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Organization:

Title:

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I want to begin by saying that I know this Roadless Rule issue is the result of political pressure from high up in the Forest Service, and that I know and respect the people and the work of our local Forest Service representatives. I'm testifying so you can pass this up the chain of command, and hopefully have an impact. Many other folks will testify about why the Tongass needs to remain roadless. You've already heard from us on that; more than 90% of public comments in the last comment period opposed the Forest Service's proposed rule change in favor of keeping the current Roadless Rule. We've already had this discussion. The Supreme Court ruled in 2001. A well considered consensus was reached as recently as 2016 in the TLMP. So I have to wonder out loud - why do you keep wasting our time? I know the Forest Service's timber agenda is no stranger to wastefulness. Apparently Sonny Perdue has no qualms about continuing to subsidize logging roads at the expense of tax-payer dollars, salmon habitat, the tourism industry, and our local way of life. The Forest Service had no issue wasting \$200,000 to pay the Alaska Forest Association, which represents less than 250 people, for their "input"; on this process. That comes out to about \$800 per person. But real Southeast Alaskans don't need to be paid to tell you how we feel. We've said it over and over again. We've said it in a hundred thousand public comments, hundreds of hours of public testimony. So I've got this to say to your process. Quit wasting our time and start respecting our voices. We are furious that the Forest Service keeps threatening our communities way of life, forcing hundreds of us to come out and testify over and over again. How many times do we have to speak up before you listen?

This effort to change the Roadless Rule is another shameful chapter in the Forest Service's shameful history of wastefully enabling corporate greed. The Forest Service has many important missions to fulfill, such as preparing the Tongass for second growth harvest, cleaning up the mess from the bad old days of clearcutting, enhancing recreation opportunities, and protecting fish and wildlife habitat, missions which I wholeheartedly support. But attempts to change the Roadless Rule undermine all of those other valuable missions, and it won't succeed anyways. We will sue and we will protest, the Forest Service's reputation will be tarnished and it's credibility eroded, it's precious time and resources diverted from valuable work to defend a stupid, useless and corrupt agenda. So please, quit ignoring our testimony, quit wasting everyone's time, and keep the Roadless Rule the way it is.

[Position]