

14 ChumWay

Pelican, AK 99832

12/2/2019

Dear, People of Pelican

City Hall

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9.2 million acres of land will be logged if the Tongass National Forest is exempted from roadless rule, that's roughly ten Rhode Islands. All areas that meet the regulations to receive protection from the roadless rule should be maintained. That was the rule the government made and they should stick to it! If the Tongass is exempted from the Roadless rule, it would cause much damage to the ecosystem (Wired 2019). Logging the Tongass wouldn't help the economy because it would cost too much to build roads (Common Sense for Taxpayers 2019). It is very Important that it is important to vote for keeping the Tongass within the protection of the Roadless at the upcoming meeting at the Pelican School District at, December 12, 5pm.

According to Matt Simmons in his article "How Chaos will Unfold if Trump Opens the Tongass to Logging" the damage of excusing the Tongass from the roadless rule could

Thank you for giving me the opportunity  
to testify

be large. One disaster waiting to happen could greatly affects the sea life near the Tongass. Without trees to hold the dirt of the forest down it'll wash away into the sea or nearby rivers, the mud could choke the fish which would ruin commercial fishing, one of Alaska's biggest businesses. Not only that, building roads in the forest can attract invasive species. This happens because vehicles on the road could unintentionally drop seeds from other locations. Those seeds could grow and attract animals from other habitats that eat it. This can increase the competition for food and disrupt the food chain (Wired 2019).

The most Ironic part about building roads in the Tongass is that it wouldn't be very beneficial to the economy. In the past, the U.S Forest service has lost more money selling timber from the Tongass than gaining. They actually lost \$11.4 million dollars year after year from 2005 to 2014 from selling timber from the Tongass. This looks very expensive already, but adding the costs of building and maintaining roads that come with logging the Tongass make it much worse. From 2008 to 2017 the USFS (U.S Forest Service) spent \$20 million dollars per year building roads to extract timber from the Tongass (Common sense for Taxpayers 2019). Road access isn't very common in Southeast Alaska due to the high price of constructing and preserving roads, so that means this wouldn't be beneficial to the communities there either (Seacc 2019).

Some people might say that exempting the Tongass wouldn't affect it a lot because it's huge. It is true that the Tongass is a huge, but 11.3 million acres of the Tongass are just rocks and glaciers. People would be logging a significant part of the most valuable parts of the forest. Many people neglect this fact. Less of the Tongass would be targeted, but it's biologically the most important (Seacc 2019).

In conclusion, any area of nature that meets the regulations to receive protection from the Roadless Rule should get it! It doesn't matter how much money a forest can make, it needs to be preserved. The environmental damage of destroying the Tongass would be unfortunate (Wired 2019). Even when people log the small areas of the Tongass, they're still taking a lot of the trees because most of the Tongass is covered in rocks and glaciers (Seacc 2019). Logging the Tongass wouldn't help the economy either because logging and building roads in the Tongass would cost too much (Common Sense for Taxpayers 2019). The Tongass is a very important forest that should have protection from logging from the Roadless Rule. This is why it is important to vote for keeping the Tongass Forest within the protection of the Roadless Rule at the upcoming meeting in the Pelican School district at, December 12, 5 pm.

## Work Cited

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