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First name: Elise

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please maintain protections for the Tongass and Chugach National Forests

Dear Secretary Sonny Perdue,

I live near wildfire zones in California and am very concerned about preserving native vegetation and forests.

I support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative 1.

Roadless Rule protections should stay intact for the Tongass National Forest, the world's largest intact temperate rainforest, also known as "America's Climate Forest" as it is the single most important national forest for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation in the United States.

Deforestation and forest degradation are major contributors to global greenhouse gas pollution. Clear-cutting will have a destructive and lasting impact on the Tongass.

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, 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.

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,

Elise Kalfayan

Glendale, CA 91202

[Position]