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Title: Pres.

Comments: I am writing in support of the Telephone Gap project. What I have read about it has laid out a logical, carefully considered approach based on actual conditions on the ground. Much of the land has been worked, in prior times, for goals other than the long term needs of the GMNF. It makes sense to go in and reset the management of the area in a way that puts the land and forest on a more sustainable path forward.

Those in opposition seem to gloss over the details to make any intervention in the forest sound like the most exploitative situation possible. The actual description of this project, general GMNF practices, and Vermont forestry in general, do not give credence to such hyperbole.

My company proudly uses Vermont wood in producing consumer goods. I do not think of this project as being critical to my supply, I think of it as very acceptable forest management, done by professionals. However, we should all recognize the environmental benefit of local wood products vs. plastic junk made in China. A 2021 study, published in Nature, found that decaying trees release more carbon to the environment than all the burning of fossil fuels. Nature is providing us a tremendous resource, let us look at it in a balanced way, and we may find it is an even better answer to the CO2 issue.