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First name: Jenna

Last name: Bache

Organization:

Title:

Comments: No logging in the Tongass

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I am deeply concerned with the rapidly shrinking wild spaces in our country in the last decade. I urge you to stand against moving forward with development and logging in the Tongass forest as well as all of the green spaces in Alaska and beyond. I believe that our forests and water are our more precious assets to this country and the implications of destroying the last of our old growth/ intact/ forests and ecosystems have yet to be fully understood. These forests are our biggest line of defense against climate change which is rapidly shifting into more dire circumstances. The old grown forests are sequestering carbon 24/7 and stabilizing the weather. This protection is not only important for Alaskans and Americans but also for the entire human race.

I believe that the Indigenous people of Alaska and North America should be respected and continue to be the Stewards of these lands. They have lived along side these places for thousands of years in a regenerative way. We owe it to the original people of the land and future generations to protect our last wild places. I believe we should listen to indigenous people when they no to development. We should cooperate / listen / and collaborate with the indigenous people in Alaska when figuring out what development ( if any ) will look like. If the Tongass gets logged there will be no turning back. We will have effectively robbed our future generations with the last line of defense in the fight against climate change.

I am writing to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative 1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest, which exists within the traditional territories of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples. The Tongass is the world's largest intact temperate rainforest and has been called &quot;America's Climate Forest&quot; as it is the single most important national forest for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation in the United States.

Globally, deforestation (8-15%) and forest degradation (6-13%) contribute more greenhouse gas pollution than the world's entire transportation network, which is why countries, including the U.S., must commit to reducing emissions and protecting forest carbon sinks, like the Tongass National Forest.

During the original rulemaking process, more than 1.5 million Americans voiced support for the Roadless Rule, which followed decades of clear-cutting that had a destructive and lasting impact on the Tongass. The rule continues to receive overwhelming support, with a 2019 poll finding three-fourths of the general public in support of the Roadless Rule.

If Alaska is exempt from the Roadless Rule, it will open up the forest to further industrial scale logging. Deforestation of the Tongass will threaten the health of Alaskan salmon by polluting rivers and streams, harm cultural and sacred sites of great importance to Indigenous communities, jeopardize local economies based on tourism and fisheries, and continue to cost taxpayers money. New budget data revealed that the US Forest Service could end up losing more than \$180 million in the Tongass over the next four years.

Additionally, many Indigenous communities have stated they are not interested in exempting the Tongass from the Roadless Rule. In October, The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, which represents 57 tribal governments, passed a resolution in support of the Roadless Rule in Alaska. If the Tongass is made exempt from the Roadless Rule, it will not only destroy the forest and our global climate but the exemption will actively

contribute to the ongoing genocide of Indigenous Peoples whose identities, cultures, and livelihoods are integral to the forest.

I urge you and the Forest Service to protect over 9 million acres of forest, defend our global climate, and stand with Indigenous and local communities by keeping the National Roadless rule intact and selecting the no-action alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative 1.

Sincerely,

Jenna Bache

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