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First name: Simren

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: HC378

I'm Simren, a rising high school senior from the Silicon Valley. I'm here in Sitka, learning about fisheries and their impacts on salmon and corresponding ecosystems (bears, eagles, etc.). After spending a couple days learning about the unique marine and land ecosystems Alaska hosts, (at the Sitka Sound Science Center) it became apparent of how much Alaskan residents depend on Alaska's environment. Being a mostly-dependent town on the fishing industry, exempting Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule makes no logical sense. As an aspiring biologist and ecologist, I do not understand how clearcutting the trees from the Tongass National Forest will benefit the Alaskan economy, especially because the residents depend on the animals in the forest for food, trade, and lifestyle. Alaskan citizens will not benefit from exempting Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule of 2001. It is important that the 2001 Roadless Rule remains in place on the Tongass National Forest.

I do not want to see the Roadless Rule of 2001 repealed in the Tongass National Forest. Please keep this national and global treasure of a rainforest intact for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Simren Gupta

[Signature]

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