

Pence, Sitka - FS

From: Snieckus, Mary -FS
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 1:25 PM
To: Pence, Sitka - FS
Cc: Tu, Kenneth K -FS
Subject: Secretary's response to Rep Gallego and Colleagues
Attachments: 8489041 Gallego congress AK roadless.pdf; SC8489041.pdf

Sitka,

Please put this email and attachments into the Alaska roadless rulemaking record.

This week we received copies of the response Secretary Perdue signed December 7, 2018 to a letter dated October 11, 2018 from Congressman Gallego and 47 colleagues expressing their opposition to rolling back the roadless rule in Alaska and elsewhere.

The signed response contained 2 errors:

1. The USDA Forest Service held 17 public meetings during the scoping period; not 18 public meetings as cited in the letter.
2. The public comment period closed October 15, 2018; not October 24, 2018 as stated in the letter.

Documents containing this information were published in the Federal Register, posted on USDA Forest Service websites and made available in press and radio releases, interviews and stories. USDA Forest Service acted to make the documents and information they contain readily available to the public. Using these multiple communication methods, accurate information was consistently provided about the number, dates, locations, and times of public meetings, and the opening and closing dates of the public comment period.



Mary Snieckus
Team Lead, Alaska Roadless Rule

Forest Service
National Forest System

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201 14th St, SW
Washington, DC 20227

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Caring for the land and serving people



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Ruben Gallego
U.S. House of Representatives
1218 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20215

Dear Congressman Gallego:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

The public scoping period referenced in the Notice of Intent published in September closed on October 24, 2018. As part of the scoping period, FS hosted 18 community meetings across Alaska and in Washington, D.C., to provide information and answer questions about the rulemaking process. In addition, FS plans to host another round of public meetings in summer 2019 with the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and will seek public comment on the proposed rule. I appreciate your participation in this process by providing your comments.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the Tongass National Forest. FS values its collaboration with the State, local communities, and other partners as we strive for shared stewardship of our public lands. A similar response is being sent to your colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Sonny Perdue
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20215

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Sonny Perdue
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal
U.S. House of Representatives
125 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20215

Dear Congressman Lowenthal:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
U.S. House of Representatives
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20215

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Sonny Perdue
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Darren Soto
U.S. House of Representatives
1429 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20215

Dear Congressman Soto:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Primila Jayapal
U.S. House of Representatives
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20215

Dear Congresswoman Jayapal:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Gwen Moore
U.S. House of Representatives
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20215

Dear Congresswoman Moore:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Jerry McNerney
U.S. House of Representatives
2265 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
U.S. House of Representatives
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lofgren:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Jared Huffman
U.S. House of Representatives
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Huffman:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Adam Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Luis Gutiérrez
U.S. House of Representatives
2408 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gutiérrez:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Anthony Brown
U.S. House of Representatives
1505 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brown:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Mike Quigley
U.S. House of Representatives
2458 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Quigley:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Diana DeGette
U.S. House of Representatives
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeGette:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Kathy Castor
U.S. House of Representatives
2052 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Castor:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Sonny Perdue
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
U.S. House of Representatives
2136 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Holmes Norton:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

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DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Mark Pocan
U.S. House of Representatives
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pocan:

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DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Thank you for your interest in the management of the Tongass National Forest. FS values its collaboration with the State, local communities, and other partners as we strive for shared stewardship of our public lands. A similar response is being sent to your colleagues.

Sincerely,

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Sonny Perdue
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Bill Pascrell, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
2370 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pascrell:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Sonny Perdue
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
U.S. House of Representatives
1114 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
U.S. House of Representatives
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kaptur:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Sonny Perdue
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Donald Beyer Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Beyer:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Grace Meng
U.S. House of Representatives
1317 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Meng:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
U.S. House of Representatives
431 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Raskin:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Jared Polis
U.S. House of Representatives
1727 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Polis:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Sonny Perdue
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable James McGovern
U.S. House of Representatives
438 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McGovern:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
U.S. House of Representatives
1034 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cartwright:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Yvette Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
2058 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
U.S. House of Representatives
212 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Sonny Perdue
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Betty McCollum
U.S. House of Representatives
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCollum:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
U.S. House of Representatives
2083 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Roybal-Allard:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
U.S. House of Representatives
115 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DeSaulnier:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Donald McEachin
U.S. House of Representatives
314 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McEachin:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver
U.S. House of Representatives
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cleaver:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Bennie Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
2466 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable David Cicilline
U.S. House of Representatives
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cicilline:

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
U.S. House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Thank you for your interest in the management of the Tongass National Forest. FS values its collaboration with the State, local communities, and other partners as we strive for shared stewardship of our public lands. A similar response is being sent to your colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sonny Perdue
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nadler:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Sonny Perdue
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Gerald Connolly
U.S. House of Representatives
2238 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Connolly:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

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Sonny Perdue
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Ted Lieu
U.S. House of Representatives
236 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lieu:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Julia Brownley
U.S. House of Representatives
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Brownley:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Albio Sires
U.S. House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sires:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Sonny Perdue
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán
U.S. House of Representatives
1320 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Diaz Barragán:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Sonny Perdue
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Jackie Speier
U.S. House of Representatives
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Speier:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Sonny Perdue
Secretary



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 07 2018

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Welch:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2018, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding your comments on development of a state-specific roadless rule for Alaska. I apologize for the delayed response.

In response to a petition from the State of Alaska, I instructed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) to initiate a public rulemaking process to address roadless area management concerns on the Tongass National Forest. Our approach to rulemaking aims to build a broad coalition of support for a state-specific Alaska Roadless Rule to address needs such as economic development while still conserving roadless areas for future generations.

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Sonny Perdue
Secretary

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:

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 \$887 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 elsewhere.

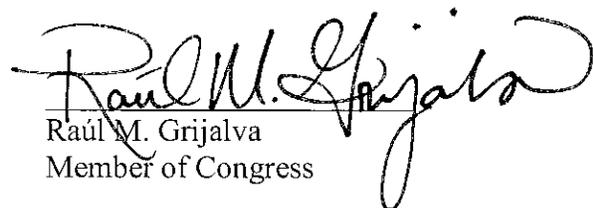
Additionally, in consideration of the national importance of the Tongass to the Roadless Rule, we would respectfully request the Forest Service provide further opportunities for the public to weigh in – both with in-person meetings outside Alaska, at the very least in the Pacific Northwest, as well as 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,



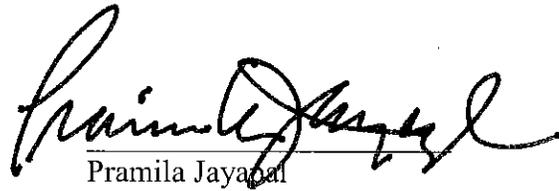
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



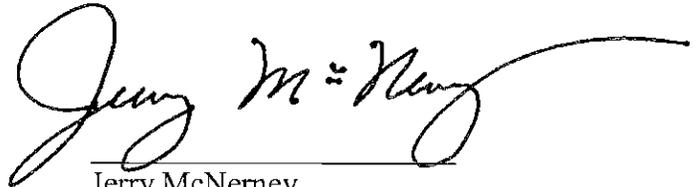
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



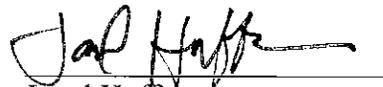
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



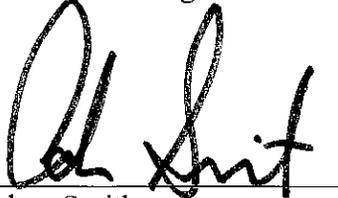
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



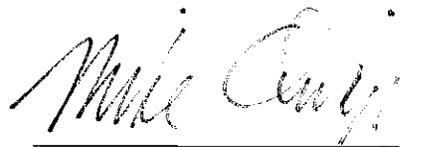
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



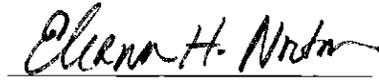
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



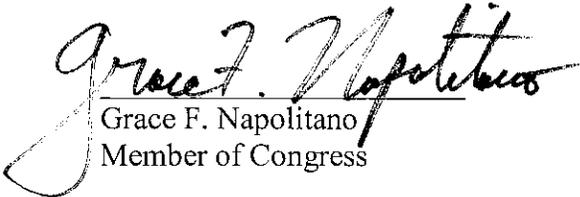
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



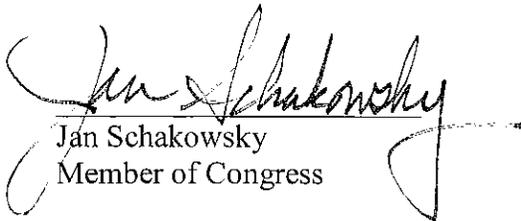
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



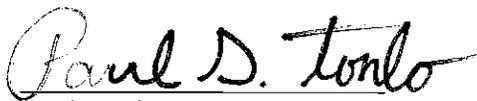
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



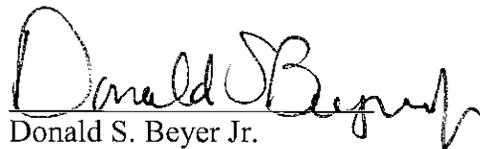
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



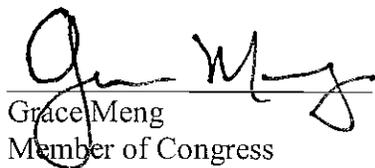
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



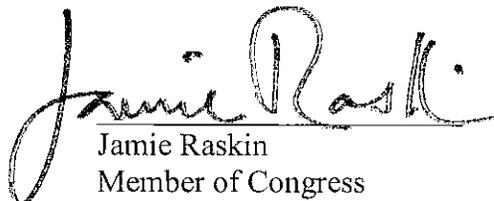
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



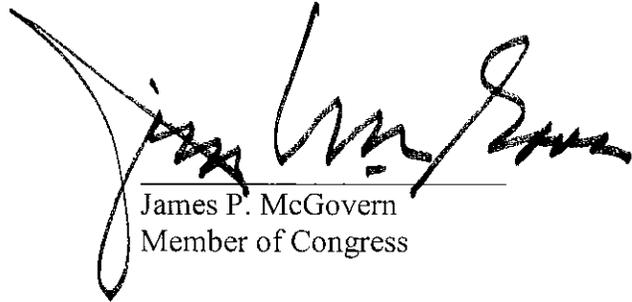
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



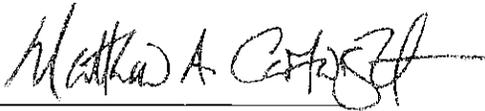
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



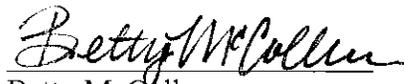
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



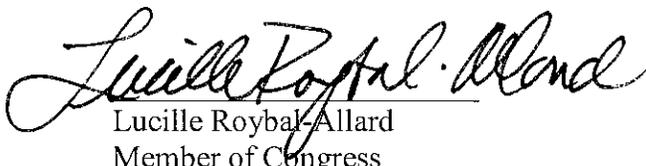
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



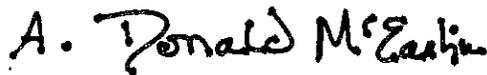
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



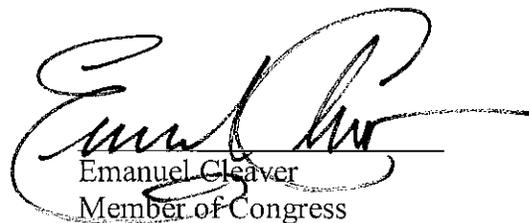
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Donald A. McEachin
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



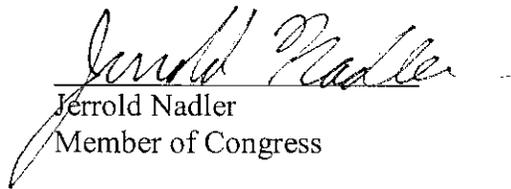
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



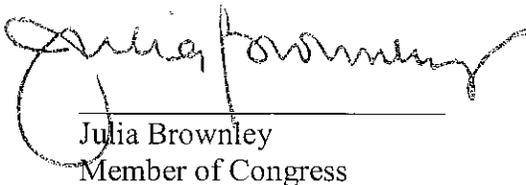
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



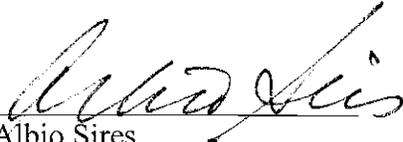
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Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



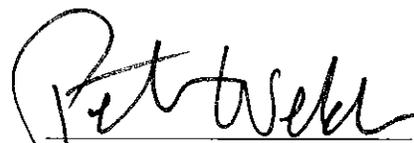
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



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