Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/12/2024 9:34:53 AM First name: Nancy Last name: Bolan Organization: Title: Comments: Dear Sir/Madame,

I commend your initiative to preserve and protect old-growth forests.

Old-growth forests are absolutely vital for a number of important reasons, including wildlife habitat, freshwater storage, and erosion control. And they are essential to mitigating the impacts of climate change, as old-growth forests absorb massive amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis, and store it safely underground in root systems. Thank you,