Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/18/2025 3:42:05 AM
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Comments: I am writing as a concerned citizen of the world, a future resident of Vermont, a mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, and friend of many who live in Vermont and cherish the land that makes this state so special. I am deeply alarmed by the proposal to log an old-growth forest in the Telephone Gap area as part of the Telephone Gap Project. I urge you to cancel this project and prioritize the long-term health of our forests, ecosystems, and communities over short-term economic gains.

Old-growth forests are invaluable natural resources, representing centuries of ecological history. They support biodiversity, sequester carbon, provide critical habitats for a variety of species, and contribute to the overall resilience of our environment in the face of climate change. These forests are not only essential for the health of Vermont's ecosystems, but they also hold cultural and spiritual significance for many Vermonters, including my family and friends. They are more than just trees-they are a source of solace, reflection, and connection to the land that sustains Vermonters and others.

I am particularly concerned about the long-term environmental impact of logging in this irreplaceable habitat. Once these ancient trees are removed, they cannot be replaced in any reasonable timeframe. The loss of biodiversity, disruption to wildlife corridors, and potential for increased carbon emissions are risks that cannot be justified. Furthermore, logging in this area will likely have detrimental effects on water quality, soil health, and the overall ecological balance in the region.

As a mother and grandmother, I think of the future of our children and grandchildren. We owe it to them to protect our natural heritage so they can experience the wonder of Vermont's forests in the same way so many have. The state must demonstrate leadership by prioritizing conservation and sustainable practices that ensure our forests continue to thrive for generations to come.

I respectfully request that the Telephone Gap Project be canceled, and that further exploration of alternative approaches to land management and conservation be considered. Rather than exploiting these invaluable resources, Vermont can show the country and the world that Vermonters are committed to environmental stewardship and sustainability. This is an opportunity to lead by example, preserving Vermont's legacy as a state that values and protects its natural beauty.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. I trust that you will make the right decision to preserve Vermont's old-growth forests and ensure their protection for future generations.