

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:  
Juneau, Alaska 99801



Senator Click Bishop

December 17, 2019

United States Forest Service  
United States Department of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 21628  
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Sent via email to [akroadlessrule@usda.gov](mailto:akroadlessrule@usda.gov)

Attention: Alaska Roadless Rule

To whom it may concern:

I wholeheartedly support the proposal to exempt the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule.

As a kid growing up in Ketchikan and Wrangell, I saw the benefits of a healthy timber industry to Southeast Alaska, and it would be nice to get back to that and get back to developing more of our renewable resources for the benefit of Alaskans.

But that's not all that exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule will do. It also will help remove obstacles to Southeast Alaskans' ability to tap the bountiful hydroelectric power potential of the region. I live in Fairbanks now, and I can tell you firsthand how important good, reliable energy sources are to Interior Alaska – let alone Southeast Alaska. The more both regions can get off of diesel-generated power and get hooked up to clean energy the better we all – and the planet, for that matter – will be.

Exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule is not the end of the world. With it gone, protections from the 1990 Tongass Timber Reform Act will still be in place. Many of the organizations who bellyache now about doing away with the Roadless Rule were strong supporters nearly 30 years ago when the Tongass Timber Reform Act became law. They should take heart that this legal management structure will still be in place.

I certainly do. That's one more reason why I support exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule.

Thank you for your consideration and for your public service,

Click Bishop

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Click Bishop", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Senator for District C  
Fairbanks, Nenana, Denali Borough, and the Upper Yukon Region