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First name: Annette

Last name: Hopkins

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Annette Hopkins and I live in St. Louis, Missouri.

Air is our most vital resource. Without it, all life will die. Polluted air causes all sorts of health problems. We can't afford to lower clean air protections. We know from the past, that many companies put profit above the health and lives of people and the environment. That is why these protections were created. The only reason to get rid of them is that large corporations want to be allowed to put profit over people's lives and health. Also, it will increase the rate of climate change when we need to be doing more to slow it. Over 90% of Americans believe there is climate change. It is time for our government to quit catering to big business, open their eyes and do something about it. You only have to watch the news to see that climate change is real and that is causing catastrophic events. It will cost more in the long run to keep polluting than to strengthen protections and reduce the pollution of our planet. If the government will not protect its citizens than who will. Our government is sadly becoming an oligarchy instead of a Democratic Nation since both our economy and government only works for the super rich and large corporations. It is supposed to be a government for the people and by the people.

I am writing to express strong opposition to efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. The Roadless Rule was implemented with unprecedented public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Any other choice would ignore overwhelming public support and harm Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, and taxpayers across the nation.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual \$1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Annette Hopkins

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