

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY MIKE HAMAR  
PRESENTED AT THE  
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING  
HELD: DECEMBER 16, 2019, JUNEAU, ALASKA

SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AS A UNIQUE LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

MIKE HAMAR: I don't have a prepared statement here either, but my name is Mike Hamar. The spelling is M-I-K-E. Last name, H-A-M-A-R. Zip code, 99801.

I was born in Ketchikan. I grew up on Prince of Wales. My dad was a gyppo logger in the '60s and then became a commercial fisherman. I'm a commercial fisherman myself. And while I do feel that trees need to be cut down and turned into boards, milled into lumber, rocks need to be crushed for driveways, pads for homes, fish need to be served on plates, I feel it needs to meet -- if resource extraction is to take place, it needs to meet a certain criteria.

I'm suspicious of uneconomic development. And I don't know whether it's some politicians who want a feather in their cap, meaning they had a road from Kupreanof Island to Kake, or from Katlian Bay to a point in Chatham Straits, or a lumber company on Prince of Wales who is going to make some money from this, but what I don't like as an Alaskan, a lifelong Alaskan -- I do not like outside business interests coming into our state -- I was born here in Ketchikan -- coming in here, taking the bulk of the money, possibly not harvesting the resources responsibly, and then throwing the locals a crumb and waving goodbye. Just like the fish companies before statehood -- they take the money. They still run. They still do it in Bristol Bay. The guys come up. They take the money. They run south.

So I'm in favor of the rule staying the same, maybe, as this prior gentleman said, with some modifications. But I want what's good for most Alaskans, if most Alaskans agree with it, and responsible extraction, if it is to take place, and hopefully by residents of our state. I'm absolutely opposed to Alternative 6.

Thank you for your time.