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First name: Barbara

Last name: Harper

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Barbara Harper and I live in Castroville, California.

I, for one, refuse to go back to standards that had me sitting on a playground at school because of Stage 4 smog alerts. We literally could not play as the air was too polluted to breathe. We have a right to have clean air and waters to sustain a high standard of life. We must go forward, not backwards, to repair and stop climate change that threatens our very lives.

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, Barbara Harper

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