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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC380

Dear Secretary Perdue and Senator Murkowski,

I'm a student from California who is taking a human ecology course here in Alaska, where I'm learning about my human interactions with nature. As I'm learning about the beautiful, delicate ecosystems in the area, I can't help but notice the sheer importance of the Tongass National Forest to this state's environment, economy, and identity. Tourism (and students like me) play such a large role in Alaska's economy - people come to visit Alaska to see the beauty of the forests and admire the wildlife living among the trees (not to mention the nature walks/hikes that the economy capitalizes off of). Who would come to Alaska only to see a desert and lumbering mills instead of the natural beauty of the forest? Sacrificing this incredible ecosystem of the Tongass for old growth lumbering companies (the only possible "excuse" to repeal protection of the forest) would only spell out disaster for the state of Alaska. This is why I believe the 2001 Roadless Rule must remain in place to protect this wonderful forest. Any other excuse is simply half-hearted attempts to reach short-term financial or political goals. There are already provisions for hydropower, road corridors, and even mining- what's the reason for repealing it? You would be helping the 1% at the expense of the other 99% - this is not the democracy of America I know and love. I urge you to listen to your citizens - not only are Alaskans taking action to protect the 2001 Roadless Rule, but people around the country and even the world are rallying to protect the environment we've already destroyed so much for people like me, the next generation.

Sincerely,

Allison Jia

PS: Thank you for your dedication to Alaska. I hope you consider.

[Position]