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Organization:

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Comments: I can well imagine that you have already received comments about the ecological implications of cutting down large areas of Old Growth Forest such as Telephone Gap. I can imagine that you are likely aware of the impacts on the diversity of life, including human, when large swaths of Forest are taken down. When deciding whether to cut down Mature and Old Growth Forests such as Telephone Gap, it also seems wise to consider the question of Time.

The Time it took the Forest areas proposed for logging to grow is between 80-160 years. I have a son who is 16. He has spent his years hiking and getting to know the Green Mountain National Forest as a place he loves and belongs to; he has come to know these Trees as the Elders they are, as integral members of the community he lives within.

My son has also been studying Abenaki language, history and culture the past 2 years, and is aware that the Old Growth Forests under consideration for logging are not ours to destroy. I have learned along with him that the Western Abenaki people were caretaking this land for thousands of years, back when Vermont was not yet Vermont. The Abenaki people are still here. My son questions how it is we can treat the Elders of this land - both the Abenaki and the Trees - without care and consideration, justifying our actions to serve our own short-term needs. I have not found a good answer to his question.

As his mother, I care about the world I leave for my son to live in. He is coming of age at a time of much crisis, a time of so much breaking down all around him. I ask you, "If we cut these Mature Forests down in our haste to sell them as lumber, what will be here for my son when he is grown, and for those who come after him?"

If we do not have regard for those who came before or for those who come after us, who are we but self-serving and short-sighted beings? I offer my hope that, as you deliberate, you consider the power of the choice you have - not only to honor the life of these Forests, but the lives of those who depend on them to help hold the balance of a changing Earth, now and in the times to come.

My sincere thanks for your thoughtful consideration.