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First name: Andres

Last name: Hughes

Organization:

Title:

Comments: See attached file(s)

The following text was copy/pasted from an attached letter. The system cannot display the formatting, graphics, or tables from the attached original.

Dear USDA Forest Service

My name is Andr[acute]s Hughes, I live in Norfolk Nebraska, and I oppose the opening of the Tongass National Forest for lumber harvest. Tongass National Forest is one of the very few temperate rainforests left on this earth because of the rare environmental circumstances that lead to the biome[rsquo]s creation. The unique nature of this biome leads to an enormous amount of biodiversity within the area, especially due to the density of salmon in the area that other organisms can prey on in various ways. I think that the idea of logging such a pure, untouched area of land is quite careless and that such an idea doesn[rsquo]t consider the variety of long term effects it would cause both to the organisms that live in the area and to humanity itself. This is a reckless and irresponsible act for the same reason that burning vast chunks of the Amazon Rainforest is a reckless and irresponsible act; it destroys our planet[rsquo]s lungs. Not only would the decimation of this sacred forest absolutely obliterate any possible habitats for the overwhelming amount of organisms that live there, most likely further endangering many of the already endangered species that live there, it would also wipe out a large production of photosynthesis which is what allows us to breathe. I am breathing right now while writing this and it[rsquo]s probably a safe bet to assume that you, the person reading this, is also breathing while reading.

Thinking a little more abstract, what would the USDA do if they hypothetically finished harvesting all 9.2 million acres from this forest leaving nothing but vast, desolate, wasteland in its wake? I would wager that they would look for another forest to pillage in order to fuel the soulless industries that thrive from deforestation; I would also argue that is the exact reason for proposing to deforest this particular forest in the first place. Ideally you[rsquo]d probably want to pillage a place like Yellowstone National Park or the Amazon Rainforest because those places have the best resources due to literal megannum, but because those places are highly protected and won[rsquo]t be given up any time soon, the idea of harvesting them would be a pipe dream; not to mention that every medium of social media and journalism would be lambasting you for centuries. Proposing to deforest Tongass National Forest is actually quite clever by that logic because I would guess that a significant majority of Americans and all human beings for that matter are much less familiar with that forest than they are with Yellowstone or the Amazon. I[rsquo]ll be completely transparent, I never heard of Tongass National Forest until I heard about this outlandish proposition. By capitalizing on a forest in one of the least populated states that a large number of people probably don[rsquo]t know about, you run way less risk in attracting unwanted attention. I[rsquo]ll admit it, it[rsquo]s pretty clever, you really have to hand it to those faceless corporate overlords.

Look, I am a nineteen year old music student that really doesn't want to watch the world burn. I often get wildly depressing and anxious thoughts about my future and whether I'll have to live in a 1984 style dystopia because we are getting way closer to something like that every single day and the closer we get to it, the harder it is to reverse it. I imagine that the majority of people behind this proposition are a bunch of bald, middle aged dudes in suits, with a beer gut, bags under their eyes, running on three hours of sleep, and that return home to a failing marriage with any miniscule semblance of joy ripped away from their weak and fickle soul leaving nothing but a gaping, opaque, desolate pit in their heart the likes of which distort any perception of morality and substitute it with the robotic urge serve the machine of capitalism before their unrelenting sorrow eventually causes them a stroke. You're ruining my future, they on the other hand have nothing to lose. I sure do love our faceless corporate overlords.

Sincerely Andr[acute]s Hughes

[Position]

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