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Comments: I am very excited by the Biden administration's efforts to protect old growth forests and am calling on them to do even more by strengthening this amendment. Mature and old-growth trees and forests protect our climate by absorbing and storing carbon, boost resilience to fire, help regulate temperatures, filter drinking water and shelter wildlife. Logging these trees deprives us of the benefits and beauty of our largest, oldest trees.

To preserve this beautiful, important, forests, please include the Tongass National Forest in the amendment rather than allowing exceptions there. We also need explicit directs to maintain and grow old growth forests, rather than vague references to stewardship plans, as well as science-based goals for expanding old growth forests. This is a very important piece of legislation and needs to be strong to protect this vital resource.

Thank you.