

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY PATRICK KEARNEY
PRESENTED AT THE
JUNEAU COMMUNITY ROADLESS RULE PUBLIC MEETING
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PATRICK KEARNEY: Patrick Kearney, K-E-A-R-N-E-Y. My zip code is 99801.

I live in Mountain View Apartments on the third floor, and for two years now, through the seasons, I've been watching the beautiful face change. "Beautiful face" is a Tlingit name for Mt. Juneau. And without the pristine climate and place this is, this magical place is, the moss that hangs from the trees that can't grow in a polluted environment wouldn't be here.

I can breathe here, and it's that mist, the clouds that just sort of come up out of the treetops out of nowhere. It's the trees that are breathing and exhaling, as I call it, and it's amazing. And there are so many magical moments that I have watched happen here with the weather and the climate, it just -- I can't take a picture with a camera or a video camera and capture the moment just right. You just have to live here. And so the word that keeps coming to my mind is it's irreplaceable, with capital letters and exclamation points, underscored. Irreplaceable. So I could say that until I run out of breath.

I lived in Humboldt County, in redwood forest country, and the first time I stepped into the redwoods it was like an outdoor cathedral. I was just so awe-inspired. How could somebody destroy this just for so many board feet of lumber?

And in San Diego County, there used to be such incredible beautiful places. They still haunt me to this day from my childhood. They're not there anymore. They were plowed under for housing complexes, which keep burning down in horrible fires. So it still haunts me. So what are we leaving for our grandchildren's grandchildren?

Thank you.

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