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First name: Louise

Last name: Michel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom this may concern,

My name is Louise Michel and I am a high school student in San Francisco. I may not be the most learned person talking on this issue, but I definitely know enough to have a strong, informed opinion.

I am deeply disturbed by this proposal. The Tongass are the largest temperate forest left on the planet, a major carbon sink, an important haven for endemic species, and an important cultural place for several Native Alaskan groups. To endanger an ecosystem this precious and fragile is to ignore all of these concerns.

I write to you today on behalf of the flora and fauna from the Tongass, the youth who want to prevent climate change, and mostly importantly, the Indigenous groups who have served as stewards of this land long before the United States founding. I urge you to listen to those who have been pushing for these protections for decades, because they most likely understand the true needs of this community better than the federal, state, or corporate governments ever could.

Deforestation would also affect some of Alaska's other largest industries. Tourism would probably be hurt by an infringement on the wilderness that many idolize, and would raise turbidity in freshwater, hurting the leading fishing industry. Even if you only care about economics, this is still a horrible idea.

If you look past the economic interests of corporations run by colonizers, I think you'll find that there isn't a case for this regulation.

[Position]

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