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Comments: I am adamantly opposed to President Trumps proposal to exempt Alaskas 16.7-million-acre Tongass National Forest from logging restrictions imposed nearly 20 years ago. This short-sighted move would affect more than half of the worlds largest intact temperate rainforest at a time when global temperatures are rising faster than ever. There has never been a more critical time to protect our planets remaining rainforests, to do everything we can to stabilize CO2 levels. Furthermore, logging in the Tongass National Forest area will likely have a negative overall economic impact. According to the regional development organization Southeast Conference, logging currently provides a small fraction of southeastern Alaskas jobs, just under 1 percent compared with seafood processings 8 percent and tourisms 17 percent. Increased logging will adversely impact both the seafood industry (logging operations will muddy rivers decreasing fish populations) and tourism (clear cuts will fail to attract tourists). Lacking any identifiable environmental or economic nonpolitical drivers, the public would be best served by doing nothing at all, maintaining the Roadless Rule as is, by a rejection of President Trumps exemption proposal.

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