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Comments: Old-growth forests are invaluable ecosystems that have evolved over hundreds of years. Not only do they harbor ancient trees, but also have unique biodiversity, and play a crucial role in mitigating climate change. This logging proposal threatens these precious habitats so here are just a few reasons to push for their conservation and not logging.

- Carbon Sequestration: Old-growth and mature forests absorb carbon dioxide equivalent to more than 10% of our nation's annual greenhouse gas emissions. By preserving them, we contribute significantly to combating climate change or at the least prevent erosion from creating worsening flooding zones.

- Biodiversity Hotspots: These forests host diverse plant and animal species. Protecting old-growth habitats ensures the survival of rare and endangered organisms.

- Clean Water Sources: Forests act as natural filters, ensuring clean water for our communities. Old-growth forests play a vital role in maintaining water quality.

- Wildlife Habitat: Ancient trees provide nesting sites, food, and shelter for countless wildlife species. Their preservation is essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems.

- Ecotourism: Old-growth forests attract nature enthusiasts, hikers, and birdwatchers. Ecotourism generates revenue for local communities, supporting small businesses and creating jobs.

- Scientific Research: These forests serve as living laboratories. Scientists study their complex ecosystems, contributing to our understanding of ecology, climate change, and biodiversity.

- Education and Inspiration: Old-growth forests inspire awe and wonder. They foster environmental education and instill a sense of stewardship in future generations. Kentucky leads in the nation and has rich history in environmental education. This fact needs to be acknowledged by doing right by the values that have led to conserving Kentucky's natural heritage.

- Health and Well-Being: Access to green spaces improves mental and physical health. Old-growth forests offer

serene retreats for relaxation and rejuvenation which can help promote the benefits of green spaces for all Kentuckians to access.

- Quality of Life: Living near old-growth forests enhances our quality of life. The loss of these natural wonders would diminish our sense of place and identity in Kentucky as beautiful place full of natural beauty.

Our Kentuckians must stand united in defense of our old-growth forests against short-term financial gains. Let us rethink this approach and advocate for sustainable land management practices, prioritize ecotourism, and recognize the intrinsic value of these ancient ecosystems. By doing so, we safeguard our environment, our economy, and our shared future.

- Miguel Juanez.