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First name: Patricia

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Patricia Kortjohn and I live in Wyckoff, New Jersey.

The youngest among us are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and they will bear the burden far greater and longer than today's adults. Sixteen children from across the world have done something unprecedented. They have filed a formal complaint about climate change to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. Their petition calls out five of the world's leading economic powers for their inaction on the climate crisis.

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 nation's 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 generates 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, Patricia Kortjohn

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