

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY STEVE HUTCHINSON
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

STEVE HUTCHINSON: I'm Steve Hutchinson. That's spelled S-T-E-V-E H-U-T-C-H-I-N-S-O-N. Zip code, 99801.

And I don't have a script either, but I just wanted to make a comment on support of the No-Action Alternative, keeping the roadless rule here on the Tongass. I love the Tongass for the recreation. It's been a healing and sacred place for me in recreation and just living here, and I've submitted comments about that.

And I just want to really urge Secretary Perdue to listen to Southeast Alaskans. As many people mentioned here today, the overwhelming majority of comments are to keep the roadless rule or add more roadless areas and support the No-Action Alternative, and I ask to please, please listen to that.

Also, I just wanted to express my appalling rage at how much Native tribal governments and peoples have been disregarded in this process. There is a letter that Sonny Perdue should have received from the heads of these tribal governments that have acted as cooperative organizations asking for a meeting, and I urge the Secretary to take them up on this and meet with them in person and come here and see these forests.

And I really feel that that needs to happen, and I urge Secretary Perdue and the Forest Service to stop disrespecting and degrading the Native peoples here, the Tlingit Ani here, and degrading these people who have stewarded this land since time immemorial. And so please stop our government's racism and degradation of this land and the people who have been here since time immemorial.

So, again, I support a No-Action Alternative, and please start respecting Native peoples.

Thank you.

Public Testimony recorded and transcribed by Glacier Stenographic Reporters, Inc.