Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/15/2019 9:00:00 AM First name: John Last name: Bryant Organization: private citizen Title:

Comments: I am vociferously opposed to President Trumps plan, pushed by Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, which would slash protections for more than 9 million acres of the Tongass National Forest, an area larger than Yellowstone, Glacier and Grand Canyon national parks combined. Building roads in the Tongass is prohibited under a rule published in the last days of President Bill Clintons administration.

The Tongass stores more carbon removed from the atmosphere than any other national forest in the country in its old-growth Sitka spruce, hemlock and cedar trees. It helps protect Alaska, which is warming more than twice as fast from climate change as our planet overall. The forest holds about 650 million tons of carbon or about half of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions in 2017.

[Position]