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Comments: To whom it may concern:

I have carefully examined the Telephone Gap development proposal along with the most recent IPCC report on expected climate change, and the most current data on actual and projected US energy development and use under several scenarios through the year 2050. These data also include greenhouse gas production estimates accompanying the energy development and use data. Taken together these official documents strongly indicate that there is no legitimate justification for implementing the Telephone Gap development project (TGDP). To the contrary, they all indicate with high confidence that the TGDP is virtually certain to exacerbate the global climate crisis and inflict severe harm and damages on the people of Vermont and the northeast US generally.

In May 2024 the Guardian newspaper reported results from a survey of more than 840 authors and review editors of IPCC reports since 2018. Of the 380 respondents, nearly 80% said they anticipate global average temperature increases to surpass 2.5 degrees C, while nearly half anticipate average global temperature increases to reach or surpass 3 degrees C. Only 6% said they expect global mean temperature increases to remain at or below 1.5 degrees C.

The implications of mean global temperature overshoots of this magnitude are catastrophic, and will impact the entire globe, including the entire US, the northeastern US and the state of Vermont in horrific ways. One need only recall the flooding in Vermont in recent years, or look at the recent devastation caused by uncontrolled drought-related wildfires in Los Angeles County, CA in recent days for a very modest preview of what such global average temperature overshoots will bring.

Yet the data on actual and projected energy usage, and greenhouse gas emissions readily available from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) out to the year 2050 show virtually no reductions in either fossil-fuel usage or carbon emissions under any of the various economic growth scenarios used in their projections. The US government is doing virtually nothing to appreciably reduce fossil-fuel usage or greenhouse gas emissions.

The most apparent implications of these situations is that every state in the US needs every tree, and every other vehicle for carbon sequestration they can find, create, or preserve to keep greenhouse gasses from entering the atmosphere. Logging, clear-cutting, road-building, habitat destruction, wetland disruption, ecosystem destruction and animal species dislocation and destruction are absolutely the last thing the US Forest Service should be permitting on any public lands, including the Telephone Gap area. But those are the inescapable consequences of allowing the TGDP to proceed.

I cannot urge you strongly enough to scrap this horribly destructive project and stop all logging, road building, and other similar development on US Forest Service land in Vermont. That land is a part of the public good, and allowing logging in any of it in the current epoch is a stark violation of the Forest Service's mandate to protect the public good.

Respectfully submitted.