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Comments: As someone who moved to Vermont decades ago, I quickly fell in love with the natural beauty of this state, especially the forests like the Telephone Gap. This forest is a treasure, home to incredible wildlife and a vital part of our environment. Every walk through its trails reminds me of why I chose to make Vermont my home- its serenity, its resilience, and the connection it fosters with the natural world.

I am deeply troubled by the plan to log this area. Forests like Telephone Gap are irreplaceable, not just for their beauty but for their role in combating climate change, supporting biodiversity, and protecting water quality. President Biden's executive order to protect mature and old-growth forests was a necessary step in recognizing the importance of these ecosystems for our future. Logging this forest would go against everything that order represents and undermine efforts to fight climate change at a time when bold action is needed.

This is a chance for Vermont to lead by example and show how we can protect these precious resources for future generations. I urge our leaders to stand up for the Telephone Gap Forest, to honor the vision of protecting mature forests, and to ensure that this incredible place continues to thrive.