn't even include the temporary roads that get built during projects and then abandoned.

Instead of wasting money on the dying timber industry, we should continue protecting the forest and not amend the Roadless Rule. Instead of building new roads, the government should focus on maintaining sustainable and healthy salmon populations and increasing tourism (even though Tongass already sees more than 1 million tourists a year⁹). Additionally, logging could actually decrease the number of visitors and hurt the tourism industry. Let's provide options for the future instead of extracting everything for the present. Clear cutting is a sign of the past; it is time to move forward into more profitable industries that can utilize and protect both the intrinsic and extrinsic values of the largest remaining intact temperate rainforest in the world.

~Alicia Lamb

References:

1) Audubon (2018, Aug 2). Changes to Roadless Rule puts Alaska's old-growth forest at risk. *Audubon Alaska*. Retrieved from: <http://ak.audubon.org/conservation/tongass->

[national-forest](#) & <http://ak.audubon.org/press-release/changes-roadless-rule-puts-alaska%E2%80%99s-old-growth-forests-risk>

2) Wines, M. (2014, Sept 27). In Alaska, a Battle to Keep Trees, or an Industry, Standing. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/28/us/a-battle-to-keep-trees-or-an-industry-standing.html>

3) US Fish and Wildlife Service (2016, Jan). Alexander Archipeligo Wolf (*Canis lupus ligoni*). *US Fish and Wildlife Service*. Retrieved from: https://www.fws.gov/alaska/fisheries/endangered/species/aa_wolf.htm

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Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 9/23/2018 4:00:00 PM

First name: mathew.sorum@gmail.com

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As a supporter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and our wild public lands, waters and wildlife, I am very concerned with the rule-making process announced in Federal Register Document Number 2018-18937. I am writing these comments to strongly encourage you to maintain Roadless Area protections for the Tongass and all of America's national forests. These public lands and waters are prized by sportsmen and women and are a mainstay of Alaska's economy. Nationally they help drive an \$887 billion economic engine from outdoor recreation like hunting and fishing.

At nearly 17 million acres, the Tongass is the nation's largest national forest and the world's largest remaining intact coastal temperate rainforest. Of that wild backcountry, 9.3 million acres are inventoried roadless areas providing high quality habitat for a unique diversity of sought-after game species, including mountain goats, black-tailed deer and both brown and black bears. The Tongass also encompasses thousands of miles of salmon-rich waterways, legendary among anglers and fundamental to the state's commercial salmon industry. The commercial fishing sector alone relies on the Tongass for more than 80 percent of its salmon and employs more than 4,300 people in the region, accounting for 9 percent of the area's entire employment. By contrast, timber production accounts for only 1 percent of the region's jobs.

While only one-third the size of the Tongass, 99% of the Chugach National Forest's 5.4 million acres are inventoried roadless and 1.4 million of those wild backcountry lands have been recommended for Wilderness designation. For hunters, the Chugach is legendary with opportunities to pursue brown bear, moose, mountain goat, wild sheep, and Sitka black-tailed deer in addition to unique backcountry waterfowling. For anglers, the hallowed waters of the Russian and Kenai rivers and the mouths of Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta support with some of the wildest trout and salmon in the world.

If done poorly, a state rule-making process could set a slippery precedent that unravels Roadless Rule protections for fish and wildlife across all of our nation's wild roadless forest lands. If any state rule-making process does move forward, the 2001 Roadless Rule should be the benchmark for improvements so that roadless policies only enhance the most important fish and wildlife habitats while preventing new development, road building and resource extraction.

Currently, these valuable resources are upheld by the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, a collaborative management approach adopted following one of the most extensive public engagement campaigns in the history of federal rulemaking. I implore you to maintain the integrity of what may be America's best and most popular land management rule in history. The costs to American taxpayers for road building and unconscionably subsidized resource extraction are too high, not to mention the irreparable impact to wildlife, water and outdoor traditions like hunting and fishing.

Respectfully,

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/7/2018 4:00:00 PM

First name: mistie@marion.net

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

The first paragraph in the information that I read,
SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is initiating an environmental impact statement (EIS) and public rulemaking process to address the management of inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest within the State of Alaska. This rulemaking is the result of a petition submitted by Governor Bill Walker's administration in January 2018 on behalf of the State of Alaska, pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act. The petition was accepted by the Secretary of Agriculture in April 2018. The intent is to evaluate the regulatory exemption set forth in the petition, as well as to evaluate other management solutions that address infrastructure, timber, energy, mining, access, and transportation needs to further Alaska's economic development, while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

Set off some major "RED" flags to me. While I am all for economic development, I am also a person who believes in protecting our wildlife and environment. These land are protected and should remain that way. That's why the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule was established and has remained in effect all these years. To protect these roadless areas for future generations.

My Opinion: Once you start chipping away at this/these rulings, you will never stop. Greed will set in and you will tell yourselves "We're helping our state", to justify destroying the protected areas, wildlife, and the environment as it is known to you today.

Please continue to manage all these areas protected or not for the future of your state.

Find other ways to help your state.

Sincerely, Orva M Gullet

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 9/7/2018 12:15:57 AM

First name: Patrici

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email: tolberthill@att.net

Phone:

Comments:

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am opposed to the proposed exemption of the Tongass NF from the 2001 Roadless Rule. An exemption would open the Tongass to environmentally destructive resource extraction. It would set a precedent allowing such exemptions on other US National Forests. This is about making money.

Please deny this Roadless Rule exemption.

Thank you for listening.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 9/2/2018 1:23:43 PM

First name: Patricia Martinez

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 1209 Maple St.

Address2:

City: Il

State:

Province/Region: 60156

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email: russnpat_2000@yahoo.com

Phone:

Comments:

The Tongas National Forest is a world Treasure that should not be changed in any way. I've been to Alaska 3 times and always go right from the airport to the parks and forests. A treasure like the Tongas should be for the American people, not comprised by special interests

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/11/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: Rep

Last name: Anon

Organization: Members of Congress

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Sonny Perdue

Secretary

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Ave S.E.

Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

As Members of Congress interested in protecting our public lands and environment, we are writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere.

Over the last two decades, the Roadless Rule has proven itself as a bedrock conservation protection for approximately 58.5 million acres of our national forests. At its core, the rule serves to limit costly and environmentally-damaging roadbuilding and logging as well as to help protect taxpayers and preserve wild, high-value conservation lands across the National Forest System. The Roadless Rule helps preserve these places while still providing significant management flexibility for activities including mechanized recreation, connections between communities, hydropower development, mining access roads, fire prevention and public safety.

In addition to protecting high value conservation lands, the Roadless Rule provides a myriad of benefits including clean water, unmatched recreational and tourism opportunities, and wildlife habitat supporting hunting, commercial and recreational fishing, as well as habitat for many threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. With more than 240 million people living within 100 miles of a national forest or national grassland, roadless areas have undoubtedly contributed billions to the U.S. outdoor recreation economy, which in 2017 generated \$88.7 billion in consumer spending and 7.6 million direct jobs nationally, and \$59.2 billion in state and local tax revenue.

The Roadless Rule is of national importance, and any move to provide exemptions or weaken these protections in Alaska would fundamentally erode the successes its protections have achieved to date. Of the more than 58 million acres of Inventoried Roadless Area, Alaska contains nearly 15 million acres between the Chugach and Tongass National Forests. Lands in the Tongass National Forest, home to some of the largest remaining tracts of temperate old-growth rainforest in the world, account for about 9 million of these acres. Protected by the Roadless Rule, this ecosystem stands as the country's single most important national forest for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. With parts of Alaska warming at roughly twice the rate of the rest of the planet, maintaining this critical ecosystem advances climate change solutions for both our national and international climate efforts.

Strong, continued protections for roadless areas in Alaska and elsewhere will also help save taxpayers millions of dollars by limiting costly new road building in remote areas with outsized building costs. It will also allow the Forest Service to focus its resources on maintaining the over 371,000-mile network of national forest system roads, which currently has an estimated maintenance backlog of \$3.2 billion.

Because of the many benefits and flexibilities of the Roadless Rule, it received comments from roughly 1.6 million people with 95% voicing support for strong roadless area protections

during the multi-year public process to create it. At the time, this represented the most robust public engagement in the history of federal rulemaking. In the decades since, the American people have continued to express support for strong conservation protections for our public lands and roadless national forests.

In the State of Alaska's petition for a Roadless Rule exemption, we see the same arguments that multiple courts have now rejected in favor of upholding the process and the content of the Roadless Rule. This rule is working exceptionally well in Southeast Alaska, protecting national forest land from roadbuilding and commercial logging while providing flexibility for numerous other activities. Throughout the state, the Forest Service has reviewed, and approved - typically within two months of an application - dozens of projects in roadless areas including 29 mining projects, 9 hydro or intertie projects, a geothermal lease, and even an aerial tram. Simply speaking, there is no need for a blanket waiver to a system that is operating precisely as it is intended.

Logging is no longer a driving force of the Southeast Alaskan economy and attempts to restore the industry should not come at the expense of the thriving and growing tourism and recreation economies which continue to provide sustainable jobs and revenue to the region.

Additionally, a state-specific rulemaking would itself be costly and time consuming, driving limited Forest Service resources away from other regional priorities, and creating fractures between the regional and national coalitions and stakeholders who share the long-term goal of continuing the growth of Southeast Alaska's economy. This would be particularly counterproductive since this growth is increasingly dependent on the intact, unspoiled ecosystems that make the Tongass such a cherished and sought-after place to visit.

As the deliberations around this historic and significant rule proceed, we ask that you please weigh our strong opposition to any exemptions or exceptions to the Roadless Rule in Alaska or Additionally, in consideration of the national importance of the Tongass to the Roadless

Rule, we would respectfully request the Forest Service provide further opportunities for the public to weigh in - both with in-person meetings outside Alaska, at the very least in the Pacific Northwest, as well as a comment period longer than only 45 days.

Thank you for considering our strong opposition to weakening the critical protections afforded by the Roadless Rule.

Sincerely,

Ruben Galego

Raul M. Grijalva

Gwen Moore

Pramila Jayanan

Earl Blumenauer

Jerry McNerney

Zoe Lofgren

Jared Huffman

Adam Smith

Mike Quigley

Dianna DeGette

Kathy Casto

Darren Soto

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Grace F. Napolitano

Mark Pocan

Jan Schakowsky

Bill Pascrell Jr

Debbie Wasserman Schulta

Marcy Kapur

Paul Tonko

Donald S. Beyer Jr.

Grace Meng

Jamie Raskin

Jared Polis

James P McGovern

Matt Cartwright

Yvette D. Clarke

Salud O Carbajal

Betty McCollum

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Mark DeSaulnier

Donald A. McEachin

Emanuel Cleaver

Bennie G. Thompson

David N. Cicilline

Feter A. DeFazio

Jerrold Nadier

Gerlad E. Comnolly

Ted Lieu

Julia Brownley

Alan S. Lowenthal

Albio Sires

Narette Diaz Barragin

Jakcie Speier

Peter Welch

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

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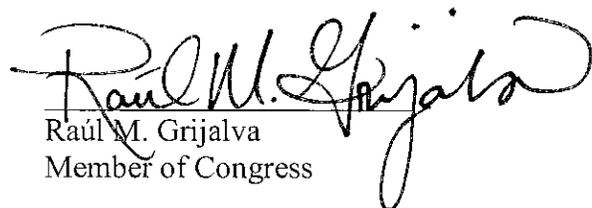
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Sincerely,



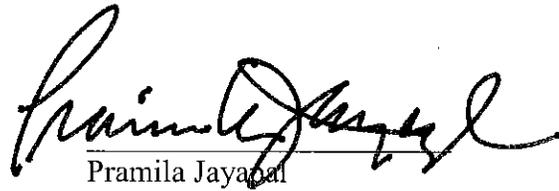
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



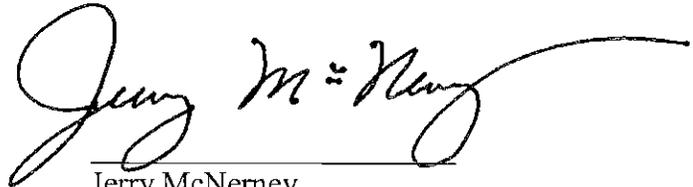
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



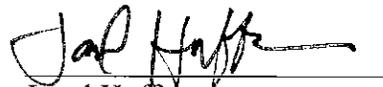
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



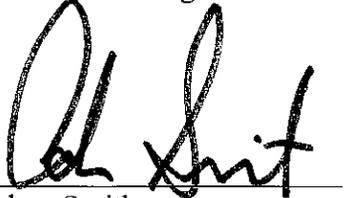
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



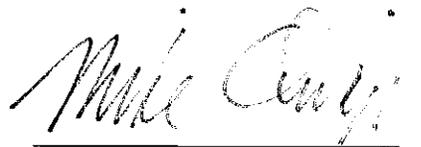
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



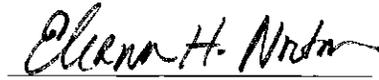
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



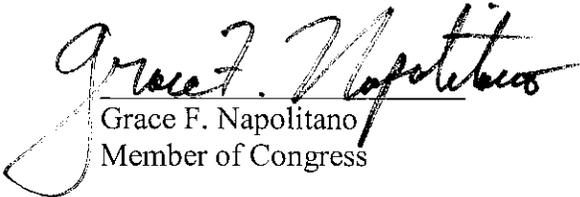
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



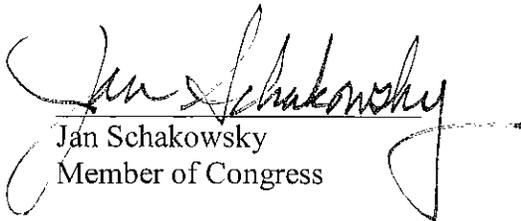
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



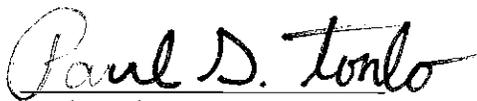
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



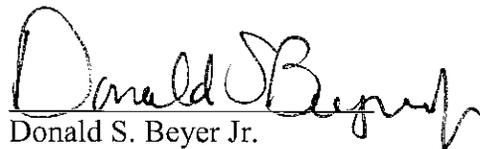
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



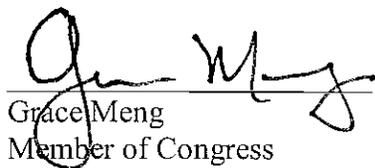
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



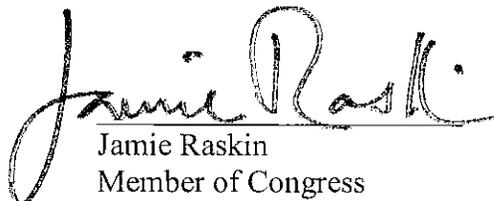
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



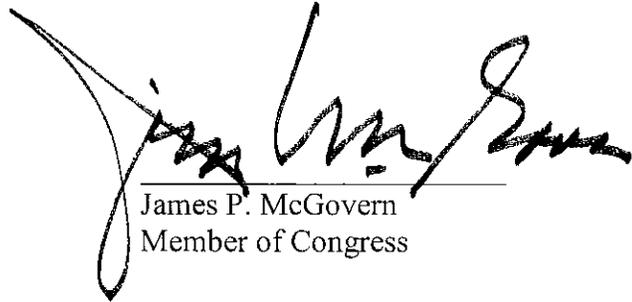
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



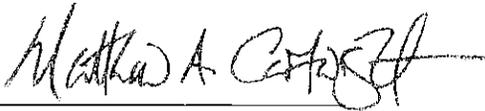
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



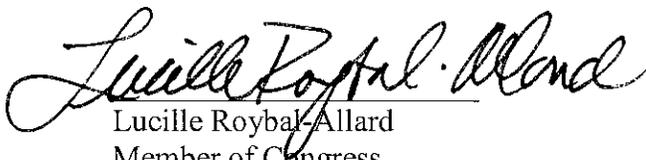
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



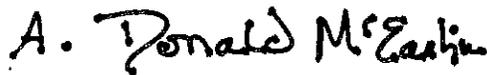
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



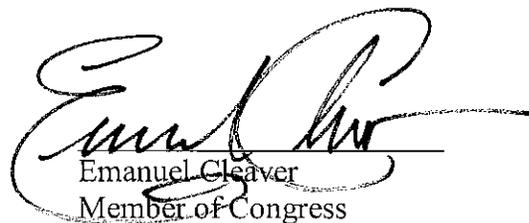
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Donald A. McEachin
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



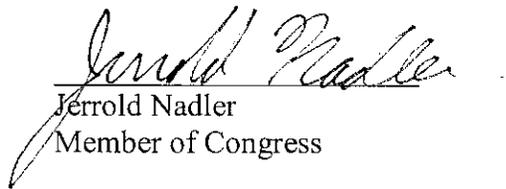
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



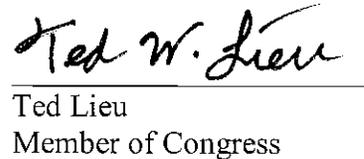
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



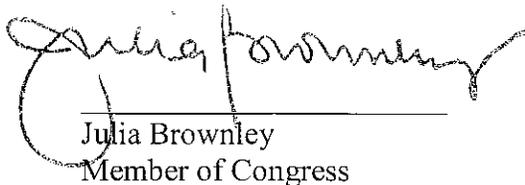
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



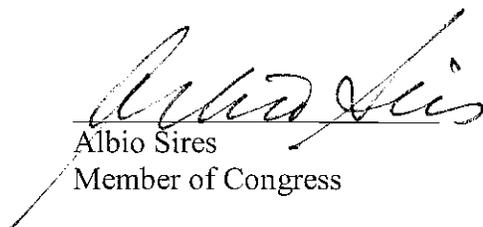
Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



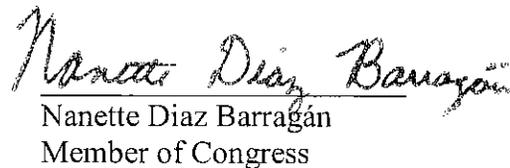
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



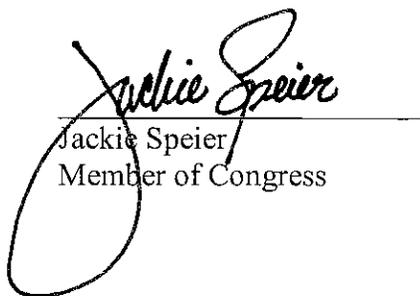
Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



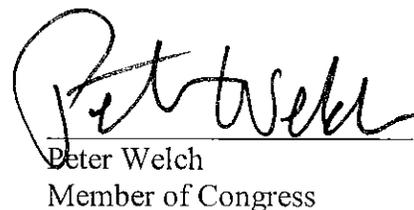
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress

CC: Chris French, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/15/2018 12:08:05 PM

First name: Sandra

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 52 Westland Rd.

Address2:

City: Weston

State:

Province/Region: Massachusetts

Zip/Postal Code: 02493

Country: United States

Email: skendall@tutanota.com

Phone:

Comments:

Dear Secretary Perdue and Other Decision Makers,

Please maintain the roadless status of Tongass National Forest, and continue the management system without the exemptions currently requested. In light of recent alarming reports on the advanced state of climate degradation, and evidence of increased extreme weather across the planet, this is not an issue of Alaska-only interest. The Tongass stores more than 10% of the carbon stored by all national forests combined. We need to preserve this, in addition to the national treasure of centuries-old trees and the undisturbed ecosystems they support.

While I live far away and may never venture into those roadless areas, my life is better because they are there. There are some places that we humans should leave alone. These as-of-yet roadless places are among them. Thank you for listening and I urge you to deny the request for "the state-specific roadless rule [that] would establish a land classification system designed to [accommodate] timber harvesting and road construction/reconstruction activities," which seems short-sighted and destructive.

Thank you,
Sandra Kendall
citizen

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/13/2018 4:00:00 PM

First name: sauercoleman@gmail.com

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

This proposal will decimate the Tongass National Forest and its groves of old growth, 800 year old trees. Save these forests from corporate interests and industrialization. DO NOT pass this proposal.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/7/2018 4:00:00 PM

First name: snickels@shawneelink.net

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

This forest is a unique gift to future generations. This is old growth forest that can not be duplicated, stay out of the Tongass National Forest. Keep the roadless rule intact as is, no changes.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/8/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: vlf86@humboldt.edu

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

Public Comment on Roadless Area Conservation

[Letter content below extracted from attachment]

Public Comment on Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska

My name is Veronica Farber. I am currently a student at Humboldt State University in Northern California pursuing a bachelors degree in Environmental Science. I am expressing my opposition in reassessment of the Roadless Rule because of my educational background in the field of ecology as well as my love for natural places.

I understand the Roadless Rule is being reassessed for a few reasons. Page 44253 of the federal register claims that the Roadless Rule is in violation of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. I understand how this can be perceived through ANILCA's statement that if private land is surrounded by conservation system units, then "adequate and feasible" access must be guaranteed. I understand how if this type of access between populated areas is not currently met, then assessment of the establishment of additional road systems would help grant more feasible access to resolve this problem. It is also stated on page 44253 that the Roadless Area Conservation rule is being reassessed to help stimulate Southeastern Alaska's economy, likely through the timber industry. This would be a favorable middle-ground between mediating local economy and natural conservation as long as the factor of economy does not outweigh the originally intended conservational use of the land during reassessment of the Roadless Rule. Page 44253 alludes this to be the case,

"The state-specific roadless rule would establish a land classification system designed to conserve roadless area characteristics on the Tongass National Forest while accommodating timber harvesting and road construction/reconstruction activities that are determined to be needed for forest management, economic development opportunities, and the exercise of valid existing rights or other non-discretionary legal authorities."

The concept of conserving "roadless area characteristics" while accommodation for local needs is one I favor. However, this will be proven difficult since putting roads through land is the exact opposite of conserving roadless characteristics, which is why I oppose the reassessment of the Roadless Rule.

It is important to draw attention to the rareness of roadless areas and to the purpose for the creation of the Roadless Rule. Page 3245 states, "inventoried roadless areas comprise only 2% of the land base in the continental United States," therefore, establishing road systems in roadless areas of Alaska will degrade landscapes and ecosystems that are rare within our country. The concept of conserving roadless areas was established because of a distinct difference between land that does and does not contain roads. This difference is emphasized in the purpose and need for creating the Roadless Rule, page 3244, "This final rule prohibits road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvest in inventoried roadless areas because they have the greatest likelihood of altering and fragmenting landscapes, resulting in immediate, long-term loss of roadless area values and characteristics." The benefits of roadless areas are listed plentifully on page 3245 of the federal register as well.

While I understand how reassessment of the Roadless Rule would benefit the economy of Southeastern Alaska, I firmly oppose change to the Rule that would allow for degradation of roadless areas. It is explicitly stated that the creation of the Roadless Rule is intended to prohibit timber harvest and road construction in roadless areas because of the environmental damage that would be caused. Economic benefit to be gained from reassessment would surely go against the intentions of the Roadless Rule.

Public Comment on Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska

My name is Veronica Farber. I am currently a student at Humboldt State University in Northern California pursuing a bachelors degree in Environmental Science. I am expressing my opposition in reassessment of the Roadless Rule because of my educational background in the field of ecology as well as my love for natural places.

I understand the Roadless Rule is being reassessed for a few reasons. Page 44253 of the federal register claims that the Roadless Rule is in violation of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. I understand how this can be perceived through ANILCA's statement that if private land is surrounded by conservation system units, then "adequate and feasible" access must be guaranteed. I understand how if this type of access between populated areas is not currently met, then assessment of the establishment of additional road systems would help grant more feasible access to resolve this problem. It is also stated on page 44253 that the Roadless Area Conservation rule is being reassessed to help stimulate Southeastern Alaska's economy, likely through the timber industry. This would be a favorable middle-ground between mediating local economy and natural conservation as long as the factor of economy does not outweigh the originally intended conservational use of the land during reassessment of the Roadless Rule. Page 44253 alludes this to be the case,

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between land that does and does not contain roads. This difference is emphasized in the purpose and need for creating the Roadless Rule, page 3244, “This final rule prohibits road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvest in inventoried roadless areas because they have the greatest likelihood of altering and fragmenting landscapes, resulting in immediate, long-term loss of roadless area values and characteristics,”. The benefits of roadless areas are listed plentifully on page 3245 of the federal register as well.

While I understand how reassessment of the Roadless Rule would benefit the economy of Southeastern Alaska, I firmly oppose change to the Rule that would allow for degradation of roadless areas. It is explicitly stated that the creation of the Roadless Rule is intended to prohibit timber harvest and road construction in roadless areas because of the environmental damage that would be caused. Economic benefit to be gained from reassessment would surely go against the intentions of the Roadless Rule.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/13/2018 4:00:00 PM

First name: wdchp123@aol.com

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed reduction and removal of protections from the road-less areas of the Tongass National Forest. The integrity of this last remaining old growth ecosystem is an asset to Alaska. It should not be threatened by the disruption of introduced roads. Short-term and short-sighted commercial interests are a threat to the forest's irreplaceable asset to the overall ENDURING environmental health of the state of Alaska, to its wildlife and to the Native culture. As a physician who worked in the Native community in Sitka, I am well aware of the importance of this asset. When one flies over similar ecosystems in British Columbia that have been decimated outside of the sightlines of cruiships, the effects of commercial logging have been devastating with permanent soil erosion and a climate ill suited to quick regeneration. It is folly to sell out the asset of the incredible ecosystem of the Tongass to short -term interests.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/15/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: Anon

Last name: Anonymous

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

It is essential that the National Forest System lands in Alaska be fully and permanently protected from any and all timber harvesting, road construction/reconstruction activities, and economic development opportunities! The Proposed Action section of the Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska Notice Document issued by the Forest Service as posted on regulations.gov also includes the ambiguous statement that the proposed action would accommodate the exercise of valid existing rights or other non-discretionary legal authorities such cryptic statements should not be permitted as part of any Notice document!! Such legalese is likely trying to disguise planned actions which would only be considered as harmful to the National Forest System lands and, as such, should not be allowed either. Absolutely NO exceptions should be considered as appropriate for consideration on National Forest System lands with regards to activities such as (development of) infrastructure, timber (harvesting), energy, mining, access, and transportation systems necessary to further Alaskas economic development interests. As Kim Heacox states in her article dated July 31, 2018 and titled, A piece of Alaskan paradise is at risk. Heres why we must save it which was posted at www.theguardian.com: This land is Americas premier temperate rainforest, one of the rarest biomes in the world containing Primal old-growth trees(which) breathe in vast amounts of carbon dioxide CO2, a greenhouse gas sequester it, and exhale life-giving oxygen. In todays warming world, its the best deal going Primal forests are the lungs of the earth, a valuable safety valve against runaway climate change, with all its droughts, fires and floods, including the biggest flood of all: our rising, acidifying seas The article by Heacox also very briefly mentions the economic value of not developing or harvesting the land: Around the world, nature does an estimated \$340 bn of work for humans, for free, each day. Trees respiring, salmon returning, bees pollinating. Real-world economists call these ecosystem services (or natural capital), and take them seriously. Its not a matter of the environment versus the economy. The environment is the economy. Nature underwrites the underwriters.

With the monumental and irreplaceable value of this land to the health of American citizens and to the planet as a whole, it is crucial that we protect these National Forest System lands against any and all development and/or harvesting activity. As noted at the conclusion of the article by Heacox: What is the use of a house, Thoreau reminds us, if you havent got a tolerable planted to put it on? The Tongass national forest is already working for us. Let it be.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/15/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: Anonymous

Last name: Anonymous

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

Everyone

Pollutes

Away

Everyone

Pollutes

Away

The epa should mean

Environmental

Protection

Agency

but

Everyone

Pollutes

Away

We want clean air today but

nothing is ok theres hurricanes that blow our homes away

save the usa, epa

except the rich people say we wont give you time of the day go away

Everyone

Pollutes

Away

what happened to epa i used to know

the Environmental

Protection

Agency

now its not ok

the rich just want everyone to go away

all they want is green paper

and for us all to suffer

i wish that we could have done something

but this is just wrong

we got politics and nothing going our way

this has to change

In the EPA they lock away the rules and act like fools

they duel with the environmentalists

and throw their rules down the drain
now we have floods and big amounts of rain
wildfires tornados and acid rain.
oh we didnt see it coming but the wheater keeps on screwing us over when will the republicans learn
The EPA
Everyone
Pollutes
Away
No more global warming
we only got ten years inst that a big fear brings tears to your eyes except you guys deny that it exists say that
its a hoax
Everyone
Pollutes
Away
Its no longer
Environmental
Protection
Agency
Look go of your little money thing
Environmental
Protection
Agency
stop letting
Everyone
Pollute
Away
See your mistakes ok
You gotta do it sonny
Dont let the scientists go away
because
Everyone
Pollutes
Away
see the name its the EPA
youre full of the same rich people you should be full of shame
you rich people need to save the
Environmental
Protection
Agency and give your money to the poor
Why is Everyone
Polluting
Away
the EPA not the same as the one i used to know
now its a shame
that the
Environmetal
Protection
Agency isnt the same
they let everyone go
we cant cope with all the pollutions theres the constitutioun whatcha doing is bad youre letting
Everyone
Pollute
Away

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/15/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: Anonymous

Last name: Anonymous

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

Please protect the Tongrass Forest System and do not pave the wilderness. Our climate depends on these ancient trees to absorb carbon and keep our atmosphere livable. We cannot allow destruction of these wilderness by putting roads through it. Protect these area and preserve the tourism industry in Alaska and the climate of the planet.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/15/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: Anonymous

Last name: Anonymous

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

THIS IS A PEACEFUL PROTEST
WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY
WHAT HAPPENED, NOW
EVERYONE
POLLUTES
AWAY
I WONT GIVE THAT THE TIME OR MY SAY
PLEASE CHANGE TODAY
POLLUTION IS RISING
PEOPLE ARE DYING FROM NATURAL DISASTER
TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO THE EPA?????!

EVERYONE
POLLUTES
AWAY

WHY DOES
EVERYONE
POLLUTE
AWAY
THIS USED TO BE THE
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY
NOW
EVERYONE
POLLUTES
AWAY
STOP
THIS
TODAY
FOR
THE
PEOPLE OF THE
UNITED STATES
BE THE EPA!!!!

BE THE EPA NOW!
FOR THE USA

NOW YOUR DISGRACEFUL AND A SHAME

DONT BE CORRUPTED

BE THE EPA

BE THE

ENVIRONMENTAL

PROTECTION

AGENCY

DONT LET

Everyone

Pollute

Away

be the

Environmental

Protection

Agency

Protect the environment forever it should be an unchangable thing now your corrupt i thought ive seen billions of things

but never like this now your letting

Everyone

Pass

Away

THIS IS A PEACEFUL PROTEST

WHAT HAPPENED

TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL

PROTECTION

AGENCY

WHAT HAPPENED, NOW

EVERYONE

POLLUTES

AWAY

I WONT GIVE THAT THE TIME OR MY SAY

PLEASE CHANGE TODAY

POLLUTION IS RISING

PEOPLE ARE DYING FROM NATURAL DISASTER

TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO THE EPA?????!

EVERYONE

POLLUTES

AWAY

WHY DOES

EVERYONE

POLLUTE

AWAY

THIS USED TO BE THE

ENVIRONMENTAL

PROTECTION

AGENCY

NOW

EVERYONE

POLLUTES

AWAY

STOP

THIS

TODAY

FOR

THE

PEOPLE OF THE

UNITED STATES

BE THE EPA!!!!

BE THE EPA NOW!
FOR THE USA
NOW YOUR DISGRACEFUL AND A SHAME
DONT BE CORRUPTED

BE THE EPA
BE THE
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY

DONT LET

Everyone

Pollute

Away

be the

Environmental

Protection

Agency

Protect the environment forever it should be an unchangable thing now your corrupt i thought ive seen billions
of things

but never like this now your letting

Everyone

Pass

Away Why be like this, EPA?

You used to be ok.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/15/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: Anonymous

Last name: Anonymous

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

I strongly object to your plans to reduce and remove protections from roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest. The Tongass contains the last remaining old.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/15/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: Anonymous

Last name: Anonymous

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

This area should not be opened to roads or logging. We keep encroaching on the last few completely untouched areas that we have in this country specifically to make a profit. There has to be a balance between business and conserving the few unspoiled areas that we have left.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/9/2018 12:00:00 AM
First name: Franklin
Last name: Anonymous
Organization:
Title:
Official Representative/Member Indicator:
Address1:
Address2:
City:
State:
Province/Region:
Zip/Postal Code:
Country: United States
Email:
Phone:
Comments:
Docket: FS-2018-0059
Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska

Comment On: FS-2018-0059-0001
Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska

Document: FS-2018-0059-DRAFT-10526
Comment on FR Doc # 2018-18937
Submitter Information
Name: Franklin Anonymous
General Comment
See attached file(s)
Attachments
Letter to regulator

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I strongly oppose the proposed deregulation of roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. I will state my reasons for opposing this rule in the following paragraphs.

As you can see, this rule is highly contested, with over 9,000 comments as of the time I am writing this comment. All of the comments I have read strongly oppose this rule. This is just one reason why the rule should be rejected. Due to the controversy of this proposed rule, passing it would not be in the best interest of the people. This is clear when reading statements from people from the communities in and around the Tongass. One citizen said "Expanding roadless areas to make access for logging in Southeast Alaska amounts to a government subsidy of private industry."¹ Before going through with the decision of this rule, please consider the opinions of all commenters.

Secondly, the Tongass National Forest is one the last remaining old growth forests in North America. Building roads and increasing logging in the area would only bring harm to the pristine wilderness of the Tongass National Forest. It could also fragment the habitats of endangered species and harm local salmon spawning streams. This pristine wilderness is the pride of the Tongass National Forest, and removing the roadless rule would greatly harm not only the forest, but also the fishing and tourism industries that rely on the forest to operate.

Finally, in a release from the Center of American Progress, they say that the proposed plans to open the Tongass National Forest to logging would be a waste of taxpayer money. ² Logging, which supplies only around 400 jobs in Southeastern Alaska, has had a history of low revenues. Instead, the Center for American Progress says that the promising industries of commercial fishing and tourism are much more reliable. These industries alone bring in over 2 billion dollars annually and employ over 10,000 people in the region.

While I recognize that building new roads could bring cell service to certain communities in the Tongass that do not have it, I still oppose the proposed rule. I do not believe that the intention of this rule is to supply these communities with cell service. When reading the rule, it is clear that the intention of the rule is to increase logging in southeastern region of Alaska. If it were the case that the rule only sought to supply communities with cell service, then I do not think the rule would be as contested as it is now. Please take my reasons into consideration before deciding on the rule.

Respectfully,

Franklin Foley.

1 <https://www.ktoo.org/2018/10/08/roadless-advocates-pack-tongass-hearing/>

2

[https://www.americanprogress.org/press/release/2018/10/03/458995/release-opening-tongass-national-fo rest-logging-will-waste-taxpayer-funds-cap-brief-says/](https://www.americanprogress.org/press/release/2018/10/03/458995/release-opening-tongass-national-fo-rest-logging-will-waste-taxpayer-funds-cap-brief-says/)

[Contents of letter duplicated in attachment]

Dear Mr. Secretary,

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Secondly, the Tongass National Forest is one the last remaining old growth forests in North America. Building roads and increasing logging in the area would only bring harm to the pristine wilderness of the Tongass National Forest. It could also fragment the habitats of endangered species and harm local salmon spawning streams. This pristine wilderness is the pride of the Tongass National Forest, and removing the roadless rule would greatly harm not only the forest, but also the fishing and tourism industries that rely on the forest to operate.

Finally, in a release from the Center of American Progress, they say that the proposed plans to open the Tongass National Forest to logging would be a waste of taxpayer money.² Logging, which supplies only around 400 jobs in Southeastern Alaska, has had a history of low revenues. Instead, the Center for American Progress says that the promising industries of commercial fishing and tourism are much more reliable. These industries alone bring in over 2 billion dollars annually and employ over 10,000 people in the region.

While I recognize that building new roads could bring cell service to certain communities in the Tongass that do not have it, I still oppose the proposed rule. I do not believe that the intention of this rule is to supply these communities with cell service. When reading the rule, it is clear that the intention of the rule is to increase logging in southeastern region of Alaska. If it were the case that the rule only sought to supply communities with cell service, then I do not think the rule would be as contested as it is now. Please take my reasons into consideration before deciding on the rule.

Respectfully,
Franklin Foley.

¹ <https://www.ktoo.org/2018/10/08/roadless-advocates-pack-tongass-hearing/>

²

<https://www.americanprogress.org/press/release/2018/10/03/458995/release-opening-tongass-national-forest-logging-will-waste-taxpayer-funds-cap-brief-says/>

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/15/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: Lenora

Last name: Anonymous

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

I oppose the Forest Service and state of Alaska removing protections to the roadless area conservation and national forests system lands in Alaska.

Protecting our national forest lands is critical to our survival as a species and nation. Eroding protection for national forests and national public lands will endanger the environment and our citizenry. We must do all that we can to protect national lands and forests from becoming extinct. They are for the entire nation and not a select few and especially not for profit seekers.

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 9/20/2018 3:07:54 PM

First name: Marilyn

Last name: 8

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 2 Jackson Dr

Address2:

City: Setauket- East Setauket

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Province/Region:

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Comments:

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was adopted with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including the Tongass National Forest. Rolling back the Roadless Rule in Alaska would ignore overwhelming public support, put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, and threaten access to safe drinking water. It would be a step away from sustainable development and would run counter to the interests of Alaskans and taxpayers. I urge the Forest Service to maintain the Roadless Rule in Alaska and put the public interest above timber industry profits.

Thank you for considering my comments.