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First name: James

Last name: Smith

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Maintain protections for Alaska Roadless Rule

Dear Secretary Secretary Perdue,

The Tongass National Forest represents what is sacred to me in our nation. We Americans, especially in the West, celebrate our natural wonders as if they are hallowed cathedrals or treasures of antiquity. They make our country great.

In the case of this forest, it means so much more to just our one nation. The world counts on our natural wonders to regulate the global environment. It is a dereliction of duty for us to turn our back on our allies around the world, stab them in the back, and remove these safeguards.

This forest absorbs more carbon than any temperate forest on Earth. We have a responsibility to the world to keep that powerful force in tact. Economically speaking, the timber harvested here would pale in comparison to the future emissions reduced, and the current recreational opportunities the Tongass forest currently hosts.

The great temperate rainforests of our nation are especially dear to me, having grown up in their ruins in Washington State. Like traversing the crumbling foundations of some ancient empire, I feel a connection to forces much more powerful than myself, removed by the carelessness of man. What a disgrace to spoil such beauty. Please, allow the present status of our nation's treasures stand. We are all the better for it.

I urge you in the strongest terms possible to select Alternative 1, or "No Action," for USFS Docket ID: FS-2019-0023 Alaska Roadless Rule #54511. Keep the roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest protected and working to provide clean air, clean water, and sustainable resources to America and the rest of the world.

Sincerely,

James R. Smith

Sincerely,

Mr. James Smith

Fife, WA 98424-3562

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