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Comments: alaska roadless

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Bill Rotecki

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To: Alaska Roadless Rule

USDA Forest Service Alaska Region

Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff

PO Box 21628

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628

12/13/ 2019

Hello good people,

I am a 39 year resident of Alaska, and have logged, fished, carpentered, consulted and numerous other jobs and professions since I move to SE. I have been a continuous contributor to public policy and public debate including advisor the Alaskan Forest Practices Act, State Parks Advisory committee, contributor to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. I have been elected and re-elected to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly, appointed to the planning commission and have served on the boards of numerous non-profits.

I am writing to request that the Tongass National Forest SHOULD NOT - I REPEAT SHOULD NOT be exempt in any way from the Roadless Rule. The Roadless rule already has provisions for necessary power and transportation corridors. Sensible and necessary exceptions already have procedures in place to allow their existence within the current rule. It would be good policy to periodically re[shy]evaluate the rules for exceptions, to determine if they are accomplishing their intended goals, but the roadless rule itself should not be thrown out.

The potential adverse impacts from the full application of the roadless rule are minimal. On the other hand, If one were to entirely withdraw the rule Asian countries and Asian businesses might benefit significantly, but the economic benefits to Alaskans would be very small and any positive impacts would be far outweighed by the negative effects of lifting the rule.

As a resident of southeast Alaska, I understand that the long-term economic viability of my community and others throughout the region is intrinsically linked to how the Tongass National Forest and its resources are managed. It is essential that the Tongass be managed in a responsible manner that balances diverse stakeholder needs, so that the region can enjoy the benefits of a diversified economy. This has grown particularly important in recent

years due to the State of Alaska's financial limitations brought about by lower levels of oil revenue.

For these reasons I expect the USFS to leave the Roadless Rule within the Tongass National Forest. Signed,

Bill Rotecki

Rainforest Construction LLC

[Position]