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First name: pat

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Roadless Rule comments

Dear Secretary Perdue and Chief Christensen,

I urge you select the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule and protect all inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest under the 2001 National Roadless Rule.

The Tongass National Forest holds important value for Alaska and the world. Allowing timber sales and further timber-related infrastructure in roadless areas would irreversibly damage these resources, which include clean water, wildlife habitat, and salmon-producing watersheds. The EIS has not considered the full impacts of such changes to the existing law.

I am a father and am raising my children in Alaska, with much of our year spent in southeast Alaska, where intact forests and healthy, productive coastal waters are our greatest assets. It would be extremely shortsighted to damage these for dubious short-term gains.

I am a homebuilder and rely on wood products in my industry. However, there is no need for logging of old growth forests to acquire quality materials. In fact, opening up roadless areas would be a detriment to Alaska's economy by harming recreational and tourism opportunities, two of the most promising and profitable industries in southeast Alaska. Timber sales on the Tongass have been heavily subsidized, making further logging in this area unsustainable and economically unsound, ultimately applying a burden to American taxpayers.

I strongly request that you select the "no-action" alternative on the Alaska-specific Roadless Rule and keep the 2001 National Roadless Rule on the Tongass.

Sincerely,

Patrick Farrell

Farrell Home Building, LLC

[Position]