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Comments: Subject: Protecting Our Old-Growth Forests - A Vital Legacy

I am writing to urge you to take a firm stand against further logging of our precious old-growth forests. These forests are more than just landscapes-they are sanctuaries, irreplaceable ecosystems, and the lungs of our planet. For me, stepping into an old-growth forest is like going to church-these places offer peace, reflection, and a deep connection to something greater.

Beyond their beauty, old-growth forests are essential to combating climate change, preserving biodiversity, and maintaining clean air and water. They store immense amounts of carbon, provide habitat for countless species, and serve as natural firebreaks. Once these forests are cut, they are lost forever. We must commit to protecting them permanently.

I strongly urge you to support legislation that:

- Bans further logging of old-growth forests to preserve these ancient ecosystems.
- Prioritizes forest restoration in previously logged areas to reduce wildfire risks and improve resilience.
- Ensures public participation in decisions affecting our national forests, with clear and accessible opportunities for input.

We have a responsibility to future generations to leave behind forests that still stand tall, not just memories of what once was. Please be a leader in safeguarding these invaluable resources.

Thank you for your time and dedication to this critical issue. I look forward to your response.