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First name: John

Last name: Peterka

Organization: Sagebrush Dry Gear

Title: Owner

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

Dear Alaska Roadless Rule Planning Team,

My name is John Peterka and I live in Kake, AK. Today, I am writing a comment for my business, Sagebrush Dry. We handmake dry bags in Kake and have been doing so since 2005. We make durable bags using the highest quality materials attainable that are designed to hold up to our rugged climate in Southeast Alaska.

I do not support the full exemption from the Roadless Rule, and I urge the Forest Service to listen to the countless other Southeast Alaskan businesses who are saying the same thing. My top consumers are other Southeast Alaskans who rely on the Tongass for the livelihoods [mdash] from subsistence hunting and fishing to outdoor recreation guiding to commercial fishing. I urge you to protect all inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest and keep roadless protections in place.

My business is helping to create viable economic solutions for Southeast Alaska. We are moving towards the future, which will not depend on antiquated clearcutting practices. The State of Alaska says that a full exemption is needed for rural economic development opportunities. However, a full exemption would not help create more rural economic development opportunities, it would instead harm our existing rural economies that are primarily based on the visitor industry and commercial fishing industry. If the Forest Service wants to support rural economic development, they should devote resources to supporting innovating entrepreneurship based off the land. We can make a living off the forest in sustainable ways, keeping future generations and the variety of industries in Southeast Alaska in mind as we do so.

Please listen to the voices of Southeast Alaskans and select Alternative 1: no action for the Alaska Roadless Rule. A full exemption from the Roadless Rule will only increase uncertainty for businesses like mine; it will not support economic development in rural Southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,
John Peterka

[Position]