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First name: Keenan

Last name: Miller

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Student Public Comment

Dear Policy Makers,

We are deeply concerned about the Trump administration's intentions to lift federal protections on the Tongass National Forest. As young Alaskans and global citizens, the short-sightedness of this measure appalls us. The long term protection of Alaska's natural diversity, vitality, and beauty is far more important than any superficial, temporary economic boon that opening the Tongass National Forest to the timber industry may generate. The trees that stand on our land sustain our commercial fishing and tourism industries, which in turn sustain our Southeast Alaskan communities year after year. If the conservation of our environment isn't enough, or if the irreversible damage that unnecessary development would do to the beauty of the Tongass National Forest isn't enough, then let the protection of our sustainable economies, which are so deeply reliant on the ecosystem created by the Tongass National Forest, be reason enough for you to take concrete action.

You are the people that are in the best position to protect the Tongass, our home. We strongly urge you to rescind your support for the Trump administration's proposal, and instead work to maintain the full strength of the 2001 Roadless Rule throughout the Tongass National Forest. We hope you stand with us, because however long you will be here, we will be here longer. We are the generation that will be responsible for the aftermath of your policy decisions - good or bad. For our sake, please choose wisely. We'll be watching.

Sincerely, on behalf of the Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kal[eacute] Student Government, Thunder Mountain High School Student Government, And Wrangell High School Student Government,

Keenan Miller

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