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Organization:

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Comments: Tongass and the Roadless Rule

The new proposal would eliminate protections the Tongass now enjoys under what's known as the Roadless Rule. For nearly two decades, that rule has protected much of our country's last wild national forests from most logging and development. At almost 17 million acres, the Tongass is the largest U.S. national forest - and one of the world's most important temperate rainforests. The only other temperate rainforests in the world are in Tasmania and southern Chile. Wild salmon are much preferred over farmed salmon due to lack of contaminants and other reasons, and are a multi-BILLION industry in Alaska--"pink gold". Clear-cutting ruins their habitat. And it would be a major blow to one of our greatest defenses against climate change: the forest's centuries-old trees that store huge amounts of carbon. On numerous occasions, piles of old growth trees were left to rot either because they couldn't find a buyer or the company couldn't get them out. In ALL cases the logs were sold at BELOW COST to Asian markets, mostly China. A complete scam and WASTE OF TAXPAYER MONEY! Paying companies to destroy the habitat and then letting the logs rot! Are you kidding?

And adding insult to injury, at the last minute, Trump snuck in a poison pill that would open the door to bulldozers and chainsaws on 5.3 million more acres of roadless lands on the neighboring Chugach National Forest - a spectacular landscape of rugged mountains, snow-covered peaks, lakes, rivers and streams.

I am against destroying the Tongass and Chugach with these new changes.

Sincerely,

Pat Quinn

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